

## ‘Tour of the Labs’ – Exploring Dementia Research

Promoting research and collaborating in research projects is a fundamental area in the work of our two national campaigning groups, namely the Scottish Dementia Working Group and the National Dementia Carers Action Network. Indeed, both groups repeatedly list research as one of their key priorities when planning their focus areas for the coming year.

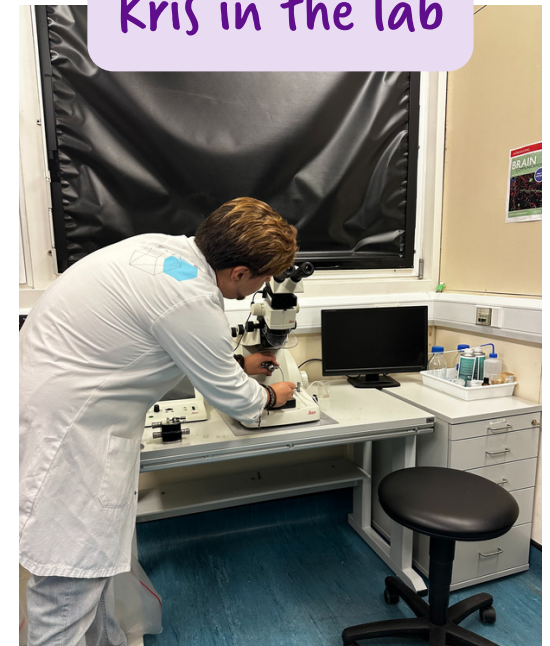


Active Voice  
staff & members

*“We see Brain Health & Research as an interwoven priority which encompasses the need to think ahead to benefit everyone affected by dementia and our future generations”  
(NDCAN)*

In recognition of their involvement in various dementia research projects, members of both groups recently accepted a kind invitation by Professor Tara Spires-Jones to visit the Dementia Research Institute (DRI) at University of Edinburgh. Professor Spires-Jones, who is renowned in the field of Dementia Research, is Group Leader at the DRI, Deputy Director at the Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences, and moreover, an Ambassador for Alzheimer Scotland.

Kris in the lab





In the lab

"We were all very inspired and in awe, you are an outstanding group. These interactions and relationships are so valuable to us and the work we do."

- Jane Tulloch, Lab Manager

The SDWG & NDCAN members were honoured to be given a guided tour of the 'Spires-Jones Lab' which was facilitated by Jane Tulloch (Lab Manager) and Kris Holt (PHD Student). The members were given a fantastic insight into the innovative work the DRI are conducting in the field of dementia research. Jane explained that their work focuses on studying changes in the brain in relation to Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative brain diseases. The team of researchers hope to identify disturbances that can lead to neurodegenerative diseases and ultimately find new targets for the development of treatments - meaning that more people can live longer, healthier lives.

During this informative tour, the SDWG and NDCAN members were shown glass slides and vials containing brain tissue used in the research; and were given insightful demonstrations of the equipment within the lab such as state-of-the-art imaging screens, and powerful microscopes used to explore how amyloid and tau proteins affect brain cells.

Following the lab tour, members were invited to attend a 'team meeting' where they were given opportunity to introduce themselves before hearing from the research professors (including Professor Spires-Jones) and other key staff who all explained about the particular projects they are currently involved in.

"We will maintain a keen interest in relevant research development and engage in appropriate research activities" (SDWG)