



Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the first Research Roundup of 2021. We will bring you some research updates and news throughout the year. Stay tuned for some exciting projects.

If you have any suggestions or anything you would like to hear please contact [research@alzheimer.ie](mailto:research@alzheimer.ie)

### **The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Supporting Research**

**We would like to congratulate Professor Mary McCarron from Trinity College Dublin and her colleagues on being awarded €160,000 to develop best practice guidelines for post- diagnostic dementia supports for people with an intellectual disability in Ireland.**

This project will be funded by the Health Research Board and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.



Prof Mary McCarron

People with an Intellectual Disability are at greater risk of developing dementia than the general population. In particular, those with Down syndrome are the world's largest group with a genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease.

Prof McCarron and her colleagues will work with researchers, clinicians, services and people with Intellectual Disabilities to provide recommendations and guidelines on how best to provide post-diagnostic dementia supports to people with an Intellectual Disability and their families.



## Your Voice Matters

We are inviting people living with dementia and family carers/supporters to take part in a five minute survey about your experiences during COVID19. It has been with us for almost one year and this research is part of our work in exploring the experiences of people living with dementia and their families during this pandemic.

If you are a family carer / supporter click [here](#).

If you are living with dementia click [here](#).

We will use these findings to publish a report and draw attention to experiences of people living with dementia and their families. We want your voices to be heard. Your input is very important because it tells us about the needs of people affected by dementia and how they can be better met.

YOUR  
VOICE  
MATTERS



### New Irish Research

#### **Priorities for Psychosocial Supports and Services among family carers of people with dementia**

Dementia care relies heavily on family members or friends who often struggle with their own health and wellbeing.

Aine Teahan and her colleagues spoke to family carers in Dublin, Galway and Kerry to find out about their personal and social challenges and needs.



#### **Top Rated Personal Supports (Desired)**

- Day Care
- Family Care and Support Group
- Short break respite
- Long break respite
- Social activities

**For more news, please click [here](#).**

## Research News

### Biogen and Alzheimer's drug: Aducanumab

On July 8th 2020, Biogen announced that it has submitted an application to the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) for a new drug (aducanumab) as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease. The FDA has agreed to review the application and a decision is expected by June 2021.

It takes several years for drugs to get to this approval stage. If approved and effective, aducanumab could be the first treatment with the potential to meaningfully change the course of Alzheimer's disease.

However, there has been some controversy around this drug. The FDA is reviewing the application and will only approve the drug if they feel it will be safe and effective. Click [here](#) to read more for the full story



## The INTenSE Project

Dr Louise Hopper from Dublin City University is looking for any of the below people to take part in her latest research project.

- People living with dementia
- Family carers or supporters who have completed some kind of dementia-related training or education
- Health and social care professionals who support people living with dementia

If you wish to learn more about taking part in this research please contact Louise at [louise.hopper@dcu.ie](mailto:louise.hopper@dcu.ie)

The INTenSE Project

Aimed at improving dementia care by building **self-experience** of dementia into carer training

We want to capture your experience in **imagining** what it is like to live with dementia

This study will support **dementia training & education** strategies across Europe

Participation will involve **small discussion groups** or **one-to-one interview** if you prefer

Please contact Dr Louise Hopper by email at [louise.hopper@dcu.ie](mailto:louise.hopper@dcu.ie)

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