

SIN Delivers Global, Multidisciplinary UK Leadership to Fight Dementia

Since 2013, SIN teams across the world have been working to advance collaborative solutions to dementia. In particular, they have harnessed new technology via hackathons and engaged with the next generation of experts in a global discussion series.

The Dementia Challenge

Following the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia – an ambitious programme of work to deliver major improvements in dementia care and research – and the UK-led G8 Dementia Summit in 2013, SIN teams in Canada, Japan, Europe and the USA organised a series of workshops to enable future leaders to engage with their host governments and each other on all topics related to dementia. Simultaneously, SIN Toronto hosted a series of hackathons to develop new assistive technology for people living with dementia.



Working Together Across the Globe

The aim of the Young Leaders' workshops was to develop innovative ideas to inform the work of the World Dementia Council and contribute to the Global Dementia Framework. The principal outcomes were a communiqué of recommendations (available on the UK Department of Health's Dementia challenge website^[1]), and attendance at the first World Health Organization Ministerial Conference on Global Action against Dementia.^[2] This led to the creation of the World Young Leaders on Dementia (WYLD) network, which has been invited to be an Associate Member of the World Dementia Council.

SIN Spain organised a UK/Spain Dementia Policies event in collaboration with UK Trade and Investment, at which speakers outlined the Dementia Challenge and encouraged participation. The event led to an investment of £200,000 in the Medical Research Council's Dementias Platform UK by a Spanish company.

SIN Toronto organised a series of hackathons known as DementiaHack^[3], in which teams of programmers developed cognitive prostheses for people living with dementia. The aim was to improve quality of life quickly, to offset the time required to develop disease-modifying therapies. Past winners developed smart stickers to display content on nearby devices (2014) and an integrated care management application (2015), and received business development trips to the UK as prizes.

These SIN programmes represent years of hard work across several countries and industry sectors. They show that the UK is well engaged with global organisations, national and sub-national governments, industry and the public on all aspects of the fight against dementia.

Contacts:

Sara Cebrian (Madrid) | sara.cebrian@fco.gov.uk

Alison MacEwen (Paris) | alison.macewen@fco.gov.uk

Mario Rivero-Huguet (Montréal) | mario.rivero-huguet@fco.gov.uk

Sachiko Yoshida (Tokyo) | sachiko.yoshida@fco.gov.uk

^[1] <https://engage.dh.gov.uk/dementiachallenge/>

^[2] <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/2015/global-action-against-dementia/en/>

^[3] <http://dementiahack.org>

