

Dementia Awareness Week

14th to 20th May 2017



Pippa Page

Research Officer and Occupational Therapist

What is your role at RICE?

I recruit people to the RICE studies which take place in our purpose built centre, here in Bath. We are currently focusing on recruiting people from Wiltshire as we want to expand our research studies further so we can help more people with dementia.

I also visit care homes and talk to staff about their research interests and provide information about how people can take part in our research projects.

How long have you been at RICE?

I have worked at RICE for four years. I originally came to carry out a specific project called 'GREAT', which was a study concerning cognitive rehabilitation. RICE were recruiting patients to the study and I became involved in cognitive rehabilitation as I am an experienced Occupational Therapist. I taught people strategies to help manage their memory difficulties and how to improve specific aspects of their daily lives. Many people did improve and some were able to maintain specific improvements- it was really positive!

Since the GREAT study finished, I will occasionally see patients as an Occupational Therapist but we need to secure more sustainable funding to reach more people with dementia.

What would your advice be to someone who is concerned about their memory?

The first thing to do is to go and see your GP because your GP will know what services and support are available. Your GP can refer you to have a formal assessment at RICE's Memory Clinic.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role?

I enjoy talking to patients and being able to help make a difference to their lives. Occasionally I visit people in their homes to offer strategies and ideas for making things a little bit easier; I feel my day is worthwhile when I can directly help our patients with dementia.

What does Dementia Awareness week mean to you?

I think that the population as a whole needs to be more aware of the difficulties for people with dementia. All of us need to understand what the problems are and how we can help. It is mainly about giving people more time. For instance in supermarkets, people who have memory problems just need a little bit more time and consideration.

You can find out more about the challenges facing people with dementia on our website:

www.rice.org.uk

Or for further support please contact us at:

info@rice.org.uk or 01225 476 420