



29 March 2016

Heriot-Watt University launches a new Neurophysiology Lab to support dementia research

Thanks to the support from Alzheimer's Society through the [Senior Fellowship](#) awarded to Dr Mario A Parra, a new research facility has been launched at Heriot-Watt University. The new Neurophysiology Lab led by Dr Parra will support research into the cause, cure, care and prevention of dementia. Its mission is to advance research towards the identification of biological signatures or neurodegeneration in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease using robust, non-invasive, and low cost technologies such as the EEG. The vision of the new lab is to become a dementia research hub in the UK and internationally. The lab is also supported by an international collaboration network ([UK-Latin America Brain Connectivity Research Network](#)) and the industry ([NeuroNetrix](#)). A target of the lab is to provide novel solutions that combine evidence about biological changes in the course of dementing illnesses and their links to the earliest symptoms expressed by affected individuals. These novel solutions will meet outstanding needs in the field such as high reliability, wide access, low-cost, and cultural validity.

Dr Parra's team introduced the new facility to members of the Alzheimer's Society network. Senior academics from Heriot-Watt University's School of Life Sciences supported the opening of the Lab. It was highlighted that this facility will make important contributions not only to current research in dementia but also to the formation of the future generation of researchers. Members of the Alzheimer's Society network were encouraged but the strength and scope of the new lab and its associated projects. The feedback provided following the event indicates the enthusiasm injected by such an initiative. Bringing hope to those directly and indirectly affected by dementia and to those fighting these diseases from their respective areas is a primary goal of this lab.

Feedback from Alzheimer's Society Monitors:

A brilliant day and good to meet all the team on Monday. I was impressed with the bubbling enthusiasm of everyone for the project. It was an enjoyable, very interesting and

informative visit. Thanks also to the 'back-room' staff who obviously worked hard in assisting with the preparation for the event.

The 'caps' are a wonderful idea.

It was a splendid day, and so encouraging to see so much potential in the research for those with dementia.

Thank you so much for so much information - and wow - the caps. Mind blowing.

... it was so interesting, inspiring and encouraging to hear all the great developments. The potential for so many people no matter what their background to benefit from this work is great...

... My dementia experiences caring for my mother in the dark days of the 1990's when Alzheimer's disease was barely whispered about, seems a world away from the bright light your research findings are shining on living positively with a dementia diagnosis in the future!
