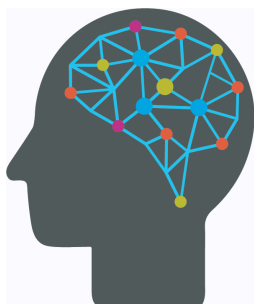


DRNI CONNECT
Issue No. 24 - December 2024



DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 24th issue of

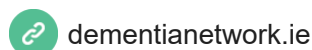
DRNI CONNECT!

It is hard to believe we are already at the last newsletter of 2024. In this edition of DRNI CONNECT, we are delighted to announce our next webinar, **Emerging Research: Dementia and speech and language therapy**, and highlight **funding opportunities from the HRB**, as well as work and resources around **brain health** carried out by the **National Dementia Service**. We share information about **TeamUp for Dementia Research's** evaluation, and about the AIHPC's **Early Career Researcher Forum**. We also shine a spotlight on Vamsi Krishna Boyanagari, the **Researcher in Focus** in this edition. Our '**Upcoming Events**' features, among other things, webinars from **Brain Health ACR Scotland**, and a very exciting announcement about the next **DRNI ECR Day**.

If you have any news, projects or events that you would like to see featured in DRNI CONNECT, please do not hesitate to contact me. We hope you enjoy reading and find valuable information to support your work and research journey.

🎄 Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Vanessa Moore PhD
Scientific Project Manager
Dementia Research Network Ireland
mooreva@tcd.ie



CONTENTS:

- 1) Emerging Research webinar: Dementia and speech and language therapy
- 2) HRB - Funding opportunities in neurodegenerative diseases and health services research
- 3) National Dementia Service: Brain health
- 4) TeamUp for Dementia Research evaluation
- 5) AllHPC - Early Career Research Forum
- 6) Researcher in Focus: Vamsi Krishna Boyanagari
- 7) Did you know?
- 8) Upcoming events
- 9) And finally...

EMERGING RESEARCH: DEMENTIA AND SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Join our webinar focusing
on SLT!

Dr. Suzanna Dooley will speak on her work and research in St. Columcille's Hospital Memory Clinic, as well as research in the area of conversation coaching with people with dementia including those with primary progressive aphasia.

Lisa Sheridan, TUH, will discuss assessment of speech and language skills in a memory service and will focus on research trends examining the use of speech and language features as digital biomarkers for identifying changes in cognition.



TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2025
11.00 AM



**DEMENTIA RESEARCH
NETWORK IRELAND**
Prevention, Cure & Care for
Neurodegenerative Diseases

DRNI's first webinar in the new year will look at emerging research in speech and language therapy. The webinar takes place on **Tuesday, 14th January 2025 at 11.00 am**, and we are delighted to have **Lisa Sheridan**, Tallaght University Hospital and **Dr. Suzanna Dooley**, HSE/TCD join us:

Dr. Suzanna Dooley is a Clinical Specialist Speech and Language therapist in communication and dementia, based in the MASS clinic in St. Columcille's Hospital. Her teaching, practice and research focuses on the assessment of cognitive communication disorders in dementia and the development of communication interventions for people with dementia and their supporters. Suzanna will speak on her work and research in the Memory Clinic as well as recent and planned research in the area of conversation coaching with people with dementia including those with primary progressive aphasia.

Lisa Sheridan is a Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist within the Institute of Memory and Cognition in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH), with a particular interest in language and cognition and vast experience in assessing complex communication difficulties as part of the Regional Specialist Memory Clinic (RSMC) in TUH. Lisa will discuss assessment of speech and language skills in a memory service and will focus on research trends examining the use of speech and language features as digital biomarkers for identifying changes in cognition.

To register, please click [HERE](#).

 Opening Soon  International / EU Partners needed

Pre-announcement: EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research 2025

This call is expected to launch in early January. The Health Research Board (HRB) is participating in the JPND Joint Transnational Call 2025 to support Irish researchers to engage in transnational collaborative research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases under the call entitled "Health and social care research with a focus on the moderate and late stages of neurodegenerative diseases".

Opening Date
16-12-2024

Call details →

 Open  International / EU Partners needed

European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems 2025

The Health Research Board (HRB) is supporting Irish researchers to engage in transnational collaborative research in the field of health and care systems research under the call entitled "Better care closer to home: Enhancing primary and community care".

Amount	Grant Duration	Closing Date	Call details →
€430,000 – €530,000	36 months	30-01-2025	

2) HRB - Funding opportunities in neurodegenerative diseases and health services research

- Pre-announcement of one **Joint Transnational Call (JTC)** for transnational collaborative research which is due to be launched in January:
[Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research \(JPND\), JTC 2025](#)
Call title: *Health and Social care research with a focus on the moderate and late stages of neurodegenerative diseases*
Opening date: Expected launch date in early January 2025
Closing date pre-proposals: Expected early March 2025
- Pre-proposals for the **JTC** under the Transforming Health and Care systems partnership (deadline 30 January 2025):
[European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems \(THCS\) JTC2025](#)
Call title: *Better care closer to home: Enhancing primary and community care*
Opening date: 26 November 2024
Closing date pre-proposals: 30 January 2025
Information webinar: 17 December 2024 13:00–15:00 GMT. Register [here](#).

If you have any queries, you can contact HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie or access more information about the HRB's grant schemes [HERE](#). **DRNI are happy to support any members making an application through the network, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.**

3) National Dementia Service: Brain Health

The **National Dementia Service** (NDS) are working to reduce, prevent or delay the onset of dementia in a person, by tackling modifiable risk factors for dementia. One such strand of work is that around brain health, where the NDS are working in a number of different ways:

- The **National Brain Health Expert Working Group** is an example of a successful partnership approach between the NDS, HSE Health and Wellbeing Services, DoH, healthcare professionals and academia. The focus of the group is to raise awareness of brain health and dementia risk factors and link dementia with other programmes, policies and campaigns on non-communicable disease risk reduction and health promotion.
- The **Think Brain Health webinar**: "*Discover how healthy behaviours support your incredible brain*" was hosted by HSE Healthy Ireland and the National Dementia Services. **Sarah Mc Cormack**, HSE Healthy Ireland Lead, Health & Wellbeing was joined by **Dr. Sean O'Dowd**, Consultant Neurologist, TUH and Clinical Lead, NDS along with other expert panellists to discuss our brain and the healthy behaviours we can adopt to look after it. You can watch it back [HERE](#).
- There is also a **Think Brain health podcast** in which **Dr. Sean O'Dowd**, Consultant Neurologist at TUH, and Clinical Lead, NDS, explains the functions

the need for increased awareness of brain health and dementia risk factors and speaks about the positive impact of physical activity, social engagement, and cognitive stimulation on brain health. You can listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

- The Brain Health working group has commissioned a **Brain Health research study focused on women** aged 18+. The study aims to understand public awareness and knowledge of dementia risk factors and the importance of maintaining a healthy brain in order to reduce the risk; explore health behaviours in relation to brain health and dementia risk reduction, openness to them, as well as barriers and enablers; and provide insights that help the HSE make decisions on how best to support and communicate to the public to help them reduce their risk of dementia. The research includes expert interviews, an online survey and focus groups. Findings will be published in Q1 2025.

You can find more information about the work of the NDS [HERE](#).

TeamUp

For Dementia Research



Connecting People and Research



**DEMENTIA RESEARCH
NETWORK IRELAND**

Prevention, Cure & Care for
Neurodegenerative Diseases



**THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

The **TeamUp for Dementia Research Service** connects individuals living with dementia and their informal carers to opportunities for participating in ethically approved dementia research. Launched in July 2021, this service makes it easier for people to get involved in research and offers a safe, supported environment for them to explore participation options. The service currently has over 350 members. An **in-depth evaluation** of the service will now be conducted. If you have used this service for recruitment in your research, you may be contacted by the Evaluation Team to participate in a survey or interview.

If you haven't used the TeamUp for Dementia Research service but are interested in learning how it can assist with research recruitment, please click [HERE](#).

5) AIHPC - Early Career Research Forum

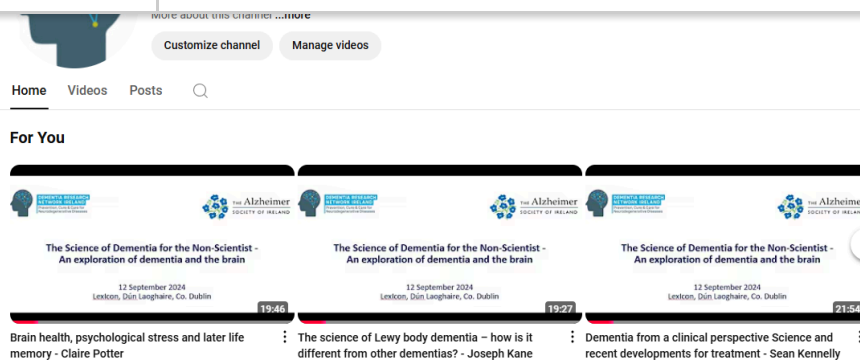
Our colleagues in the [All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care](#) are on the lookout for new members for their **Early Career Researcher Forum** (ECRF).

The ECRF offers many opportunities for people interested in research in palliative care, and in the coming year the ECRF will host a webinar series, blogs, podcasts and an in-person event targeted at building practical research skills. They also circulate regular ECRF updates which include funding opportunities, events and palliative care news, and provide an opportunity to promote your own research.

You can find more details on the ECRF [here](#) - to sign up click [here](#).

6) Researcher in Focus: Vamsi Krishna Boyanagari

This final Researcher in Focus for 2024 is **Vamsi Krishna Boyanagari**, PhD researcher at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, University of Galway. To find out more about Vamsi's research and economics and dementia care, please click [HERE](#).



7) Did you know?

DRNI have a YouTube page where recordings of our events and webinars are available to listen back to. For example, some of the presentations from our recent event with the **Alzheimer Society of Ireland**, *The Science of Dementia for the Non-Scientist*, can be found there. To access these and more, please click [HERE](#).

8) Upcoming events

DRNI will kick off the new year with our webinar on research developments in speech and language therapy, and there are plenty more events to keep us busy in 2025!

Emerging Research: Dementia and speech and language therapy

Join Dr. Suzanna Dooley and Lisa Sheridan at **11 am on Tuesday, 14th January**. To register, please click [HERE](#).

ASI Webinar Series - Young Onset Dementia

Join the **Alzheimer Society of Ireland's** webinar series to find out more about young onset dementia. Taking place **Thursday, 23rd January at 11am** the webinar will feature Dr. Caroline Kilty and Dr. Siobhan Fox from UCC on the topic of harnessing community information and support for people with young onset dementia and their families. Registrations will open soon -- to find out more click [HERE](#) or keep an eye on ASI social media.

Brain Health ARC Scotland webinars

Our friends at **Brain Health ARC Scotland** are hosting two webinars in January:

-**Brain Health Definitions** - Dr Yaohua Chen from the University of Lille will join Professor Terry Quinn, University of Glasgow to speak about brain health definitions. Taking place at **13.00 on Tuesday, 14 January**, information and registration can be found [HERE](#).

-**A Scientist's Guide to the Imposter Phenomenon** - join Dr. Marc Reid as he speaks about his experience of imposter syndrome. Taking place **Friday, 24th January at 13.00**, you can register [HERE](#).

Engaging Dementia Annual Conference

Engaging Dementia are delighted to announce that their 17th Annual International Dementia Conference is scheduled to take place **May 7th and 8th 2025** in Athlone.

DRNI ECR Day

DRNI are thrilled to announce that our next **DRNI Early Career Researcher Day** will be held in **Queens's University Belfast in March 2025**. We will very soon be announcing specific details, so watch DRNI's social media and website for information and updates!



9) And finally...

DRNI would like to wish all our members a wonderful and peaceful Christmas, and the very best for 2025! We are very much looking forward to the exciting year ahead!



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

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

