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Martin trained at the Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry before being appointed as Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry of the Elderly at University College London in 1991. He was Director/Chair of London Centre for Dementia Care (2001-2009) and Clinical Director/Associate Medical Director, Mental Health Services for Older People, NELMHT (2003-2009).

Since 2004 Martin has been Professor of Ageing and Mental Health at the Department of Mental Health Sciences, University College London and Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist and Associate Medical Director for Research and Development, NELFT (North East London Foundation NHS Trust).

Martin is Principal Investigator for Support at Home - Interventions to Enhance Life in Dementia (SHIELD). The SHIELD comprises a group of psychological and social interventions designed to reduce disability, improve outcomes, and enhance the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. The three projects include: cognitive stimulation groups for people with dementia to improve their cognition and quality of life; a new initiative called the SHIELD Carer Supporter Programme, which trains ex-carers to help new carers of people with dementia; and a new initiative developing intensive home support to help manage crises at home and prevent admission to hospital for people with dementia.

Martin is also the editor of Ageing and Mental Health journal and chair of the Memory Services National Accreditation Programme.

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Links to other websites:

http://www.nelft.nhs.uk/about_us/research/clinical_research/current_research/shield

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mental-health-sciences/staff/orrell.htm