

DRNI CONNECT  
Issue No. 29 - October 2025



## DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK IRELAND

Prevention, Cure & Care for  
Neurodegenerative Diseases

Welcome to the 29th issue of

### DRNI CONNECT!

Welcome to the October edition of DRNI CONNECT 🍁. This edition features a range of updates, events and opportunities across the dementia and brain health research community on the island of Ireland. A new date has been set for DRNI's event with Nina Carberry MEP, ***Dementia and Brain Health in Women: Barriers and Opportunities***, and we announce the date for DRNI's **Early Career Researcher Day 2026**. We are thrilled to launch the **DRNI Cross-Border Exchange Scheme**, which will fund researcher to visit institutions across the border. Don't miss opportunities to get involved in the Lewy Body Dementia Pathway to Care Survey, the Brain Health ARC Scotland: Data Challenge II, Creative Brainwaves series, and World Lewy Body Dementia Day event, to name a few.

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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## DEMENTIA AND BRAIN HEALTH IN WOMEN - BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**TUESDAY, 09 DECEMBER 2025**

12.15-14.00 CET

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

Join Nina Carberry, MEP and Dementia Research Network Ireland at the European Parliament to find out more about dementia and brain health in women.

Women are at higher risk of developing dementia than men, yet research has only just begun to address the biological and social factors behind this disparity. This session will provide scientific insights, survey data, and strategies for managing brain health, while identifying critical gaps and opportunities for action.

**To register:**

<https://forms.gle/Tp8c8gW2PxPYS3V56>

Co-hosted by Nina Carberry, MEP and  
Dementia Research Network Ireland.



### 1) Dementia and Brain Health in Women - Barriers and Opportunities

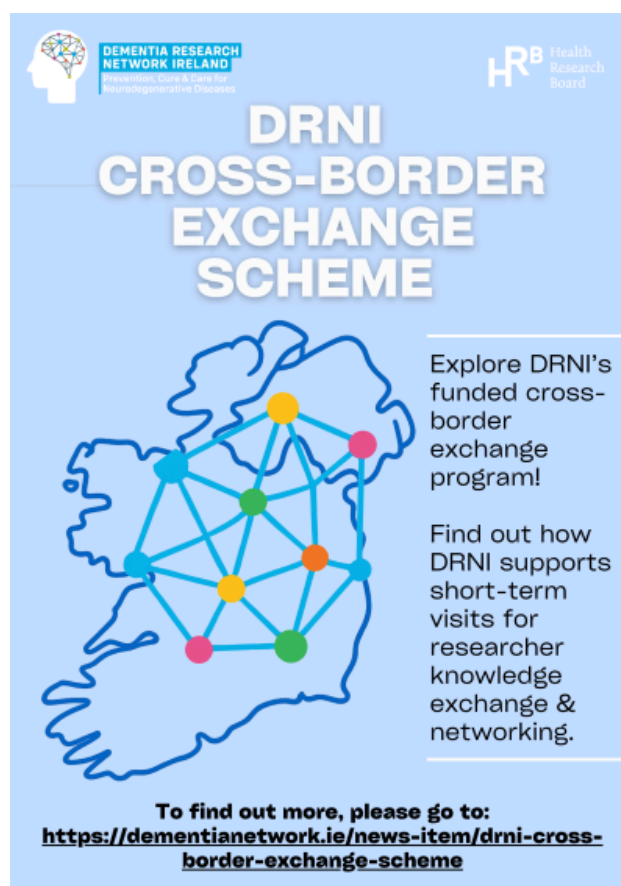
\*\*\*New date!\*\*\*

After having to postpone our initial date due to a national strike in Belgium, DRNI, together with **Nina Carberry MEP**, are delighted that our event "*Dementia and Brain Health in Women – Barriers and Opportunities*" will now take place on **Tuesday, December 9th** at the European Parliament, Brussels, and online.

Women are at higher risk of developing dementia than men, yet research has only just begun to address the biological and social factors behind this disparity. This

Among others, speakers include Professor Lorina Naci, Trinity College Dublin; Professor Sean Kennelly, Tallaght University Hospital; Dr Sean O'Dowd, National Dementia Service; and Dr Tim Raemaekers from the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation.

To register, please go to: <https://forms.gle/Tp8c8gW2PxPYS3V56>.



## 2) DRNI Cross-Border Exchange Scheme

DRNI are thrilled to announce our **Cross-Border Exchange Scheme**, where DRNI facilitates researchers visiting institutions for networking and knowledge exchange. This **funded opportunity** will support researchers who wish to participate in networking and knowledge exchange with colleagues on either side of the border.

The **Cross-Border Exchange Scheme** invites researchers to take part in short-term visits to institutions to foster new connections, joint research opportunities, and create a deeper understanding of complementary expertise on either side of the border. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with colleagues, share methodologies, and explore new avenues for interdisciplinary collaboration that enhance the region's collective research capacity.

**Applications to this funded scheme are now open.** To find out more about the application process, or to discuss a specific exchange, please click [HERE](#).



### 3) Save the Date! DRNI ECR Day 2026

DRNI's annual **Early Career Researcher Day** is back!

DRNI ECR Day is a great opportunity for ECRs from across the island of Ireland to present their research, meet their peers, network with other researchers, and become more familiar with the dementia research landscape in Ireland. It is open to all disciplines, and will be an in-person event.

DRNI ECR Day 2026 will take place on **Thursday, 09 April 2026**, in the lovely surrounds of **University of Galway**.

More details about registering to attend, and how to submit an abstract, will follow soon. The deadline for abstract submission will be **Friday, 27th February** - for more information, click [HERE](#). But for now, mark your calendars for what promises to be a great day!

### 4) Brain Health ARC Scotland: Data Challenge II

Our colleagues at [Brain Health ARC Scotland](#) have teamed up with, amongst others, Race Against Dementia, to launch their second Data Challenge project **Race Against Dementia: Data Challenge II**.

This challenge gives applicants the opportunity to access large datasets and support from expert in-house academic and technical team. Applications are welcome from

Brain Health ARC can help applicants create new collaborations.

Deadline for applications in 31st January 2026. To find out more, please click [HERE](#).

## 5) Researcher in Focus

The Researcher in Focus for this edition of DRNI CONNECT is **Sharon Walsh**, assistant professor in economics at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, **University of Galway**. To read about Sharon's research into key economic issues of finance, provision and access, in the context of health, ageing, and social care, click [HERE](#).

### LEWY BODY DEMENTIA PATHWAY TO CARE AND CARE PARTNER NEEDS STUDY



Our research at Trinity College Dublin's School of Medicine focuses on understanding the support and service needs of **care partners who support individuals with Lewy Body Dementia** (including Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's Disease Dementia).

We aim to understand both the positive and negative aspects of caregiving and identify which services are lacking in your area.

#### Who can get involved?

We are seeking **care partners of a person with Lewy body dementia**. If you choose to participate, you'll be asked to complete an anonymous online survey.

#### About the survey:

- The survey is split into two parts:
  - The first part (approx. 20-25 minutes) covers the support services available to you, your quality of life, and overall health.
  - The second part (approx. 5-10 minutes) explores pathways to dementia care.
- You can complete the survey in multiple sittings, as long as you bookmark it on your device.
- Participation is voluntary, and you may stop at any time by closing the survey.

## 6) Lewy Body dementia pathway to care - survey

The [EMERALD LEWY](#) project in Trinity College Dublin aims to improve the diagnosis, management, and lived experience of Lewy body dementias in Ireland. As part of their work, they are trying to find out more about the support and service needs of care partners who support individuals with Lewy Body Dementia (both Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's Disease Dementia).

They are now looking for **care partners of a person with Lewy Body dementia** to take part in a **survey** about the positive and negative aspects of caregiving, and to

## 7) AIIHPC Early Career Researcher Forum

The All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care ([AIIHPC](#)) [Early Career Researcher Forum](#) (ECRF) is open to all researchers or clinicians from any discipline who consider themselves in the early to mid-stages of their research career in palliative and end of life care or whose research may influence people with palliative care needs.

The Forum provides free membership with opportunities to:

- Access Special Interest Groups
- Access peer and mentor support
- Develop links with senior researchers
- Potential opportunities to present
- Participate in capacity building workshops
- Publish blog articles
- Receive regular funding updates
- Receive career development opportunities
- Transfer and exchange knowledge across disciplines

The Forum, which is multidisciplinary in nature, is open to anyone based on the island of Ireland who is interested in palliative care research. Membership is diverse and includes researchers, health and social care professionals, and policy makers from any discipline who consider themselves in the early to mid-stages of their research career within palliative and end of life care.

**If you are interested in joining the AIIHPC ECRF, please click [HERE](#).** If you have any questions, please contact Jane Clare: [jclare@aiahpc.org](mailto:jclare@aiahpc.org).

## 8) Engaging Dementia Annual Conference 2026

Engaging Dementia's Annual International Dementia Conference will take place on **May 13th and 14th, 2026**, returning to Athlone. Now in its 18th year, the conference has established itself as a major event for sharing knowledge, research, and best practice in dementia care. Over two days, delegates will hear from international experts, people living with dementia, family carers, and healthcare professionals. The programme will feature keynote talks, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities—bringing together a diverse community united in improving the lives of those affected by dementia.

More information to follow - visit [Engaging Dementia](#).





## 9) Creative Brainwaves

Don't miss **Creative Brainwaves Global Voices, Creative Solutions, Healthier Minds: Talks & Workshops** which takes place Dún Laoghaire on Friday, 14th November.

This event, organised by GBHI Fellows Karen Meenan and Mike Hanrahan, will showcase global and local initiatives in creative arts, dementia, brain health, Parkinson's, and extended reality (XR) with talks, workshops, and performances aimed at promoting wellbeing through creativity and innovation.

The event is taking place in dlr Lexlcon in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, and is split over two sessions (11.00-12.45 and 13.30-16.00). To book your free space at one or both sessions, please click [HERE](#).

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## 10) World Lewy Body Dementia Day

World Lewy Body Dementia Day is taking place on **28th January**, and the Emerald Lewy team in Trinity College Dublin are inviting you to an event to mark the occasion.

The event is taking place from 14.00 at Trinity East Campus - see flyer for details. The event will hear from persons with lived experience of Lewy Body Dementia, and will also feature researchers and artists in what looks like a great afternoon!


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