

Lecture:

The role of oral health in the prevention/delay of Alzheimer's disease: an introduction.

Speakers:

- Dr Sim K. Singhrao
- Dr Alice Harding
- Dr Sarita Robinson



When:

4th February 2019 (Monday)

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Where:

The Knutsford Sports Club, Mereheath Lane, Knutsford, WA16 6SZ

Lecture Synopsis

Gum disease can be a risk factor for the late-onset form of Alzheimer's disease. It is believed that up to one third of all Alzheimer's disease cases may be preventable through lifestyle interventions. The most important bacterium in gum disease is *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. Our research at the School of Dentistry, UCLan suggests that if this bacterium reaches the brain, it has the ability to trigger the onset of Alzheimer's disease. In addition, we have identified fragments of *P. gingivalis* within the brains of people who have had Alzheimer's disease. This has led us to believe that people who suffer from longstanding, and inadequately managed gum disease, in particular those in their middle age (50 years age and over), may be at increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. This concerns us because gum disease is treatable by the dentist and by improving oral hygiene. This talk is about raising awareness of this aspect of Alzheimer's disease through outreach about our research.

Speakers' Profiles



Dr Sim K. Singhrao

Drs Gillian Cole, Jim Neal & Prof Paul Morgan nurtured Sim's interest in neurodegenerative diseases leading to a Ph.D at Cardiff University. Sim took up her Senior Research Fellow position at the University of Central Lancashire and leads School research in the infection model of Alzheimer's disease (AD) with gum disease. Sim's ultimate goal is to discover if oral bacteria cause AD in a subgroup of people prone to gum disease. Then take the first steps towards "prevent unnecessary suffering of AD" campaign.



Dr Alice Harding

Alice Harding is a qualified as a dentist who graduated from Birmingham University. Amongst other roles, Alice has worked within the field of Special Care Dentistry since 2000, and was entered onto the Specialist List in Special Care Dentistry in 2010. Her role as a Specialist in Special Care Dentistry, with the ever-increasing elderly population, has evolved to care more and more for patients' suffering with Alzheimer's disease. This sparked her initial interest in the potential modifying risk factor of gum disease, and with Sim as her ever-supporting mentor, completed her second Masters of Science in Oral Surgery from the University of Central Lancashire; her dissertation focusing on the association between periodontal disease and Alzheimer's disease. Alice is the driving force behind prevention of AD by better management of gum disease in early life.



Dr Sarita Robinson

Sarita Robinson (PhD), is a Principle Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire. After completing her Masters' degree in Cognitive Sciences at the University of Manchester, Sarita went on to pursuing

her Ph.D in Cognitive and Neuroimmune changes in human survival. Sarita has continued to use a cognitive neuropsychology and psychobiology approach to investigate the effects of environment on behaviour. In addition to her work in the field of survival psychology, Sarita has also become interested in the impact of psychosocial factors on complex diseases, their onset and progression.