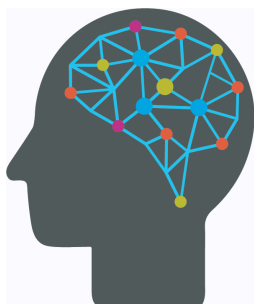


DRNI CONNECT  
Issue No. 21 - May 2024



## DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for  
Neurodegenerative Diseases

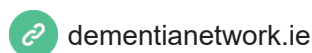
Welcome to the 21th issue of

### DRNI CONNECT!

This edition highlights the exciting opportunity from Brain Health ARC Scotland to work with Bio-Hermes data, and to create collaborations between Irish and Scottish researchers. The implementation work being carried out by the National Dementia Service for National Clinical Guideline no. 21 is also featured, and a number of job openings and courses in dementia are listed. The Researcher in Focus for this edition is Carmel McKenna, who introduces us to her work with dementia and céilí dancing.

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  
[mooreva@tcd.ie](mailto:mooreva@tcd.ie)



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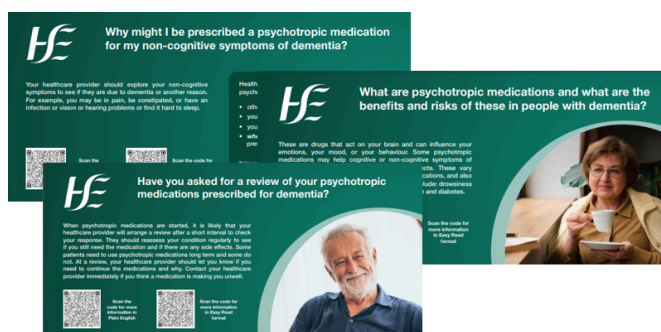
## 1) Brain Health ARC Scotland - Bio-Hermes Data

[Brain Health ARC Scotland](#) are inviting applications from research teams to work with Bio-Hermes data. The Bio-Hermes study dataset comprises of 80,000 multimodal dementia biomarkers including data on blood biomarkers, CSF, genetics, proteomics, cognitive tests, imaging and clinical.

Brain Health ARC have streamlined the data access process, and provide additional support to allow researchers who have ideas for a project or want to access the data to focus on the science and the data. Applications are welcome from institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland, however collaborations with Scottish universities are especially encouraged. Brain Health ARC are happy to help connect Irish applicants to Scottish teams to help create such collaborations.

To find out more and to apply, please visit the Brain Health ARC [Bio-Hermes page](#).

Please note that despite the website stating differently, applications are **still open**.



## 2) NDS update on Implementation of National Clinical Guideline No. 21

The [implementation programme](#) for National Clinical Guideline no 21 (Appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia) commenced in 2022, and the [National Dementia Service](#) has circulated the following updates.

The 30-minute module “Support pathways for people with non-cognitive symptoms of dementia” is available on HSeLanD. This module is targeted at all staff who provide care to people with dementia, provides important information on non-cognitive symptoms of dementia, tailored person-centred support, and risks of psychotropic medication.

### Resources for staff involved in the prescribing of psychotropic medication

- A [prescriber information leaflet](#) provides an overview of the recommendations and good practice points of National Clinical Guideline No. 21, information on comprehensive assessment, and signposting to additional resources and information.
- A [document to support comprehensive assessment](#) has been developed to provide answers to a number of frequently asked questions in relation to this.

### Information guide for people with dementia and their family carers and supporters

An information guide for people with dementia and their family carers and supporters is now available in both a [Plain English](#) and [Easy Read](#) format. Both versions explain what psychotropic medications are, when they might be prescribed, provides information on the possible side effects of using these medications, highlights the importance of regular reviews of the medication, and signposts to additional information.

### Facilitator Education Programme

The Facilitator Education Programme is a one day programme of education (accredited by the NMBI) for staff who wish to become Local Facilitators for the Implementation of National Clinical Guideline No. 21. Local Facilitators are provided with ongoing support from the Implementation Programme Team in the National Dementia Services. If you are interested in becoming involved as a Local Facilitator, please contact the National Dementia Services on [dementia.office@hse.ie](mailto:dementia.office@hse.ie)

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### 3) EMERALD-Lewy study - vacancies

There are two vacancies for the new study **EMERALD-Lewy: Improving the diagnosis, management, and lived experience of overlooked dementias in Ireland**.

EMERALD-Lewy is funded by **Health Research Board (HRB)** under the Applied Programme Grants (APRO) 2023, awarded to Principal Investigator Professor Iracema Leroi, TCD. EMERALD-Lewy is currently looking to fill two posts:

- Research Assistant in applied dementia research, with special interest in Lewy body dementias

For more information please click [HERE](#).

#### 4) UCC Postgraduate Studies in Dementia and Older Person Rehabilitation

The Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, University College Cork are inviting applications to two interdisciplinary programmes, run by Professor Suzanne Timmons:

1. Dementia
2. Older Person Rehabilitation.

Both programmes have three streams of study available: Masters, Postgraduate Certificates, and Individual CPD modules. The programmes are available full-time or part-time, and most modules are delivered as blended learning.

For the upcoming academic year, there are seven modules:

Semester One		Semester Two	
Module	APPLICATION CLOSING DATE	Module	APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
<a href="#">Understanding Cognitive Disorders and Dementia</a>	16/08/2024	<a href="#">Advanced Issues in Dementia Care</a>	21/01/2025
<a href="#">Principles in Older Person Rehabilitation</a>	09/08/2024	<a href="#">Stroke Rehabilitation</a>	06/12/2024
<a href="#">Amputee and Prosthetic Rehabilitation</a>	30/09/2024	<a href="#">Falls Mobility and Movement Disorders</a>	27/02/2025
<a href="#">Neuromuscular Disorders</a>	30/08/2024		

For further information on the Dementia course click [HERE](#), and for further information on the Older Person Rehabilitation course click [HERE](#).

Alternatively contact Christopher Walsh ([christopherwalsh@ucc.ie](mailto:christopherwalsh@ucc.ie)) for application queries; Dr. Siobhán Fox ([s.fox@ucc.ie](mailto:s.fox@ucc.ie)) for queries about the dementia programme; or Dr. Emma O'Shea ([emma.oshea@ucc.ie](mailto:emma.oshea@ucc.ie)) for queries about the older person rehabilitation programme.

#### 5) Researcher in Focus: Carmel McKenna

This edition's Researcher in Focus is **Carmel McKenna**, Principal and Creative Programme Director (Health and Wellbeing) at Munster Academy of Irish Dance. Carmel specialises in adaptive Irish céilí dance programmes, co-developed with and for people living with dementia. To find out more about Carmel's research, please click [HERE](#).

## 6) DCU Dementia Champions Microcredential module

Dublin City University have re-launched their Dementia Champions Microcredential module.

A flexible blended educational option with 2 full days in DCU and on-line education, the module is designed to make a deep change in the way we see people with dementia and interact with them.

The module takes a person-centred approach and covers a number of core themes in dementia care from the assessment of memory problems and early interventions, care in the community and palliative approaches to dementia. It focuses on skill development in several key therapeutic approaches and assessment strategies.

Application deadline is Friday, 28th June 2024. For more information, please see DCU's [website](#) or contact Professor Kate Irving: [kate.irving@dcu.ie](mailto:kate.irving@dcu.ie).



**From learning to practice – make a lasting change**

## 7) Dementia Academy: From learning to practice - make a lasting change

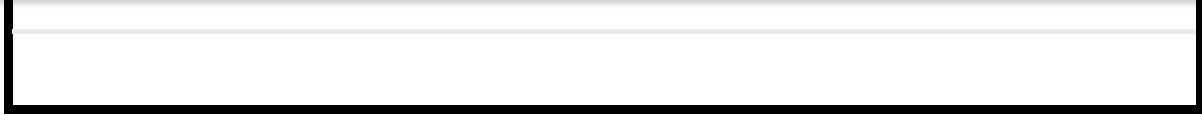
Dementia Academy is holding a MasterClass in putting learning into practice for practitioners. Focusing on knowledge and skillset around diagnosis and care, the MasterClass also concentrates on the tools to implement service change and put learning into practice. Aimed at primary and secondary care clinicians, including nurses, GPWERS, geriatricians, old age psychiatry consultants, registrars and specialist pharmacists, the MasterClass modules take place in September 2024/spring 2025 at Sheffield University.

For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

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Dementia Research Network Ireland · Mira Office No. 4, Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing (MISA), · MISA Building, St. James's Hospital · Dublin, D8 0000 · Ireland

