

## ARUK Scotland Network Centre Early Career Representatives

I am a postdoctoral research fellow working with Dr Barry McColl in the UK Dementia Research Institute at the University of Edinburgh. My research focuses on neuroinflammation in neurodegeneration. I am particularly interested in microglial lysosomal function/dysfunction and how this may play a crucial role in determining susceptibility or resilience to dementia-causing diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Before joining the network in Scotland, I completed my PhD at the University of Manchester where I studied interleukin-1-family cytokines in disease. Outside of research I am passionate about public engagement and science communication, co-founding a project aiming to increase public understanding of science called 'Have You Heard?' as well as getting involved in classical science communication. I am also a keen fell runner/mountaineer and love a game of squash!



**Dr Mike Daniels**  
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**Dr Fiona McLean**  
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My research interests are in learning and memory with a particular focus on the links between metabolic syndrome and neurodegenerative diseases. I am interested in how genetic and environmental factors impact on brain health, the underlying mechanisms which are altered, and ultimately how these mechanisms can be targeted to treat neurodegenerative diseases.

In May 2019, I joined Professor Michael Ashford's laboratory at the University of Dundee as a postdoctoral researcher on the IM2PACT project (<https://www.imi.europa.eu/projects-results/project-factsheets/im2pact>). This is a collaborative project, funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative, with over 25 European partners. The project aims to investigate the biology of the blood-brain barrier in metabolism-related and neurodegenerative diseases. Findings from this project will advance our knowledge of the blood-brain barrier in health and disease, of the transport routes across it and facilitate the development of innovative systems capable of delivering medicines to the brain.

I am a post-doctoral Research Fellow in Professor Bettina Platt's laboratory at the University of Aberdeen. My current project focuses on the role of BACE1 in animal models of Alzheimer's Disease and Diabetes. My research interests are in the behavioural and metabolic assessment of Alzheimer's and Diabetes disease models, where I have a particular interest in the mechanistic underpinnings which may link these disease phenotypes.

Since arriving at the University of Aberdeen, I have been awarded an ARUK Scotland Network Centre small grant, and I am currently preparing applications for fellowship and small project grant funding.

Being a mum of two little ones and working full time certainly keeps me busy!



**Dr Zara Franklin**  
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**Dr Josie Fullerton**

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In January, I started my Postdoctoral Research Associate position in Dr Lorraine Work's lab at the BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre. My primary research interests include stroke, cerebral small vessel disease, and vascular cognitive impairment. In particular, my interests lie in using microRNAs and extracellular vesicles in an attempt to reduce infarct volume and improve neurological recovery following experimental stroke.

Since completing my PhD in 2016, I have obtained a small Project grant from the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, presented at National and International conferences, observed the ARUK Grant Review Board meeting, attended Canadian Vascular Network Summer School and I am currently in the process of preparing applications for further funding.

In 2018, I started my PhD in the lab of Prof. Bettina Platt and Prof. Gernot Riedel at the Institute of Medical Sciences in Aberdeen. My project aims to develop a new preclinical rodent model of Parkinson's Disease and Parkinson's Disease Dementia. My research focusses on the prion-like function of diseased protein involved in this disease and how it affects the immune response in the brain.

Before coming to Scotland and joining the network, I completed my Master thesis at the KU Leuven in Belgium where I studied inflammation in a mouse model of Alzheimer's Disease.

Outside of the lab, I am involved in local science outreach projects, such as Pint Of Science and love to explore the Scottish countryside.



**Inga Schmidt**

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