



Tallaght Institute of Memory and Cognition and Dementia Research Network Ireland

Less Common and Young-Onset Dementias

Trinity Centre, Tallaght University Hospital

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

09.30-15.30

09.30-09.50 Registration/Coffee

09.50-10.00 Welcome and Introduction

Session 1: Motor-Cognitive Disorders

10.00-10.30 Dementia with Lewy bodies

Dr Sean O'Dowd, Consultant Neurologist, TUH

10.30-11.00 Atypical Parkinsonian Syndromes

Evelyn Kimmage, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, TUH

11.00-11.15 COFFEE BREAK

11.15-11.45 Huntington's Disease

Dr Sarah Fullam, Specialist Registrar, TUH

11.45-12.15 Panel Discussion: "Ask Us Anything"

Chair: Dr Aoife Fallon, TUH

*Discussants: Members of Regional Specialist Memory Clinic and above
speakers*





Session 2: The Lived Experience

12.15-12.45 The lived experience of less common dementias

12.45-13.30 LUNCH & NETWORKING

Session 3: Atypical-onset Dementias and Research/Trials/Emerging Therapies

13.30-14.00 Young onset and genetic dementias

Dr Antoinette O'Connor, Consultant Neurologist, TUH

14.00-14.30 Language-led syndromes

Lisa Sheridan, Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist TUH

14.30-15.00 Advances in field of research and therapeutics

Professor Sean Kennelly, Consultant Geriatrician, TUH

15.00-15.30 Panel discussion: "Ask Us Anything"

Chair: Dr Aoife Fallon, Consultant Geriatrician, TUH

Discussants: Members of Regional Specialist Memory Clinic and above speakers

15.30 Closing remarks



Speakers



Dr Seán O'Dowd is a Consultant Neurologist at TUH with a special interest in cognitive disorders and dementia. He has over fifteen years' experience in the field, commencing his higher specialist training in Neurology in 2009 by completing a research thesis in the area of CSF biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease and tauopathies. He subsequently completed a Fellowship in Lewy Body Disease in Newcastle upon Tyne. He was appointed to TUH in 2017, and has been Clinical Lead for HSE National Dementia Services since October 2022.



Evelyn Kimmage is a Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist with a special interest in advancing the role of physiotherapy in the management of neurodegenerative diseases. Since graduating from Trinity College Dublin in 2014, she has built extensive experience across a range of settings, including community rehabilitation, specialist in-patient neuro-rehabilitation, and both acute and ambulatory care. In September 2023, Evelyn was appointed to establish and lead the first specialist physiotherapy service for patients with motor-cognitive syndromes at Tallaght University Hospital.



Dr Sarah Fullam is a 4th year Specialist Registrar in Neurology and current Neurodegenerative Clinical Fellow at Tallaght University Hospital. She completed a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience at Trinity College Dublin in 2013 and received her medical degree from the University of Limerick in 2018. She has spent the last number of years training in hospitals around Ireland before commencing her Fellowship at the Regional Specialist Memory Clinic at Tallaght University Hospital. She has a particular interest in Huntington's Disease and has used her time over the past year at TUH and Bloomfield Hospital to gain sub-specialty experience in this area.



Dr Aoife Fallon is a Consultant Geriatrician in Tallaght University Hospital with a special interest in memory and integrated care for older people. She completed an MD focusing on older nursing home residents presenting to the emergency department. She



finished higher specialist training in Geriatric Medicine and was appointed to Tallaght University Hospital in 2021.



Dr Antoinette O'Connor is a graduate of UCC medical school who completed a PhD in familial Alzheimer's disease at University College London. She has also completed a clinical fellowship in neurodegenerative diseases at Tallaght University Hospital, where she is now working as a consultant neurologist. She has been awarded a HRB Emerging Clinician Scientist Award to lead a research programme investigating the use of blood biomarkers to advance the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease in Down syndrome.

Lisa Sheridan is a Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist with extensive experience in the assessment and management of complex communication and swallowing impairments associated with neurodegenerative disorders. She has a particular interest in the use of digital speech and language biomarkers to support the early detection of cognitive decline



Professor Sean Kennelly is a consultant physician in geriatric and stroke medicine in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) and Clinical Associate Professor of Medical Gerontology in Trinity College Dublin. He is Director of the Institute for Memory and Cognition and the Cognitive Clinical Trials Unit in TUH, and clinical director of the National Intellectual Disability Memory Service in TUH. He is co-lead investigator of Dementia Trials Ireland, a national clinical trials network, and is PI of Dementia Research Network Ireland (DRNI).

Panel discussants

Sorcha Farrelly is a Social Work Team Leader in TUH. Sorcha has over twenty years' experience working as a medical social worker and has worked in numerous specialities



including eleven years in Neurology. She was appointed to the post of Social Work Team Leader in Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases in 2025.

Emmet Kelly works as a candidate ANP in Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases in TUH since June 2023. Before this post he worked in a general neurology clinical nurse specialist role shared between Naas and TUH from 2018 to 2023, specialising in cognitive neurology and epilepsy. He has completed higher diplomas in gerontological nursing and chronic illness. Emmet has a special interest in Atypical Parkinsonian Syndromes. As part of his MSc Advance Practice he is conducting a systematic review on caregivers of people with Huntington's disease and their experiences of supports.



Dr Garret McDermott is a Principal Clinical Neuropsychologist at TUH. He qualified as a Clinical Psychologist in 2009 and as Clinical Neuropsychologist in 2012. His current role entails doing detailed assessments of memory and other cognitive functions and supporting people with dementia. He is also interested in cognitive rehabilitation and how to support people following a diagnosis of dementia. Prior to working in the memory service, Garret worked in Neurology and Older Adult Mental Health among other settings including long term care and nursing homes. He is the former chair of the Psychological Society of Ireland's Division of Neuropsychology and continues to serve on their committee.



Cathy McHale works as a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in the Regional Specialist Memory Clinic in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH). She holds a Bachelor's degree in English and Psychology, Higher Diplomas in Computer Science and in Safety Health and Welfare at work, a Diploma in Gerontological Nursing and a Masters in Advanced Practice from TCD. She has worked across many nursing specialities including end of life care, intellectual disability and the acute setting. She has worked for over 15 years in care of the older persons with a special interest in dementia, delirium, brain health and the humanities and involved in the specialist memory clinic -established in 2014. She has contributed to National Working Groups on delirium and frailty and to a national integration group for the ASI Dementia Adviser Service. Her current role includes the assessment of patients (including neuropsychological screening), and delivery of Post-Diagnostic Support. She



contributes to the Research arm of the TUH Memory Service and is part of clinical trial activity there.

Eimear Mullen is a Senior Registered Dietitian with 3 years' experience working within the Age-Related Healthcare speciality. Eimear established the first dietetic clinic within the RSMC in 2023. In April 2025, Eimear was awarded the Dietetic Innovation Award at the Irish Society for Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism conference for her work on the Nutritional Profile of Attendees attending the Brain Health Clinic. Eimear is part of the national working group for dietitians working in memory services.