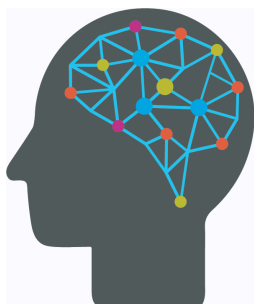


DRNI CONNECT  
Issue No. 16 - June 2023



## DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for  
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 16th issue of

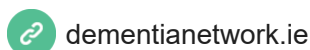
### DRNI CONNECT!

Summer is here, and so is the new issue of DRNI CONNECT!

The first half of 2023 has been a busy one, and there is no shortage of ongoing work and upcoming events for the summer. In this edition of DRNI CONNECT you can read about the two webinars hosted by DRNI's Hot Topics in Dementia Research in May, and the upcoming Neuroscience Ireland conference, which will see DRNI hosting a session on dementia research. Dementia Trials Ireland are asking healthcare professionals or research academics currently involved in a dementia-related clinical trial to fill out their survey, details of which can be found below. Also, information about upcoming courses, the ICAT Summer School, as well as the newly launched Dementia Carers Campaign Network podcast, make up some of the additional reading. Finally, DRNI are delighted to join the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in wishing TeamUp for Dementia Research a very Happy 2nd Birthday!

If you have any news, projects or events that you would like to see featured in future newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vanessa Moore PhD  
Scientific Project Manager  
Dementia Research Network Ireland  
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## Hot Topics in Dementia: Dancing with Dementia

The Economics of Dementia and Brain Health  
An Introduction to Health Economics

## 1) DRNI Hot Topics in Dementia Research

May saw two webinars taking place as part of the DRNI Hot Topics in Dementia Research series.

***Dancing with Dementia - An exploration of dance as an intervention for persons with dementia*** was a fascinating and toe-tapping tour of the research work in the area of dance interventions. Carmel McKenna, Munster Academy of Dance, Jennifer Moran Stritch, TUS and Sean Donal O'Shea, ASI spoke about their research and dance interventions, and Niamh Kelly, TUS Athlone spoke about her PhD research.

***Economics of Dementia and Brain Health*** saw Dominic Trepel, TCD, explore the fundamentals of health economics in relation to dementia and brain health. He was followed by Daniel Araya and Men Hoang, both PhD students at TCD, who provided the opportunity for participants to deep-dive into the areas of model-based economic evaluation and discrete choice experiments.

The webinars were both recorded and can be found on the [DRNI YouTube page](#).

DRNI were delighted to host the two webinars, and want to again thank the brilliant speakers and all of you who attended!

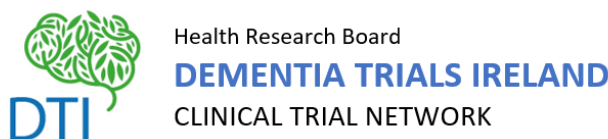


## 2) Neuroscience Ireland Conference 2023

Neuroscience Ireland biennial meeting of neuroscience researchers, clinicians, and industrial partners is taking place over two days this 29-30 August 2023. Taking place in RCSI in Dublin, the conference will see neuroscience researchers, clinicians, and industrial partners from Ireland, Europe and beyond get together.

**DRNI are delighted to announce that we are partnering with Neuroscience Ireland to hold a session on August 30th on dementia research, which will include input from PPI representatives, as well as clinical and neuroscience input.**

To register for the conference, please go to: <https://na.eventscloud.com/nsi2023>



DTI National Dementia Trial Mapping Survey  
Attention Researchers and Health Care Professionals  
DTI WANTS TO KNOW!

## 3) Dementia Trials Ireland - National Dementia Trial Mapping

Dementia Trials Ireland is looking for input on a short dementia trials activity survey. DTI want to collect information on all trial types: interventional trials, non-interventional trials, and pre-trial methodological studies, and are calling on any health care professional or research academic currently involved in a dementia related clinical trial to take part.

**To access the survey please click [HERE](#).**

The responses will assist DTI to establish the number and types of dementia trials currently underway nationally, inform a network priority setting exercise and underpin strategic planning around identifying unmet needs in the dementia trialling space.

If you have any questions please contact [info@dementrials.ie](mailto:info@dementrials.ie).



#### 4) DemTalks - Dementia Carers Campaign Network podcast

The Dementia Carers Campaign Network, supported with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, have created a podcast series entitled DemTalks, designed by members of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network.

The DemTalks Podcast was launched on June 13th, a podcast series designed by members of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network on topics that are important to them. Caring for a person with dementia can be an isolating experience and this podcast seeks to alleviate some of that isolation through information, solidarity and hope. The Dementia Carers Campaign Network supported by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is an advocacy group of carers and supporters of people living with dementia.

The first two episodes of the podcast are now available to listen to, via Spotify here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/1UkfCm0VBg4xjWdsgVOqnt?si=bNGuW1zjRNyoS1vDV21veg&nd=1> or on Apple Podcasts here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/dem-talks/id1692512858>.

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#### 5) Researcher in Focus: Andrea Kwakowsky

This edition's Researcher in Focus is Dr Andrea Kwakowsky, neuroscientist at the School of Medicine at the University of Galway. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Andrea's work and research.

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#### 6) UCC postgraduate Studies in Dementia

The The Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, University College Cork offer two flexible, interdisciplinary programmes, run by Professor Suzanne Timmons:

There are three streams of study available for each of the two courses listed above:

1. Masters
2. Postgraduate Certificate
3. Individual CPD modules

The programmes are both available full-time or part-time with a wide range of optional modules. Most modules for both courses are delivered as blended-learning and therefore suit students who wish to study remotely and commute for the in-class workshops.

For further information on the 'Dementia' course go to <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx21/>

For further information on the 'Older Person Rehabilitation' course go to:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx14/>

If you have any questions, you can email Professor Suzanne Timmons, Programme Director, [s.timmons@ucc.ie](mailto:s.timmons@ucc.ie), Mr Christopher Walsh, Programme Manager, [christopherwalsh@ucc.ie](mailto:christopherwalsh@ucc.ie), Dr Emma O'Shea, Lecturer, [emma.oshea@ucc.ie](mailto:emma.oshea@ucc.ie) or Dr Catriona Curtin, Lecturer [catriona.curtin@ucc.ie](mailto:catriona.curtin@ucc.ie).

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## 7) GBHI Atlantic Fellows Application

Applications for the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health Program are now open.

The Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program at GBHI provides innovative training, networking, and support to emerging leaders focused on improving brain health and reducing the impact of dementia. The program is for people from a wide range of disciplines, including the arts, sciences, economics, policy, medicine, journalism, community-based practice and so on.

For more information about the fellowship and how to apply, please go to <https://www.gbhi.org/apply>.

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## 8) ICAT Summer School

ICAT (Irish Clinical Academic Training) are hosting a summer school in Galway on 19-20 July 2023.

The programme is as follows:

19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 11:00 – end of day

- This is an interactive day based on innovation and creativity, tailored to PhD students.

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 09:00 – 10:30 PPI Workshop – run by Dr Ruth McMenamin and Martha Killilea, PPI Ignite
- Coffee
- 11:00 – 13:00 - Introduction to Causal Inference, Dr Darren Dahly University College Cork
- Lunch
- 14:00 - 15:00 - Workshop on the use of big data and machine learning (title tbc), Dr Conor Judge, University of Galway

To register, contact Karen: [kmissstea@tcd.ie](mailto:kmissstea@tcd.ie)



## 9) TeamUp for Dementia Research turns 2!

[TeamUp for Dementia Research](#) is turning 2! Since its inception in 2021, the service has grown considerably. It proudly now supports over 300 people affected by dementia to take part in ethically approved dementia research in Ireland.

potential research participants with researchers working in the field. The members have been offered over 40 different research opportunities, a rich variety of projects from institutions and organisations all over Ireland.

The person-centred, streamlined approach of the service ensures the members are offered research projects relevant to their preferences. They undertook a variety of activities such as interviews, focus groups and surveys. They contributed to lab-based, online and in-person research and reported back overwhelmingly positive experiences of taking part in dementia research. The service is adaptive and responsive, continuously improving itself to honour its person-centred ethos.

To learn more about how TeamUp for Dementia Research can support your work as researchers please click [HERE](#).



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