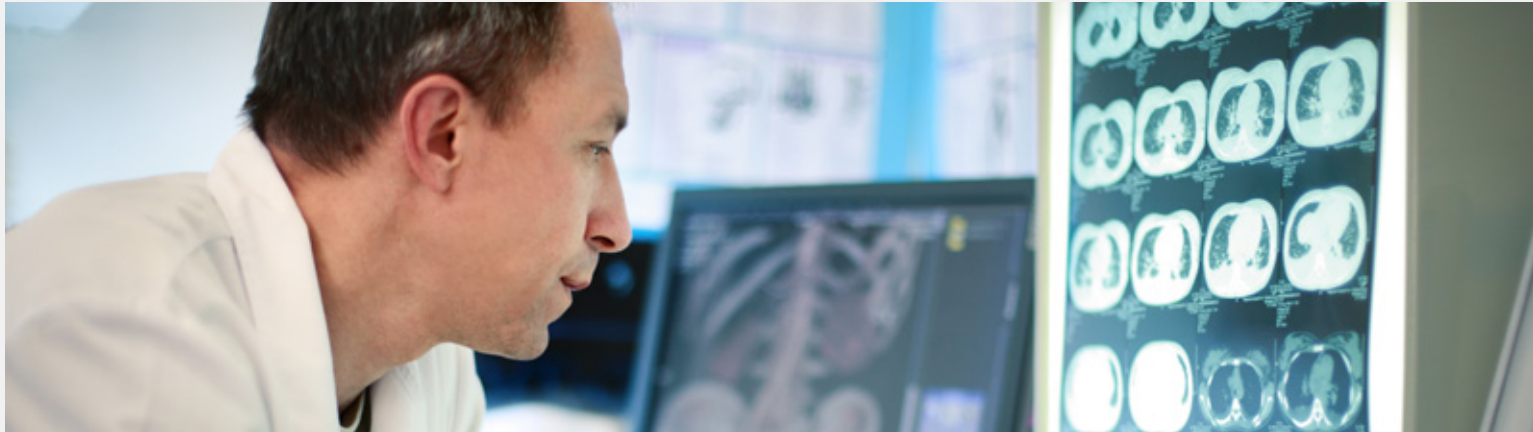


DZNE: RESEARCHconnect and working to combat neurodegenerative diseases



Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (DZNE) is the only research institute in Germany dedicated to dementia and all its facets. As a member of the Helmholtz Association and the first of six German centres for health research (DZG), the DZNE was established in 2009 to combat neurodegenerative diseases.

In 2015, DZNE introduced the RESEARCHconnect service as a means of supporting its research work. Here, Katrin Bürger, Officer for Third Party Funding at the institute shares her experience of using the service...

What does 'research' mean to your organisation?

DZNE is a respected research institute with a clear research focus. There are currently over 1.5 million people living with dementia in Germany, two-thirds of which have Alzheimer's disease. In addition, nearly 300,000 new patients are diagnosed every year.

Our workforce includes over 900 employees in more than 70 research groups, all investigating the similarities and differences of various neurodegenerative diseases. The aim is to develop new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.

What is your main reason for utilising the RESEARCHconnect service?

Funding is a key part of our institute – especially as we require additional external funding to support the important work that we do.

Key service benefits

- > **Helps maximise and secure external funding opportunities from pure research to commercialisation**
- > **Supports dissemination and partnership working across faculties and organisations**
- > **Saves resources through efficiency**
- > **Updated in real time – as soon as we know about a new funding opportunity or change, so do you**
- > **Email alerts – automatic updates on saved searches alert users to new or updated funds relevant to their profile**





‘We’re confident that we will never miss a funding opportunity of relevance to our research.’

It is essential that our source of funding information is comprehensive and easy to access.

RESEARCHconnect meets our needs as it contains thousands of research funding opportunities from a breadth of funders. The content is always accurate and as the service is updated in real time, we’re confident that we will never miss a funding opportunity of relevance to our research.

RESEARCHconnect helps us stay informed about funding not only from national and EU sources, but opportunities beyond the continent. This helps us tap into different funding pots and seek international collaboration. The combination of content and functionality makes RESEARCHconnect a powerful tool, allowing us to be proactive in sourcing and securing external funding.

Which features of RESEARCHconnect do you find most useful?

The search facility and criteria filters allow us to scan for relevant funding opportunities quickly and easily. We use the step-by-step project search

and the text search to rapidly focus on potential funding streams relating to the institute and its researchers.

In search results, we find it particularly useful to have the summary descriptions of funding programmes available at a glance, and from here, to click through to the full details and guidelines. With all the information in one place, including details about the application procedure and related documents, everything is clear and organised for us.

We also value the Research Calls panel, which offers a comprehensive overview of the most recently released research funding opportunities, and the Interactive Update Bulletin and bespoke email alerts, which deliver the latest funding announcements straight to our inboxes. These features help to make staying abreast of developments in research funding effortless.

How has RESEARCHconnect supported DZNE so far?

Researchers across the institute receive monthly news on funding opportunities identified with RESEARCHconnect, including the

latest information on open calls. The service is also used for responding to special funding requests from DZNE scientists such as identifying doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, travel grants and so on. Colleagues from many of our departments and teams have commented on how valuable this information is and how intuitive and easy to use they find the system. Having so many funding opportunities available in one database that can be easily searched saves precious time and resource.

We are particularly impressed with how the service has highlighted applicable funding opportunities from ‘unknown’ funding institutions that we might otherwise have missed, including a number of European and global programmes. This has greatly enhanced our ability to support the work of DZNE.

Implementing RESEARCHconnect was quick and easy for our institute and we believe that it is an invaluable and cost effective way of identifying research funding opportunities – each and every one of which being so important for us.

For more information on how your institution can benefit from a new approach to research funding information, please contact us on: +44 (0)844 874 0739 or visit www.researchconnect.eu

