

## ASI Research Update End of Year Roundup



THE ALZHEIMER  
SOCIETY *of* IRELAND

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2021! It has been quite a busy year for us all. We want to highlight some of the work we've been doing over the last 12 months.

If you have any suggestions or would like to reach out to us, please contact [research@alzheimer.ie](mailto:research@alzheimer.ie).

We would also like to extend our warmest wishes to those who are celebrating Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa a happy one and those who might celebrate in other ways a joyous one.



**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)



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## Research Roundup

### Spring / Summer Highlights

- **Report Publication: A Year of Caring and Coping with Dementia During Covid-19.** This work was conducted by the Research & Policy team with support from The ASI Operations team. This report was a large body of work undertaken that sought to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of people with dementia and their carers one year on. The report brings to light the enormous challenges faced by the family carers of people living with dementia – and the urgent need for access to support services. It found family carers to be at breaking point – with their mental and physical wellbeing seriously affected. A link to this report can be found [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read the Caring & Coping Report



- **TeamUp for Dementia Research** was officially launched in July 2021 in collaboration with Dementia Research Network Ireland. TeamUp For Dementia Research is a service where people living with dementia and their families can register their interest in participating in dementia research. It connects them with researchers who are conducting studies in the area of dementia.

For more information on TeamUp for Dementia Research click [here](#)

### Autumn / Winter Highlights

- **Staff changes:** September saw the expansion of the Research & Policy Team, being led by Dr. Laura O'Philbin as Interim Research & Policy Manager. Cíara O'Reilly joined as Research Projects Officer and Dr. Diane O'Doherty joined as Research Officer.
- **Younger Onset Dementia Project:** The ASI awarded a tender to a research team led by Drs Siobhán Fox and Caroline Kilty in UCC to develop guidelines on how dementia service providers and community groups can support people you younger onset dementia (YOD) living in their communities. This work will be completed in 2022.
- **ASI Research Strategy:** November saw ASI seek stakeholder input as we began development of our new Research Strategy 2022-2024. While work continues in finalising this document, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our survey.

## Engaging Dementia 2021

Engaging<sup>™</sup>  
Dementia

Formerly Sonas<sup>®</sup> apc

The 13th Engaging Dementia Conference "Opportunity Out Of Adversity" took place online from the 4th -6th October.

A number of The ASI's teams were in attendance and presented at this research conference. Members of the Irish Dementia Working

Click [here](#) to watch an overview of the 13th Annual International Dementia Conference

## Alzheimer Europe 2021

31st Alzheimer Europe Conference



The 31st Alzheimer Europe Conference, "Resilience in dementia: Moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic", was held from 29 November to 1 December 2021. Over 600 participants from 38 countries attended the online event.

Members of the Research & Policy, Advocacy team and members of the Irish Dementia Working Group, alongside our CE Mr Pat McLoughlin attended this year's Alzheimer Europe conference. The Forget Me Knots also stole the closing ceremony with their rendition of 'Till We Meet Again'.

## And finally...

We would like to wish all our extended research collaborators and partners a very Happy New Year!

We hope to continue to engage and work together in 2022!



## ASI Research Update

December 2021



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Dear Colleague,

Our colleagues at the Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation at the School of Medicine, University College Cork are currently recruiting a Post-Doctoral Researcher. This is a fixed term, part time post and will see the researcher work on a project to develop guidance on how dementia service providers and community groups can support people with young onset dementia and their families.

This project is funded by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) and the research team will work closely with the ASI and people with young onset dementia to develop a practical guidance document.

A detailed job description is available [HERE](#). To view post details, insert reference number 051771.

Closing date for applications is Friday 10th December 2021.

### Policy Update: All-Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia Meeting



## All-Party Oireachtas Group on **Dementia**

The All Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia hosted a Dementia Research briefing on the 23rd November chaired by Senator Fiona O'Loughlin.

The purpose of the briefing was to inform political representatives of developments in disease modifying therapies and diagnostics, putting research into practice, innovations and infrastructure in Dementia Research and to highlight the need for sustained and continued funding.

Speakers included:

- Professor Sean Kennelly, Consultant Physician Geriatric and Stroke Medicine and Co-Director of the Tallaght University Hospital Memory Assessment Service
- Dr Carol Rogan, Project Manager of the Dementia Research Network
- Dr Laura O'Philbin, Policy & Research Manager at The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

## Upcoming Events

### UCD PPI Ignite Network Workshop: Friday 3rd December



The PPI Ignite Network at University College Dublin are facilitating a free online event this Friday, December 3rd at 10.30-12pm, which is focusing on the importance and practicalities of embedding public & patient involvement (PPI) in research.

This event is specifically designed for researchers, however it is open to all.

For more information or to register for the event, please click [here](#).

## Research Strategy Development Survey

And last, but certainly not means least, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute to our Research Strategy Development survey. Your input has been invaluable to the Research team as we develop our research strategy for the next few years with your needs in mind.

THANK YOU!

## ASI Research Update

November 2021



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Dear Colleagues,

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is developing a Research Strategy for 2022-2024. This strategy will guide our work for the next two years. We want to ensure this strategy can support and meet the needs of the research community here in Ireland. As a member of our wider research network your input on this would be invaluable.

We would be very grateful if you could spare five minutes to complete the questionnaire below about what is important to you.

This survey is entirely anonymous. If you have any question please feel free to contact [research@alzheimer.ie](mailto:research@alzheimer.ie)

Please click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Best wishes and many thanks,

The ASI Research & Policy Team



## ASI Research Update End of Year Roundup



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Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the October edition of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Research Newsletter.

### Younger Onset Dementia Tender

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is inviting application to tender to develop guidelines on how dementia service providers and community groups can support people you younger onset dementia (YOD) living in their communities.

Check out our [website](#) for more information and invitation to tender.

### Research Collaborations: TeamUp for Dementia Research



TeamUp For Dementia Research is a service where people living with dementia and their families can register their interest in participating in dementia research. If you are conducting a dementia-related research study and are looking for support with participant recruitment, please get in touch!

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

Prof John Nolan and Dr Rebecca Power at the Nutrition Research Centre Ireland (NRCI) at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and Prof Róna Mulcahy at University Hospital Waterford have investigated the role of nutritional carotenoid supplements for people with Alzheimer's Disease.

Prof Nolan, along with a study participant Hilary, recently spoke on the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk about the center's research trial further. These plant-based supplements showed many improvements in mood and memory for participants. To listen back to the show, please click [here](#).

### Dementia as part of a Chronic Disease Management Programme

In May 2021, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland published a policy paper, which was commissioned and worked with Prof Suzanne Cahill & Dr. Maria Pierce which investigated the feasibility of including dementia in a revised chronic disease management programme for GPs. This, and our plain language summary, is available on our [website](#).

The ASI is hoping to explore these findings as part of a round table discussion with key stakeholders in the coming months.

#### A warm welcome to our new Research & Policy Team



The Research & Policy Team, led by Dr. Laura O'Philbin (Interim Research & Policy Manager) at the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, welcomes the addition of Cíara O'Reilly and Dr. Diane O'Doherty to the team.



Cíara O'Reilly joins us as Research Project Officer, working closely with the members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team. She will also be the point of contact for all queries relating to our new TeamUp for Dementia Research service.

Supported by the ASI, Cíara is currently completing a Masters by Research in Dementia through DCU School of Psychology.



Diane O'Doherty joins us as Research Officer, supporting internal and external research and policy activities. She has a PhD in the area of public health and has engaged with health research over the last several years.



## How can you support research?



### University College London & ISTAART Early Career Dementia Researchers Careers Survey

University College London and the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART) Professional Interest Area to Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERS) is working to better understand the challenges and what helps.

To inform the work, they are undertaking a survey aimed at early career dementia researchers, or those who have previously been an early career dementia researcher but have left the field.

The closing date for this survey is 31st October 2021.

For more information click [here](#).

## Early diagnosis and prevention of Alzheimer's disease: What is your opinion?

Researchers at the Alzheimer's Centre Amsterdam are aiming to examine the perspectives of European clinicians involved in the diagnostic work-up of dementia. How is your clinic organized and what are your thoughts on how to communicate about (early) diagnosis, biomarkers, and dementia risk with patients and their loved ones? What's your opinion on prevention efforts and Aducanumab?



If you are a clinician (e.g., physicians, nurses, psychologists) working in a memory clinic across Europe, please click [here](#) to participate or scan the QR code.

**For any research enquiries, please get in touch at [research@alzheimer.ie](mailto:research@alzheimer.ie)**