



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 2023, as well as updates on the work of our Dementia Research Advisory Team and our TeamUp for Dementia Research service.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Research Highlights

On the 22nd February 2023, The ASI, 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.



Following a rigorous and competitive application process, Dr. Michelle Kelly and Dr. Caoimhe Hannigan from National College Ireland were the successful funding recipients of The ASI's Dementia Research Award!

Their project, "Increasing the Availability of Cognitive Rehabilitation for People with Dementia in Ireland," will address the lack of availability of Cognitive Rehabilitation (CR) by creating a new service-delivery model. CR is an evidence-based intervention that supports people with dementia to maintain or improve their cognitive and everyday function.



Dementia Research Award Winners!



Dr. Michelle Kelly



Dr. Caoimhe Hannigan

Increasing the Availability of Cognitive Rehabilitation for People with Dementia in Ireland

In September, The ASI proudly launched our National Report - The Experience of Dementia in Ireland; a Snapshot in Time. This important survey captured the insights of 597 Carers / Supporters and 72 People living with dementia.

Highlighting the multi-faceted challenges experienced by people affected by dementia, the findings in this report will be used to guide the organisation's service planning, political advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns. The full report and Plain Language summary are available to read on our website, www.alzheimer.ie.



Dementia Research Advisory Team Updates



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. The members are supported by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to contribute to dementia research in a Person Public Involvement (PPI) capacity. This means working alongside the research community throughout the research process - from devising research questions all the way to presenting findings at conferences.

In addition to collaborating directly with researchers on specific projects, the members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team demonstrated research leadership by advising early career and established researchers on how to incorporate meaningful PPI into their work. They were invited to contribute to workshops, presented at two international conferences and hosted a panel discussion at the Neuroscience Ireland annual conference.

The ASI would like to offer a huge well done to all of the members for using their lived experience of dementia to improve dementia research in Ireland.

To learn more about the work of the Dementia Research Advisory Team please check out our website, www.alzheimer.ie.

TeamUp for Dementia Research

The graphic features the text 'TeamUp For Dementia Research' on a dark blue background. 'TeamUp' is in large, bold letters, with 'Team' in green and 'Up' in light blue. 'For Dementia Research' is in a smaller, white font below it. To the right of the text is a cluster of colorful circular icons: a pink speech bubble, a red heart, a grid of blue dots, a magnifying glass, a group of colorful human figures, and a person icon with a red heart above their head. The icons are connected by thick, curved lines in shades of green and blue.

TeamUp
For Dementia Research

TeamUp for Dementia Research connects people affected by dementia with opportunities to take part in ethically approved dementia research. Launched in July 2021, we are delighted to now have nearly 350 members!

We want to thank the TeamUp Members for taking the time to participate in dementia research in Ireland. Throughout 2023, members completed online surveys, took part in focus groups and one-to-one interviews, and engaged in in-person and virtual psychosocial interventions.

Below you will find a brief example of some of the projects that recruited through the service this year.

Do you have a long term health condition?
Are you a health professional working in primary care?

Share your thoughts to improve health research

Help us to identify the top priorities for research into managing chronic conditions in Irish primary care by having your say in our online survey

Submit the questions and comments you have as someone with lived experience of having, treating, or caring for someone with chronic conditions. We will sort all submissions, find the ones not yet answered by research, and work with you to rank them into a Top Ten list of priorities for future research projects

For more information, visit
primarycaretrials.ie/psp

or email
laura.Loconnor@universityofgalway.ie



Scan here to complete the survey

 **OPW** Óigín na hOifimhíne Poblaithe
Office of Public Works

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.



   

If you are not already a member of TeamUp for Dementia Research and would like to become involved, please check out our website, www.alzheimer.ie.

Looking forward to another impactful year of dementia research in 2024!



From everyone here at
The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, thank you for supporting our work and helping to make a difference to the lives of people with dementia and their families in 2023.

We wish you and yours a peaceful and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 2024

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support for dementia research and wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season.