



Dear Colleague,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023!

We would 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.

Research Roundup

Spring / Summer Highlights

Disease Modifying Therapies

2023 was a busy year with the announcement of potential disease-modifying therapies, including the publication of clinical trial data and FDA review of drugs including Aduhelm, Lequembi and Donanemab amongst others.

As part of the media surrounding these drugs, members of our Research & Policy Team took part in local and national media interviews, including Research & Policy Manager, Dr. Laura O'Philbin who joined Virgin Media & RTE Radio One to discuss the potential impact of these new therapies for people affected by dementia. We hope to see some updates in 2024 from the European Medicines Agency on these new therapies. Read more about these drugs on our website.

The ASI and Dementia Research Network Ireland hosted a Knowledge Exchange Research Seminar

In February, The ASI & DRNI co-hosted a research knowledge exchange seminar which brought together early career researchers, clinicians, family carers and people living with dementia. We had a stellar lineup of speakers, with the morning coming to a close with small discussion group sessions exploring the barriers and solutions for putting research into practice for impact.



Thank you to all who attended, who presented and who took the time to share your experiences! We were able to co-host this event with thanks to the Health Research Board Events and Conferences Sponsorship Scheme 2022.

Read our report and fundings from this event on our website!

The Cost of Living While Caring Report 2023

In April, we published a brief report on the financial situation of family carers of people with dementia in Ireland, highlighting significant financial challenges.

This publication results from a collaboration between The ASI and Family Carers Ireland (FCI). It follows an analysis of feedback provided by family carers of people with dementia surveyed as part of FCI's The State of Caring 2022 report. Read this on our website today!



Autumn / Winter Highlights

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Dementia Research Award Winners 2023

In September we announced the winners of The ASI's first Dementia Research Award - Dr Michelle Kelly & Dr Caoimhe Hannigan from NCI. Their project title is "Increasing the Availability of Cognitive Rehabilitation for People with Dementia in Ireland". We look forward to working with you!

Our Dementia Research Award was a funding opportunity for projects up to the value of €100,000 of 9-24 months duration.

A sincere thank you to everyone who submitted applications for this award. The standard was incredibly high.

Funding and Collaborations

We were delighted to fund a number of projects this year, and continue work in collaboration with research teams across the country. We partnered with universities and organisations to strengthen the work that we do collectively and produce high-quality, dementia research.

This included supporting three IRC New Foundations projects, four Early Career Research Bursaries, three travel bursaries and ~5 projects as charity collaborator and co-applicant.

Additionally, we worked with our Research Review Committee to undertake scoring of some of our funding and bursary applications. We would like to thank both our Professional and Public Reviewers for taking the time this year to support us in this work.

TeamUp for Dementia Research & The Dementia Research Advisory Team

This year we saw an impressive growth in our the TeamUp for Dementia Research Service! We now have 336 members; 281 of those are family carers (224 female & 47 male) and 55 people living with dementia (~50% male, 50% female).

The ASI's dedicated PPI panel, the Dementia Research Advisory Team, continued to demonstrate research leadership in their activities throughout 2023. Advising at workshops, panel discussions at conferences, and engaging with researchers on a number of different projects across the country.

In its commitment to providing unique and innovative opportunities to its members, the ASI also supported Mr Tony McIntyre to attend the 5th annual Liverpool Aging & Dementia conference, supported by Ms Cíara O'Reilly (Research Projects Officer).



Events attended

#TeamASI were incredibly busy attending events this year, aside from co-hosting our research seminar back in February. Some of the interesting events we attended included:

- PPI panel contribution to UCC Translational Medicine Conference in January
- Panel at Neuroscience Ireland Conference held in RCSI in August
- Dementia Research Network Ireland Early Career Research Day in October
- Supporting PPI month and events across the country in October
- Presentations from the team at Alzheimer Europe Conference in October

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 2023!

