



Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to welcome you along to the winter edition of your ASI Research Newsletter. Below you will find information relating to our research activities in 2021 as well as updates on the work of our Dementia Research Advisory Team and The ASI's newest service - TeamUp for Dementia Research.

### Dementia Research Advisory Team Christmas Catch-up



The members of our **Dementia Research Advisory Team** met for their 2nd annual virtual Christmas catch-up earlier this month. We discussed the ample work the team has accomplished throughout the year despite lockdowns and restrictions and began to put our plans in place for 2022.

The Dementia Research Advisory Team is a group of people living with dementia and carers/supporters who are involved in dementia research as co-researchers. Throughout 2021 the members used their insights and expertise to collaborate on **7 ongoing projects** across a variety of universities, they **spoke at conferences** both nationally and internationally, they **reviewed tender documents and funding applications** and even welcomed **4 new members** to the team.

If you are a person living with dementia or a family carer / supporter who has a passion for having their voice heard in research and would like to join the **Dementia Research Advisory Team**, please get in touch with **Cíara** on **085 8709671** or email [ciara.oreilly@alzheimer.ie](mailto:ciara.oreilly@alzheimer.ie).

Information for potential members is also available [here](#). We welcome members from all communities and there is no experience necessary.

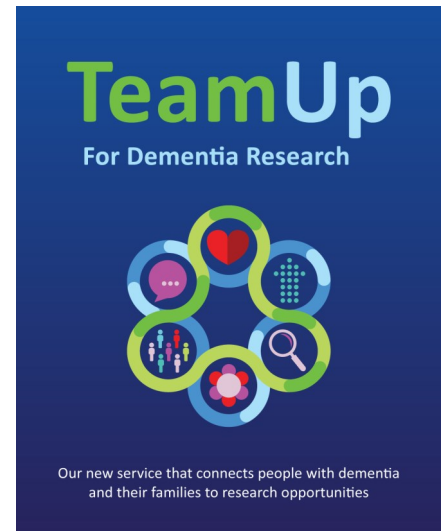
## TeamUp for Dementia Research

Launched in July 2021, **TeamUp for Dementia Research** is The ASI's newest service. It connects people living with dementia, care givers and family members with researchers conducting studies across all areas of dementia.

A clear passion for dementia research is reflected not only in the number of people signing up to the service but also in the variety of projects offered to the TeamUp members. We have been delighted to bring 12 different research studies from a host of institutions nationwide to our TeamUp members. Some of these included:

- an online survey looking at the future care needs of older LGBTQI+ adults
- focus groups relating to Young Onset Dementia
- interviews relating to Pet Robots
- data collection in relation to stroke healthcare and dementia in Ireland

We look forward to ongoing success as we continue to grow this important service in 2022!



If you are not already signed up and would like to get some further information, please contact Cíara at [teamup@alzheimer.ie](mailto:teamup@alzheimer.ie) or click [here](#) to sign up.

### Working with the Dementia Research Advisory Group - Researcher Perspective

#### Study: Exploring autonomy from the perspectives of people with dementia

"I feel strongly that involving people living with dementia and their families as contributors in the research process, adds to the richness, strength and relevancy of the study.

As a novice researcher I was unsure how to make this happen but speaking to Cíara and Laura from the Dementia Research Advisory Team helped signpost me as to the next steps. I completed the application form and was introduced to the team who had kindly agreed to collaborate with me on the study.

I felt a mixture of nervousness and excitement at our first meeting but the team were so supportive that I quickly forgot about the nerves and we all got to work. The team were so insightful, adding comments and discussing changes that would support the participants to engage more fully and meaningfully in the study, ensuring their voices are heard. I am so grateful for the teams input and look forward with excitement to us working together in the future as the study progresses."



*Susan O'Reilly*

Advanced Nurse Practitioner- Memory Clinic, Connolly Hospital  
PHD student in DCU

## International Research News - Aducanumab

Today, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) decided not to authorise a new treatment called aducanumab for Alzheimer's Disease.

This decision would have been closely watched by the European dementia community and a lot of people living with Alzheimer's and their families will be disappointed by this news.

Granted conditional approval in the United States, the medicine will continue to be administered there.

**It is important to note that there are other medications currently being tested for Alzheimer's disease and further information is available [here](#).**

More information on the aducanumab decision is available [here](#).

## Research Strategy Development

Thank you to everyone who took time to share their invaluable insights to The ASI's recent review of its research strategy. We look forward to bringing you the results in 2022.

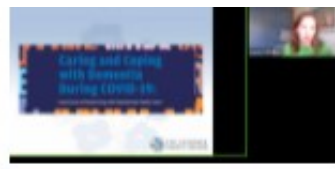
## 31st Alzheimer Europe Conference



The 31st Alzheimer Europe Conference was held from the 29th November to the 1st December. The theme of the conference this year was "Resilience in dementia: Moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic."

**CEO Pat O'Loughlin** spoke on lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, Dementia Research Advisory Team member & author **Kevin Quaid** gave a powerful and much lauded keynote address, Interim Research and Policy Manager **Dr. Laura O'Philbin** presented the findings of our [A Year of Caring & Coping with Dementia in COVID-19](#) Report and Research Project Officer **Cíara O'Reilly** presented on her Masters project in the Intergenerational Dementia Care section.

With over 600 attendees from 38 countries, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland was certainly well represented at the online event.





**Thanks for helping us to support people living with dementia, their family carers and supporters in 2021.**

Painting by Marguerite Keating, Member of our Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG)



**THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of IRELAND**



**1800 341 341**

**For anyone needing support during the festive period please reach out to our National Helpline.**