

BRIDGES for Dementia Network+

Annual Conference
14th September 2026

Director: Dr Jennifer MacRitchie

Co-Director: Prof Li Su

Morning Agenda

09:45 Welcome and introduction — Dr. Jennifer MacRitchie, BRIDGES N+ Director

10:00 Sheffield City Council Strategy on Dementia: Our Next Steps — Jo Pass (Assistant Director, Living and Ageing Well)

10:30 How can businesses take into account people with dementia when designing products and services? — Gordon McCullough, CEO Research Institute for Disabled Consumers

10:50 Break and networking opportunity

11:10 Panel discussion: The promise and pitfalls of technology and dementia

11:55 Co-design in practice: How people with lived experience may influence the design of new technology — Roger Whitham & Joseph Lindley, University of Lancaster

12:15 Technology presentations by companies: Milbotix, Bide, Z-PULSE and ALJO Games

12:30 Lunch and opportunity to view the exhibition

Afternoon Agenda

Parallel sessions from **13:30 – 15:00**

Parallel Session 1: Technical presentations by the wider research community (man hall)

Parallel Session 2: Experiential workshop on communication: Meeting room 6

Parallel Session 3: Early Career Researcher (ECR) masterclass: Meeting room 5

15:00 Break and networking opportunity

15:30 Future BRIDGES research funding calls — Dr. Jennifer MacRitchie

15:45 How to maximise the impact of your research projects — Amira Samatar, BRIDGES N+ Impact Officer

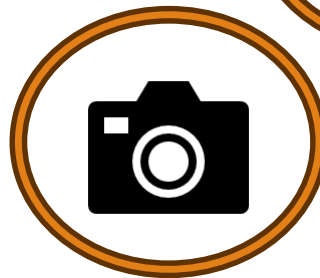
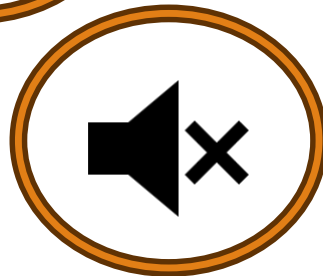
16:00 Final comments and close.

A quiet room is available in Meeting Room 4, on the ground floor to the left of the reception desk

Welcome & Introduction

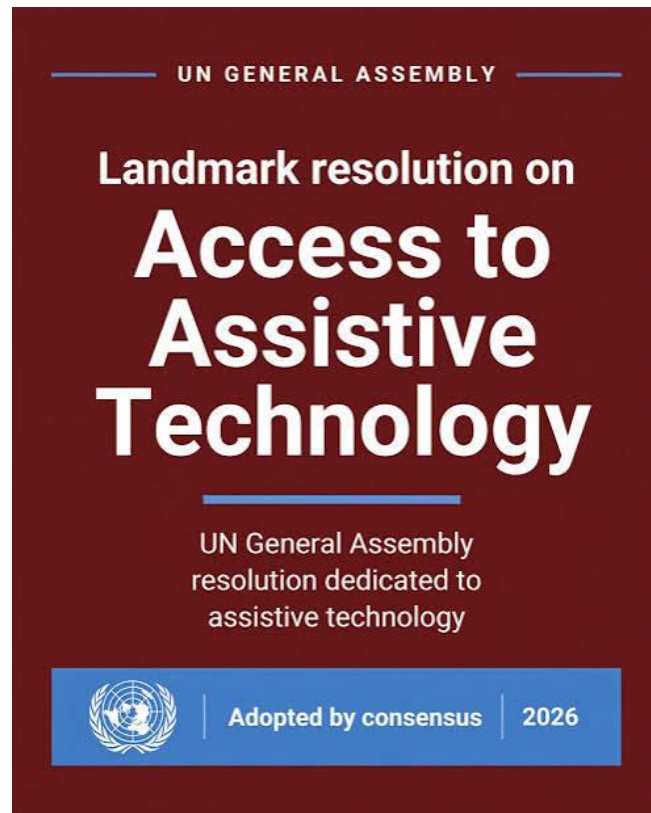
Dr Jennifer MacRitchie

Housekeeping



Activities & Sessions





BRIDGES' Vision

- A better understanding of the lives of people living with dementia and how technology might support this
- Amplify voices and increase understanding of different experiences of dementia (e.g. Lewy Bodies), and different trajectories (e.g. rapid progression) where the requirements may be different.
- Change the perspective and perception of what living well with dementia really means, beyond the medical symptoms, to address aspects such as boredom and loneliness

Official Network Partners



BRIDGES' Objectives



Training next generation of designers

ECR masterclasses

Funding sandpits



Seeding innovative collaborations

Proof of concept funding

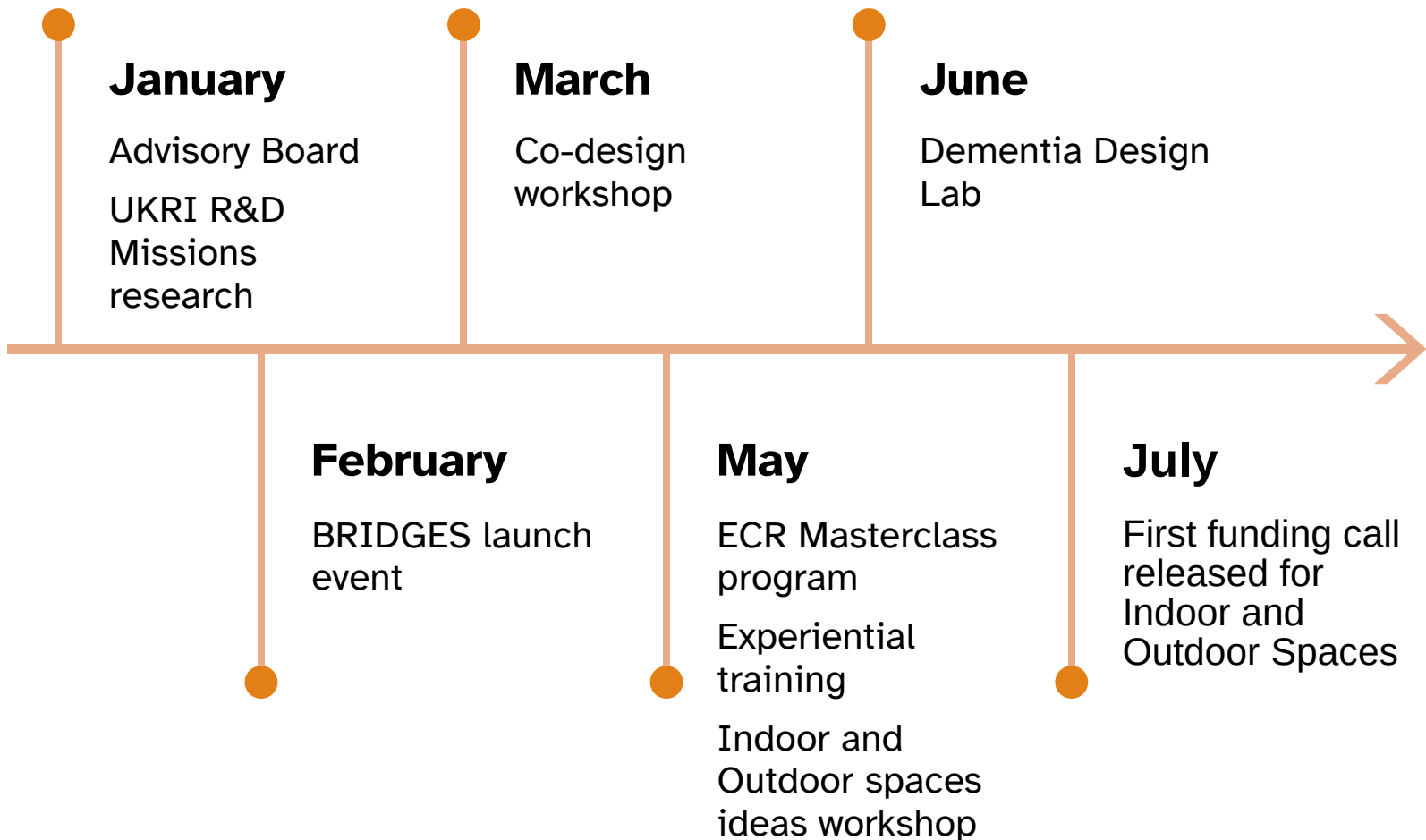
Rich design briefs & setting research agenda



Understanding of quality of life

For people with different types and stages of dementia

That doesn't pre-define what a person living with dementia can/can't do



Ideas workshop, May 2028, London, Indoor & Outdoor Spaces



Ideas specifically shaped the Indoor and Outdoor spaces funding call

Attendees left feeling more knowledgeable and confident about assistive technologies in this area.



ECR masterclass program & experiential training



Approx 50 online attendees + 100 views since September
Attendees gained new insights and understanding into

- quality of life in dementia – 100%
- diverse experiences of dementia - 78%

Dementia Design Lab, June 2026, Manchester



Collaborations, further funding



Co-leading industry coordinated action



Music Made Easy Taskforce



<https://bridgesfordementia.org/>

Rethinking how technology can help people with dementia live full, independent lives