



Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Spring edition of your ASI Research Newsletter. Below you will find information relating to recent research activities, updates on the work of the Dementia Research Advisory Team and a number of currently recruiting research opportunities through our TeamUp for Dementia Research service.

Research for Impact



On the 22nd February 2023, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, in collaboration with Dementia Research Network Ireland hosted their first knowledge exchange seminar - Bridging the Gap between Research, Policy and Practice. Early-career researchers, clinicians, family carers, and people living with dementia were brought together for an engaging and collaborative event to discuss the importance of creating impactful research.

With an opening address from ASI CEO Andy Heffernan, attendees were rapt listening to the engaging presentations from our keynote speakers.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Avril Keenan (HRCI) speaking on the importance of being intentional about using research to make a difference

- Prof Mary Mc Carron (Trinity College Dublin) on her experiences of designing and producing collaborative research
- Dr Siobhan Fox (UCC) on her instrumental work developing Guidance on Community Information and Support for People with Young Onset Dementia and their Families
- Brenda Buckley and Tony McIntyre, represented the members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team (the ASI's Person Public Involvement panel), sharing an update on the novel research work they have undertaken
- Prof Sean Kennelly (Tallaght University Hospital) providing an insightful overview of disease modifying therapies and their impact on the dementia landscape in the coming years.

This innovative and hopeful event was funded by a grant from the Health Research Board Events and Conferences Sponsorship Scheme 2022.

TeamUp for Dementia Research—Membership Milestone



TeamUp for Dementia Research is delighted to announce that we now support over 300 people affected by dementia to take part in ethically approved dementia research in Ireland!

Thank you so much to the members (new and old) who so graciously give their time and expertise to the Research Community. Sharing your experience and your insights improves dementia research, benefitting people living with dementia, caregivers and supporters as well as service providers and policy makers.

If you have not yet matched with a research opportunity please do not worry. We are an active service. It is only a matter of time until the right research project comes along for you. In the meantime, if you would like to review your selected research preferences just email teamup@alzheimer.ie and a member of the Research Team will be able to help.

Below you will find the details of some research studies currently recruiting through the service. If you are not already a TeamUp for Dementia Research member, register and avail of the opportunities below.

The AIDA project is an in-person, arts-based intervention. Taking place in Castletown House (Celbridge, Co. Kildare), it examines the value of art-tours and art-making for people living with dementia

The Buddy Programme

This online psychosocial intergenerational intervention is an exciting opportunity for people living with dementia to partner up with a Transition Year student "Buddy" for 6 weeks. The pairs meet for one hour per week on Zoom and engage in a shared activity / chats!



The OPW is taking part in an EU wide study:
How engaging with arts and heritage can benefit people living with Alzheimer's disease.
The study organised in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and Dublin City University Psychology Department.

We are looking for 12 volunteers living with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease or dementia and their carers or family members to participate in the study at Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

You will be asked to take part in art looking tours, art making and story telling activities. You will also see a demonstration of Mozilla Hubs digital platform.

Volunteers will also take part in a short assessment interview with a psychologist before the first session and after the last session.




INTERGENERATIONAL DEMENTIA INTERVENTION

- The Buddy Programme




- ▶ Meet for one hour per week on Zoom with a Transition Year student "Buddy"
- ▶ Over a 6 week period
- ▶ Engage in Shared Activity (and chats!)
- ▶ Meet 1:1 or in pairs (to be decided and agreed between the Buddies)
- ▶ Complete brief journal entry after each session to inform write up and future development of the Buddy Programme





Tailored Reminiscence Interventions for Ageing and Dementia In Community Settings aims to support people who are living with early-stage dementia who wish to understand how to improve their quality of life through reminiscence therapy and engaging in shared activities such as walking or listening to music.



BE ACTIVE AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS ALONG THE WAY!

Maynooth University is seeking older adults (65+) in the Maynooth area to take part in a research project to help **support well-being for people with dementia.**

The Irish Research Council, The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, and Maynooth University are working in partnership with older people to deliver a **FREE 6-week workshop.**

Join us to go for walks, listen to music and reminisce! Be active and chat with others along the way!



Please tell anyone you know who might be interested and contact us if you have questions or would like to join!

Dementia Research Advisory Team - Training and Updates

The members of the [Dementia Research Advisory Team](#) continue to show research leadership in their PPI work through

- exciting collaborations with the research community co-authorship on the recent publication of Dr. Joanne McHugh Power's "Freedom and loneliness: dementia caregiver experiences of the nursing home transition" study. (Well done Kevin and Ruth!) The paper can be read by [clicking here](#).
- fine-tuning their own research project
- building on their transferable skills-base.

With the launch of the [ASI's Dementia Research Award](#) (a funding pot of up to €100,000) it was a great opportunity for the members to come together to brush up on their research review skills. Following an engaging and interactive workshop, the members took great care to apply their learnings to the review process. We are so grateful to the the HRCI's Dr. Sarah Delaney for taking on the role of independent observer and engagingly so warmly with the members.

