

DRNI CONNECT
Issue No. 28 - August 2025



DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 28th issue of

DRNI CONNECT!

Welcome to the August edition of DRNI CONNECT. It is hard to believe September is just around the corner - and by the looks of it, it will be a busy autumn!

In this issue, we are delighted to announce **Dementia and Brain Health in Women – Barriers and Opportunities**, an event taking place in October in the European Parliament and co-hosted by DRNI and **Nina Carberry, MEP**. We also shine a spotlight on upcoming events: **Clinical Symposium on Less Common and Young-Onset Dementias**, Advanced Healthcare Planning Day, and a **webinar** on Disease Modifying Therapies and Multidisciplinary Dementia Care. You can read about, amongst many other, **funding opportunities** through the Health Research Charities Ireland – Health Research Board Joint Funding Scheme 2025/2026, publication submission calls, and **PPI-related projects**, such as the upcoming DRATgons' Den.

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) Dementia and Brain Health in Women - Barriers and Opportunities**

Together with **Nina Carberry MEP**, DRNI are hosting an event entitled "*Dementia and Brain Health in Women – Barriers and Opportunities*" on **Tuesday, October 14th** at the **European Parliament, Brussels**.

session will provide scientific insights, survey data, and strategies for managing brain health, while identifying critical gaps and opportunities for action.

Speakers include Professor Lorina Naci from TCD, Professor Sean Kennelly from TUH, Dr Sean O'Dowd from the National Dementia Service, and Dr Tim Raemaekers from DG Research & Innovation.

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

Tallaght University Hospital
Dementia Research Network Ireland
Institute of Memory and Cognition

Tallaght Institute of Memory and Cognition
together with
Dementia Research Network Ireland

**Clinical Symposium: Less Common
and Young-Onset Dementias**

The TUH Institute of Memory and Cognition (TIMC) invites you to an in-person clinical symposium on Less Common and Young-Onset Dementias on September 3rd, 2025 in TUH.

This clinical symposium aims to raise awareness and offer insights into how to diagnose and manage these conditions, and highlight the evolving landscape in research and therapies. There will be series of talks from subject experts from various disciplines, as well insights from those with lived experience. A novel aspect will be the inclusion of two interactive sessions between the audience and a panel, "Ask Us Anything".

Target audience includes all healthcare professionals involved in the diagnosis and care of people with less common and young-onset dementias. This symposium has been approved for 5 CPD credits.

03 September 2025

09.30-15.40

Tallaght University Hospital

For more information and to register:
<https://tinyurl.com/mrx2kzs2>

2) Clinical Symposium on Less Common and Young-Onset Dementias

The TUH Institute of Memory and Cognition (TIMC) together with DRNI are holding an **in-person Clinical Symposium on Less Common and Young-Onset Dementias** on Wednesday September 3rd, 2025 in the Centre for Learning and Development, Tallaght University Hospital.

Whilst late-onset Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, approximately 35-40% of people with dementia will have a different disease responsible for their symptoms. As such, of the estimated 64,000 people in Ireland living with dementia, up to 25,000 will have a less common cause such as Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia or a tauopathy (eg PSP/CBD). Furthermore, approximately 10% of people with dementia experience symptoms before the age of 65. Patients and families affected by these less common and young-onset syndromes frequently encounter long diagnostic delays, as well as limited awareness in healthcare settings of the complexity of their condition.

highlighting the evolving landscape in research and therapies. There will be series of talks from subject experts from various disciplines, as well insights from those with lived experience. A novel aspect will be the inclusion of two interactive sessions between the audience and a panel, "Ask Us Anything".

The target audience includes all healthcare professionals involved in the diagnosis and care of people with less common and young-onset dementias, including Memory Clinic staff, GPs and Practice Nurses, Public Health Nurses, Mental Health Nurses, primary care HSCPs, and secondary and tertiary-care medical, nursing and HSCP staff in disciplines such as Neurology, Geriatric Medicine and Psychiatry. This symposium has been approved for CPD accreditation.

To register for this in-person symposium, please click [HERE](#).

3) Frontiers in Dementia: Innovations in Dementia Policies and Services

Frontiers in Dementia are inviting submissions for an issue on *Innovations in Dementia Policies and Services*. This issue is focused on examples from the social sciences, public health, and health services research that emphasise innovations in policies, programs, and services.

Contributions are welcome across a broad spectrum of themes including national dementia plans (NPDs), innovative financing and access models, risk-reduction programs, dementia-friendly technologies, nature-based and arts-based initiatives, community engagement networks, and novel modes of information sharing among health, social care, and community resources. Emphasising global perspectives, it also values the involvement of diverse voices - from policymakers to people with lived experience - to present innovative, transferable practices across jurisdictions.

Submissions from a variety of formats is encouraged, from original research and reviews to commentaries and protocols, to create a timely, high-impact compilation that can inform future dementia policy and service innovations worldwide.

Submission is currently open, with manuscript summary submission deadline of 15 October 2025, and manuscript submission deadline 1 February 2026. To find out more, please click [HERE](#).

DRATgons' Den



Thursday 23rd October 2025



09.30 - 15.30



Salesforce Tower, Spencer Dock, Dublin 1

- Watch a masterclass in PPI and science communication,
- Learn what funders and stakeholders value, and
- Be inspired by how projects outside your field are framed and challenged



4) DRATgons' Den - Dementia Research Advisory Team

October is national PPI month, and this annual festival amplifies the growing influence of Public & Patient Involvement (PPI) across Ireland, generating enthusiasm and creativity in how research is both conducted and experienced.

In a unique, one-off event, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's dedicated PPI panel, the **Dementia Research Advisory Team**, are hosting a fun and interactive knowledge exchange platform for Early Career Researchers: **DRATgons' Den**. This dynamic showcase is an opportunity for ECRs to demonstrate their research and communication skills to an audience of peers & experts, competing for a funding prize of €3,000.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland are offering a **limited number of guest attendee places**. If you would like to:

- watch a masterclass in PPI and science communication,
- understand what funders and stakeholders value, and
- be inspired by how projects outside your field are framed and challenged,

please email ciara.oreilly@alzheimer.ie with "DRATgons' Den guest attendee place" in the subject bar. Please note, you must be able to attend at the above date and time as this is a catered, in-person event. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

5) VISION-DEAR project

As the number of people living with dementia continues to grow, it's more important than ever that research reflects the real needs and experiences of those directly affected. The VISION-DEAR project, in a collaborative effort between **University College Cork (UCC)**, **Dementia Ireland Empowering Communities**, and **the Alzheimer Society of Ireland**, has created a short, informative video that highlights the value of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in dementia research.

The video showcases the voices of people with lived experience—both those living with dementia and family carers—alongside researchers who have worked closely

professional, or a member of the public interested in dementia, this video is a powerful introduction to the benefits of working together.

Watch the video on YouTube [HERE](#).

6) Researcher in Focus

The Researcher in Focus for this edition of DRNI CONNECT is **Emma O'Shea**, lecturer, social gerontologist, and health services researcher at University College Cork. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Emma's work and her research in dementia and Parkinson's disease.



7) Advanced Healthcare Planning Day

The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre ([DSIDC](#)) are bringing together medical professionals, legal experts and patient advocates to explore assisted decision-making and advanced healthcare planning. Taking place **Friday, 12th September** in **St James's Hospital**, Dublin, this event will provide updates on the Assisted Decision-making Act and the Decision Support Service, with insights from experts in healthcare law, medical practice, and patient advocacy, along with opportunities to discuss how the Act and advanced healthcare planning are shaping medical practice.

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

8) Health Research Charities Ireland - Health Research Board Joint Funding Scheme 2025/2026

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is now accepting Expression of Interest (EOI) applications for the **Health Research Charities Ireland-Health Research Board Joint Funding Scheme 2025/2026**. They are prioritising applications that are in line with their mission and vision, and focused on improving outcomes for people living with dementia and/or their families. Research must provide knowledge and/or tangible outputs that can enhance The ASI's ability to support people living with

The deadline for Expression of Interests is 12th September 2025. If you are interested in partnering with the ASI, please click [HERE](#) for further information on the scheme for researchers and the EOI document.

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday 21st October 2025 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Disease Modifying Therapies & Multidisciplinary Dementia Care
West North-West Dementia Interest Group

Aim:
To enhance knowledge and clinical awareness of health professionals by providing up-to-date insights into current innovations and multidisciplinary approaches in dementia care.

Topics and Speakers include:

- ❖ Alzheimer's Disease and Disease Modifying Therapies: **Dr Robert Murphy**, Consultant Geriatrician, University Hospital Galway
- ❖ Regional Specialist Memory Clinic, University Hospital Galway: **Mr. James Connaughton**, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Memory Service, University Hospital Galway
- ❖ Developing an Educational App to Promote Positive Dementia Care: **Ms. Joanne Gallagher**, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry of Later Life, Roscommon Mental Health Services

Click [here](#) to register for the webinar or scan the QR code below

Target audience: Healthcare workers working in Dementia services
1 CPD hour awarded in accordance with NMBI guidance approval pending
Enquiries: cora.appelbe@hse.ie

Logos: FES (an authority under an endorsement), Ionad Oideachais Ailtranaís & Cúramhseachais, Maigh Eo, Ros Comán, Centre for Nursing & Midwifery Education, Mayo, Roscommon

9) Webinar: Disease Modifying Therapies & Multidisciplinary Dementia Care

The **West North-West Dementia Interest Group** are hosting a **webinar** on **Disease Modifying Therapies & Multidisciplinary Dementia Care** on Tuesday, **21st October** 14.00-15.30.

The webinar aims to enhance the knowledge and clinical awareness of health professionals by sharing the latest innovations and multidisciplinary approaches in dementia care. Participants will learn about the structure and function of specialised memory services, the real-world clinical use of new disease-modifying therapies for Alzheimer's Disease, and the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing dementia care challenges. The program also encourages reflection on how these insights can be applied to improve diagnosis, care coordination, and patient outcomes.

Speakers include Dr. Robert Murphy on Alzheimer's therapies, Mr. James Connaught on the Regional Specialist Memory Clinic, and Ms. Joanne Gallagher on developing an educational app to promote positive dementia care.

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

10) Engaging Dementia and the IMMA Azure Programme Workshops

Engaging Dementia teamed up with the Irish Museum of Modern Art's Azure Programme to offer a series of Online Art Tours — a creative and engaging way to stay connected and inspired across the summer. These virtual tours are designed for people living with dementia, their families, carers, and supporters, offering a gentle

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Based on the success of these online art sessions, Engaging Dementia and The Azure Programme will be running more of these online workshops across the autumn and winter. Keep an eye on their social media for updates or join their newsletter by emailing admin@engagingdementia.ie.

11) Research Officer - Vacancy

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is seeking a Research Officer to join its Research Team on a 9-month fixed-term contract (35 hours per week) to cover maternity leave.

Based in the national office in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, with flexible work options, the role reports to the Policy and Research Manager and involves contributing to a variety of internal and external research projects as well as some policy activities. The ideal candidate will have experience in implementing and disseminating research, strong communication and collaboration skills, and preferably knowledge of the dementia research landscape. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

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