

DRNI CONNECT  
Issue No. 26 - April 2025



## DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for  
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 26th issue of

### DRNI CONNECT!

April's DRNI CONNECT highlights the upcoming specially extended DRNI **webinar 'Inclusion in dementia research'**, which will feature international and Irish speakers sharing information and experience in research with marginalised communities and ethnic groups. DRNI are also hosting an **in-person symposium** on **'The role of the ageing immune system in the development of delirium and dementia'**.

You will also find information about upcoming **postgraduate opportunities**, dementia-related postgraduate courses in UCC and TCD, and learn more about embedding **PPI in health research**. We also feature a number of upcoming events, such as the **HOMEDEM public sessions** and **AIHPC ECR Forum** workshop. This edition's **Researcher in Focus** is Dr. Dymrna O'Sullivan of TU Dublin, who tells us about her work in the area of assistive technology enhancing independent living for persons with age related cognitive impairments.

Please get in touch if you have any news, projects or events that you would like to see featured in DRNI CONNECT, or if you want to get involved with DRNI in any way.

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### 1) Webinar: Inclusion in dementia research

DRNI are thrilled to announce an extended webinar, **Inclusion in dementia research**.

Taking place **10.00-11.30 on Monday, 16 June**, this webinar will hear from three speakers:

- **Professor Naaheed Mukadam**, University College London, will speak on *Underrepresentation of minoritized ethnic participants in dementia research*, providing details of underrepresentation of minoritized ethnic participants in dementia research and proposed inclusive research practices to overcome this.
- **Dr Sarah Cullum**, University of Auckland/GBHI, will present *Living with dementia in Aotearoa (LiDiA)*, on the extent and impact of dementia in New Zealand's major ethnic groups;
- **Dr Georgia Richard**, Trinity College Dublin, will present findings from her PhD research, *Cognitive Impairment in People Experiencing Long-Term Homelessness, Evidence and Relationships (CIPHER)*.

After the presentations, the speakers will be joined by **Dr Clíona Ní Cheallaigh**, Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin and Clinical Lead of the Inclusion Health Service in St James's Hospital, and **Professor**

**DRNI Webinar - Inclusion in dementia research** **Date:** Monday, 16th June **Time:** 10.00-11.30 **Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/e/J5FKiP3z7v>

For more information, please click [HERE](#). We hope you can join us at 10.00 on Monday, 16th June!





## THE ROLE OF THE AGEING IMMUNE SYSTEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DELIRIUM AND DEMENTIA

Dementia Research Network Ireland, the Discipline of Medical Gerontology, and the Global Brain Health Institute are delighted to host this in-person symposium on delirium and dementia.

**Speakers:**  
**Dr Thomas Jackson, University of Birmingham**  
**Professor Daniel Davis, University College London**  
**Dr Aoife Fallon, Tallaght University Hospital**  
**Dr Colm Cunningham, Trinity College Dublin**

**MONDAY 16 JUNE 17.00-18.45**  
**TCIN, LLOYD BUILDING, TRINITY COLLEGE**  
**DUBLIN**

For more information and to register:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/QbwazUZcYz>



## 2) Symposium: The role of the ageing immune system in the development of delirium and dementia

DRNI, together with the Discipline of Medical Gerontology (Trinity College Dublin) and the Global Brain Health Institute, are delighted to host an in-person symposium: *The Role of the Ageing Immune System in the Development of Delirium and Dementia*.

 **Date:** Monday, 16th June **Time:** 17:00 – 19:00 **Venue:** LB11, Lloyd Building, Trinity College Dublin

The event will feature four expert talks followed by a panel discussion and Q&A, chaired by Professor Sean Kennelly.

**Speakers include:**

- **Professor Daniel Davis (University College London)** – *Delirium and long-term cognitive impairment: insights from population studies*
- **Dr Colm Cunningham (Trinity College Dublin)** – *Using the humble mouse to unravel inflammation-induced delirium in the frail brain*
- **Dr Aoife Fallon (Tallaght University Hospital & Trinity College Dublin)** – *Approaches to mitigating the impact of delirium and dementia on vulnerable hospital populations*

To book your place, please click [HERE](#).



### 3) DRNI ECR Day 2025 - A Celebration of Emerging Talent in Dementia Research

DRNI hosted its annual Early Career Researcher (ECR) Day on 4th March 2025 at the Centre for Public Health, Royal Victoria Hospital, **Queen's University Belfast**, and what a day we had! The event brought together over 50 attendees for a dynamic day of knowledge exchange, featuring 37 ECR presentations and posters, alongside an engaging expert panel discussion on academic publishing.

DRNI extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the day — especially our judges, including public and patient involvement (PPI) representatives, and the dedicated ECRs who travelled from across the island of Ireland to participate!

We are also deeply grateful to the **Alzheimer Society of Ireland** and **Neuroscience Ireland** for providing travel bursaries, enabling more researchers to travel to Belfast and attend the event. Special thanks to **Dementia Trials Ireland** for generously sponsoring three travel bursaries as prizes.

Congratulations to our award winners:

- **Best PPI Involvement:** Aoife Hunter, Ulster University
- **Best Overall Poster:** Anupa Paulose, University College Dublin
- **Best Overall Presentation (an unprecedented three-way tie):**
  - Brenda Au, University College Cork

Shane Gordon, Oister University

We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to support early career researchers in the field of dementia. See you for ECR Day 2026!

#### 4) Postgraduate opportunities

The School of Population Health, RCSI are currently advertising a fully funded PhD, "**Empowering Voices, Enhancing Outcomes: Co-creating an Open-Source Health-Economic Model for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Ireland.**"

Backed by a Research Ireland grant, the PhD offers an annual stipend, full fee coverage, and a budget for training, conferences, consumables and international placements.

Applications are now open and will close on the 30th of June. For more information, click [HERE](#) and if you have any further questions, please contact Dr Jonathan Briody, RCSI: [pathwaysphd2025@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaysphd2025@gmail.com).

Applications are also open for the **North/South postgraduate scholarships**. Universities Ireland will offer four scholarships, each worth €25,000, to students who have been accepted to undertake a recognised Master's Degree or are entering the first year of a PhD programme at a university in the island of Ireland that is not in the same jurisdiction as the university where they have previously studied. The aim of this scheme is to encourage outstanding students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to cross the border to undertake postgraduate study and experience life in the other Irish jurisdiction. To find out more, click [HERE](#) - applications close 15 May.



**Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation**

#### 5) Dementia postgraduate courses - UCC and TCD

##### Postgraduate Studies in Dementia / Older Person Rehabilitation

The Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, University College Cork offer two flexible, interdisciplinary programmes run by Professor Suzanne Timmons: 1) Dementia; and 2) Older Person Rehabilitation.

There are three streams of study available for each of the two courses: Masters; Postgraduate Certificates; and Individual CPD modules. The programmes are both available full-time or part-time, and most modules are delivered as blended-learning. There are seven modules open for registration as CPD modules:

Semester One	Semester Two
Module	Module

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<a href="#">Principles in Older Person Rehabilitation</a>	<a href="#">Stroke Rehabilitation</a>
<a href="#">Amputee and Prosthetic Rehabilitation</a>	<a href="#">Falls Mobility and Movement Disorders</a>
<a href="#">Neuromuscular Disorders</a>	

Applications are now open for the upcoming academic year - to apply, visit [UCC Apply](#). To find out more, go to:

<a href="#">PG Cert in Dementia</a>	<a href="#">PG Cert in Older Person Rehabilitation</a>
<a href="#">MSc. in Dementia</a>	<a href="#">MSc. in Older Person Rehabilitation</a>

For more information, contact:

Mr. 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 re: Dementia programmes; Dr. Emma O'Shea [emma.oshea@ucc.ie](mailto:emma.oshea@ucc.ie) - For queries re: Older Person Rehabilitation programmes.

### MSc Dementia

Applications are also open for the MSc Dementia in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin. The course is offered with postgraduate diploma and certificate options to specialise in the field of expert dementia care. The course consists of six modules: three specialist, one elective and two core modules in the areas of research and management and a dissertation. It is delivered full-time over one year or part time over two or three years.

Applications for the 2025/26 academic year is now open, and close 30th June. To find out more, please click [HERE](#).

## 6) Researcher in Focus

Joining us this edition of DRNI CONNECT is **Dr Dympna O'Sullivan**, Academic Lead at the **Digital Futures Research Hub, TU Dublin**. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Dympna's fascinating research in the area of assistive technology enhancing independent living for persons with age related cognitive impairments.



## Dementia Care: Lessons from Economics and Policy

You are invited to attend a series of public sessions on dementia care, which is being organised as part of the HOMEDEM training school at the University of Galway.

**What is HOMEDEM?**  
HOMEDEM is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions doctoral network funded by the European Commission, which provides an innovative education and training program in design and dementia care.

**About the Event**  
HOMEDEM is hosting a series of public sessions at the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the University of Galway. The sessions will consider important issues related to dementia care, through the lens of economics, policy and lived experience.


Online and in-person attendance will be facilitated.

**Local Organisers:** Dr Sharon Walsh, Professor Eamon O'Shea and Mr Vamsi Krishna Boyanagari

**Location:** ILAS, University of Galway

**Dates:** 21-22 May 2025

**Spaces Limited  
Last Date to Register  
01 May 2025**



Scan this QR code to Register

May 21 13:20-15:00	<b>Lecture: Remaking Home Care for Older People</b> Dr Brendan Walsh, Economic and Social Research Institute Discussant: Helen Rochford-Brennan, Global Dementia Ambassador LCI- G018 Auditorium
May 21 15:30-17:00	<b>Plenary: Technology and Dementia</b> Prof. Martin Orrell, University of Nottingham LCI- G018 Auditorium
May 22 9:00-10:30	<b>Online Plenary: Dementia Care: Lessons from Australia</b> Prof. Brenda Gannon, University of Queensland Prof. Kaarin Anstey, University of New South Wales Mr. Bill Yeates, Lived Experience Advocate LCI- G018 Auditorium
May 22 11:00-13:00	<b>Plenary: Home, Universal Design and Dementia</b> Mr. Thomas Grey, Trinity Haus Discussant: Prof. Suzanne Cahill LCI- G018 Auditorium
May 22 14:00-15:30	<b>Panel Discussion: The Future of Care for People with Dementia</b> Chair: Prof. Eamon O'Shea Panel: Prof. Michelle Canavan, Prof. Kieran Walsh, Mr Andy Heffernan, Dr. Fiona Keogh and Dr. Duygu Sezgin LCI- G018 Auditorium

For more information  
Visit: [www.homedem.eu](http://www.homedem.eu)  
Email: [v.boyanagari1@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:v.boyanagari1@universityofgalway.ie)

## 7) HOMEDEM - Dementia Care: Lessons from Economics and Policy

[HOMEDEM](#) are hosting a series of public sessions on dementia care, which are being organised as part of the HOMEDEM training school at the **University of Galway**.

HOMEDEM is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions doctoral network funded by the European Commission, which provides an innovative education and training program in design and dementia care. "**Dementia Care: Lessons from Economics and Policy**" is taking place at the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the University of Galway on the **21st and 22nd May 2025**. The sessions will consider important issues related to dementia care, through the lens of economics, policy and lived experience.

To register to attend in-person or online, please click [HERE](#). For more details, see the above flyer or click [HERE](#).

## 8) Embedding PPI in Postgraduate Health Research

The **Alzheimer Society of Ireland** have collaborated with **PPI Ignite** and cross-sector stakeholders to develop a **Postgraduate Introduction to PPI Module**. Now available to postgraduate students in University College Cork and Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, the purpose of this interactive workshop-based module is to introduce postgraduate students to the ethos and practices of meaningful and authentic PPI in health and social care research.

Members of the **Dementia Research Advisory Team (DRAT)**, Brenda Buckley, Kevin Cullen, Nuala Paley and Kevin Quaid co-delivered the workshop PPI: Partnering with Individuals. Drawing on their personal experience as PPI Contributors, the DRAT members shared insights as to why individuals become involved in PPI in research, some of their expectations and motivations when partnering with a researcher, and what makes for good and bad PPI. Ultimately, they stressed to the students the fundamentals of successful PPI engagements and how these are always underpinned



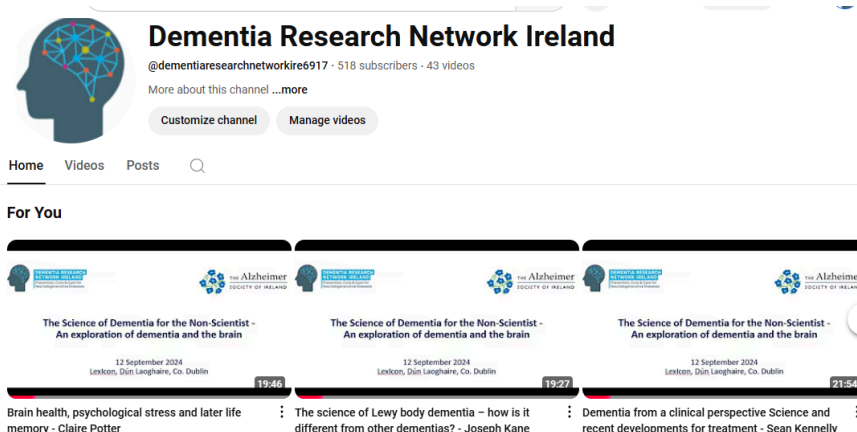
ASI Research Project Officer Cíara O'Reilly co-delivered workshop "Partnering with organisations for PPI in Research", outlining the importance of PPI from an organisations' perspective and the spectrum of resources available within charity partners to support researchers, and the mutual benefits of PPI, including improving public research literacy and trust through enhanced research communication and transparent, respectful collaborations.

To find out more, visit <https://alzheimer.ie/creating-change/research/ppi/> or follow [https://x.com/DRAT\\_ASI](https://x.com/DRAT_ASI).

## 9) AIIHPC Early Career Researcher Forum – Building Practical Research Skills in Palliative Care

The [AIIHPC ECRF](#) are hosting a workshop on practical research skills in palliative care. This in-person event will see interactive workshops with specialists from amongst other the National Adult Literacy Agency, and roundtable sessions with experienced facilitators who will provide in-person feedback on practical research skills such as writing funding applications and abstract writing. The event will also see the launch of the AIIHPC PPI Impact Evaluation Framework for Research in Palliative and Hospice Care.

This in-person event is taking place in **Pearse Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2** on **08 May, 11.30-15.00**. A draft programme is available to view [here](#). To register, please click [HERE](#).



## 10) Did you miss one of our webinars?

Last month DRNI hosted a webinar on Neuropharmacology of dementia and other brain diseases, which featured Dr. Andrea Kwakowsky, University of Galway and Professor Keith Murphy, University College Dublin. Dr Andrea Kwakowsky spoke on the excitatory and inhibitory neuronal networks as therapeutic targets in neurological disorders, and Professor Keith Murphy presented on how memory works: in search of better cognition enhancing drugs. If you missed this webinar, it is


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All DRNI's webinars are available on our YouTube channel, which can be accessed by going to

<https://www.youtube.com/@dementiaresearchnetworkire6917>.

## 11) Upcoming events


### Engaging Dementia 17th Annual Conference


 **Date:** 7-8 May 2025

 **Venue:** Athlone Springs Hotel, Athlone

To book your place, please click [HERE](#).

### AIHPC Early Career Researcher Forum – Building Practical Research Skills in Palliative Care

 **Date:** 8 May 2025


 **Time:** 11.30-15.00

 **Venue:** Pearse Library, Pearse St, Dublin 2

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

### HOMEDEM - Dementia Care: Lessons from Economics and Policy

 **Date:** 21 & 22 May

 **Venue:** Institute for Lifecourse and Society, University of Galway

Registration: please click [HERE](#).


### DRNI Webinar - Inclusion in dementia research


 **Date:** Monday, 16th June

 **Time:** 10.00-11.30

 **Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/e/JSFKiP3z7v>

### DRNI, GBHI & Discipline of Medical Gerontology Symposium - The role of the ageing immune system in the development of delirium and dementia

 **Date:** Monday, 16th June

 **Time:** 17:00 – 19:00

 **Venue:** LB11, Lloyd Building, Trinity College Dublin

To book your place, please click [HERE](#).



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