

DRNI CONNECT
Issue No. 27 - June 2025



DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 27th issue of

DRNI CONNECT!

Welcome to the June edition of DRNI CONNECT. In this issue, we're proud to spotlight **Trasna na dTonnta**, a dynamic new initiative from DRNI connecting the **global Irish dementia research diaspora**. We are very excited about this new venture and we hope to reach the Irish dementia research community in all corners of the globe! Also, **Trasna na dTonnta** is hosting a reception at the AAIC conference in Toronto - if you wish to take part, see below for further details.

You can read about the **RESOLVE study** taking place in Trinity College Dublin, and the Alzheimer Society of Ireland's knowledge exchange seminar with a twist, **DRATGon's Den**. We also feature some of the anatomy training opportunities available through **King's College London**, the call for applications to next year's **Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health**, and introduce our latest **Researcher in Focus**, Heather Eames. Finally, you can read about some of the events DRNI have hosted or taken part in, and how to access our **webinars** if you missed them.

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) Trasna na dTonnta**

DRNI are proud to introduce **Trasna na dTonnta** (Across the Waves), an initiative to **develop a network of the Irish dementia research diaspora**.

Trasna na dTonnta is the brainchild of DRNI members Dr Rory Boyle and Dr Francesca Farina, and it aims to:



1. strengthen links between Irish dementia researchers at home and abroad
2. support Irish dementia researchers emigrating to new countries and those returning home
3. strengthen Irish dementia research by supporting international collaborations.

This is an inclusive network and is not restricted to Irish nationals, but is open to anyone with a connection to Ireland, including people who studied, trained or worked in Ireland.

Moore (mooreva@tcd.ie). Trasna na dTonnta has its own [dedicated space](#) on the DRNI website where we will continue to develop the network, feature Trasna na dTonnta members, and spotlight researchers and various projects.

Trasna na dTonnta is organising an informal gathering/reception during the upcoming Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Toronto. If you are attending AAIC, please fill out this very short google form [here](#) to let us know of your interest and availability in attending a reception on Monday 28th July at 6.30 pm.

We will be in touch again with further information as we develop Trasna na dTonnta and we welcome any feedback or thoughts you might have. In the meantime, please feel free to circulate this far and wide to any dementia researcher who you think would be interested!



A Study on Brain Health in Retired Athletes

About

Playing sports has clear brain health benefits, due to physical activity and social connection. However, longer term risks associated with concussion and head injuries are of increasing focus and concern. The RESOLVE study aims to better understand these risks and how to reduce them.

To do this, we are seeking retired high-performance athletes from Rugby, Football and GAA/ LGFA, between 40-59 years old.

What will it entail?

Participation will involve a comprehensive assessment on your brain health.

Day 1: St James' Hospital (Dublin 8)
Clinical tests including blood/urine/saliva tests, ECG, a medical check, as well as doing various questionnaires on your your career, your memory, your lifestyle, and concussion history, etc. Estimated time: 4-5 hours.

Day 2: Trinity College Dublin
Here you will come to TCD for the MRI scan of your brain.
Estimated time: 2 hours

Why should I do it?

Participation is a unique opportunity to receive a comprehensive check of your brain health. Any and all significant findings will be followed up with medical professionals and/or your GP.

Playing sports is extremely beneficial to brain health. This research aims to protect the brains of professional athletes, by identifying modifiable risk factors for diseases like dementia.

Athletes who participate in our study will create an impact within the sporting community by helping us, and the athlete community learn to promote and better protect their brain health.

If interested, please contact us at any of the following....

- preventdementia@tcd.ie
- www.theresolvestudy.org
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/resolve-study/>

RESOLVE Trinity College Dublin

2) RESOLVE study

Led by Dr Lorina Naci, the RESOLVE study in Trinity College Dublin aims to investigate the dementia risk factors in retired, mid-life contact-sports athletes from the disciplines of rugby, soccer and GAA/LGFA. Retired high-performance athletes (aged 40-59 years old) will undergo comprehensive assessments of their brain health, including lifestyle questionnaires, clinical and cognitive tests, as well as MRI brain scans - this will be repeated in 2 years' time, and results compared to a healthy community control group.

find out more, or to take part, please go to www.theresolvestudy.org, or email preventdementia@tcd.ie.

3) Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health

Applications are now open for the 2026-2027 intake to the **Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health**. The Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program at the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) offers cutting-edge training, networking opportunities, and ongoing support to emerging leaders dedicated to advancing brain health and reducing the impact of dementia, both locally and globally.

This program is part of a network of seven global Atlantic Fellows initiatives aimed at creating fairer, healthier, and more inclusive societies. The successful applicant will undertake a 12-month, full-time, paid fellowship based at GBHI at [Trinity College Dublin](#) or [University of California, San Francisco](#) (UCSF) in the United States.

Professionals from a wide range of fields, including the arts, sciences, medicine, policy, economics, journalism, and community engagement, are encouraged to apply. For more information and to find out how to apply, please click [HERE](#).



4) DRATGon's Den - ASI knowledge exchange seminar

The Dementia Research Advisory Team and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland are hosting DRATGons' Den, a unique PPI-led knowledge exchange seminar taking place in October 2025.

Inspired by the popular television show Dragons' Den, this exciting event invites Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to pitch their dementia-related research to a panel of friendly "dragons" for a chance to win a €3,000 research impact prize. There are six places available, and applications will open soon. Early Career Researchers pursuing

To find out more, please click [HERE](#).

5) Anatomy courses - King's College London

King's College London are holding a number of brain anatomy courses in July-August 2025. Both in-person and online, courses are as follows:

- HUMAN BRAIN ANATOMY COURSE (2-day, in-person)

26 - 27 July 2025, King's College London, UK

Comprehensive introduction to human brain anatomy

£395, includes hands-on neuroanatomy practicals + online preparatory modules

Feedback score: 4.9 / 5.0

[More information](#)

[Register NOW](#)

- LIMBIC BRAIN ANATOMY COURSE (2-day, in-person)

9 - 10 August 2025, King's College London, UK

Neuroanatomy of emotion, memory, cognition and behaviour

£395, includes hands-on neuroanatomy practicals + online preparatory modules

Feedback score: 4.9 / 5.0

[More information](#)

[Register NOW](#)

- ONLINE HUMAN BRAIN ANATOMY COURSE (90-day access)

22 high-quality neuroanatomy modules, including brain dissection videos

Comprehensive introduction to structural and functional brain anatomy

£395, includes completion certificate, 220 self-test questions, 72 CPD/CME points

Feedback score: 4.9 / 5.0

[More information](#)

[Get instant access](#)

The Researcher in Focus for this edition of DRNI CONNECT is **Heather Eames**, PhD student in Trinity College Dublin. To learn more about Heather's research regarding **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of novel disease modifying therapies (DMTs) for Alzheimer's Disease (AD)**, please click [HERE](#).

7) Did you miss the *Inclusion in dementia research* webinar?

Our most recent webinar took place June 16th and was a specially extended event, entitled ***Inclusion in dementia research***. The webinar saw presentations from Professor Naaheed Mukadam, UCL; Dr Sarah Cullum, GBHI/University of Auckland; and Dr Georgia Richard, TCD. The speakers were then joined by Dr Clíona Ní Cheallaigh, St James's Hospital/TCD and Professor Sean Kennelly, TUH/TCD.

If you missed the webinar, some of the presentations are available on DRNI's YouTube page - please click [HERE](#) to access them and many other DRNI webinars from the last few years!



8) Brain Connections 2025/Parkinson's Research Cluster

DRNI were thrilled to be part of the Brain Connections 2025/Parkinson's Disease Research Cluster event, which took place in [University College Cork](#) on Saturday 14th June. Together with our colleagues from [EMERALD Lewy](#) and the [Global Brain Health](#)

informative conversations, networking, and learning! Thanks to the PDRC and the [Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation](#), UCC, for inviting us.



9) Symposium - The Role of the Ageing Immune System in the Development of Delirium and Dementia

DRNI were delighted to co-host an in-person symposium on June 16th together with the [Discipline of Medical Gerontology](#), Trinity College Dublin and the [Global Brain Health Institute \(GBHI\)](#), entitled *The Role of the Ageing Immune System in the Development of Delirium and Dementia*.

Thanks to all who attended and to our fantastic speakers: Dr Daniel Davis, University College London; Dr Colm Cunningham, Trinity College Dublin; Dr Aoife Fallon, Tallaght University Hospital; and Professor Thomas Jackson, University of Birmingham.



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