

THE MONTHLY LINKAGE

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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT – FRANCESCA BIONDO

This month's research spotlight focuses on a data linkage study led by Francesca Biondo. The research is centered around the premise that biomarker studies, particularly neuroimaging, have analysed artificially 'clean' research groups, free from comorbidities, erroneous referrals, contraindications and from a narrow sociodemographic pool. Such biases mean that neuroimaging samples are often unrepresentative of the target population for dementia risk (e.g., people referred to a memory clinic), limiting the generalisation of these studies to real-world clinical settings. To facilitate better translation from research to clinic, datasets that are more representative of dementia patients groups are warranted.

It was found that memory clinic patients with older-appearing brains are more likely to receive a subsequent dementia diagnosis. Potentially, brain-age could aid decision-making during initial memory clinic assessment to improve early detection of dementia. Even when neuroimaging assessment was more than 3 years prior to diagnosis and when cognitive functioning was not clearly impaired, brain-age still proved informative. These real-world results support the use of quantitative neuroimaging biomarkers like brain-age in memory clinics.

To read the full research paper click here: [Brain-age is associated with progression to dementia in memory clinic patients - ScienceDirect](#)

10 YEARS LATER

This year marks 10 years since the Clinical Data Linkage Service was founded. To see a full timeline of CRIS events. See our CRIS Timeline below:

[CRIS: a timeline \(nhr.ac.uk\)](#)

Looking Ahead

At the BRC we continue to carry out translational research in mental health and neurology and in light of this, we have just published our research themes from 2022-2027. This is elaborated on our website and we hope to continue to deliver useful and effective research to drive change and solutions in our field.

For more information see the following link:

[Research \(nhr.ac.uk\)](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on 12th January 2023. The agenda for this meeting will be sent closer to the date.

(If you wish to not be included in future meetings or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to lara.brooks-simpson@slam.nhs.uk)