

Accelerating Brain Health And Dementia Research In Canada: Insights From National Funders And Community Leaders



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There is a critical implementation gap in mobilizing brain health and dementia research findings into action at the individual, community, and policy levels. Future research needs to prioritize implementation science across the life course, partnerships with equity-denied groups, and international collaboration to advance brain health and dementia research and innovation in Canada.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
• Strategic planning is crucial to driving scientific advancement to support dementia prevention, treatment, and quality of life. • Although funding agencies and community leaders have significant roles in supporting research, their perspectives remain unexplored [1]. • Recently, the Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance was created to advance collaboration and the impact of brain health and dementia research in Canada [2].	• Three focus groups (6-8 members per group) were conducted with Alliance members from June 24-26, 2025, (n=20), to gather expert insight to accelerate brain health and dementia research in Canada. • The focus groups addressed four open-ended questions about strategic prioritization and planning to accelerate brain health and dementia research in Canada. • The data were analyzed using thematic analysis.	• Equity-denied groups: <i>“We still have a very white, homogenous, well-educated affluent population...we see that with the disease modifying therapies.”</i> • Life-course lens: <i>“We need to focus on bringing the entire lifespan to the table...”</i> • Implementation gap: <i>“There is a major innovation to implementation gap.”</i> • Global collaboration: <i>“How do we leverage our strengths as Canadians, and create opportunities for international researchers?”</i>	• This study’s findings highlight the essential need for implementation to advance brain health and dementia research findings into policy and practice. • Future research should prioritize implementation science across the life course, partnerships with equity-denied groups, and international collaboration to advance brain health and dementia research and innovation in Canada.	1. Bacsu, J., Mero, K., Funk, M., Ménard, A., Smith, M. L., Lassell, R., Rahemi, Z., Viger, M., Mendez Campos, B., Singer, J., Goodwin, A. M., Zhang, P., & Li, N. (Accepted, 2026). Understanding the care priorities, service needs, and lived experiences of rural older adults with dementia and cognitive impairment in Canada: A scoping review. <i>The Gerontologist</i>. 2. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. (2024). <i>Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance</i>. Government of Canada. Available from, https://www.cihr.gc.ca/e/53676.htm CONTACT  Dr. Juanita-Dawne Bacsu jbacsu@tru.ca https://pharr.trubox.ca/ ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 