

ASI Research Newsletter

Spring 2025



THE **Alzheimer**
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter of 2025!

The Research & Policy team has been working hard this year so far with lots of things happening! Check out what we have been up to below and some upcoming events.

Dementia Dialogues: Breaking Down Research
Watch our webinar series in full now!



Dementia Dialogues : Breaking Down Research
Webinar Series 2024

Watch back the series in full now!

Last September we launched our four-part Dementia Research Webinar Series. The aim of this series is to break down emerging research in plain language for a national audience.

In January we held our final part of the series where we were joined by Dr. Caroline Kilty & Dr. Siobhan Fox from University College Cork to present on their work, harnessing community information and support for those living with young onset dementia.

A sincere thank you to all our collaborators and presenters across the entire series and to everyone for tuning in and their feedback. You can watch back the series on our website.

Dementia Research Network Ireland—Early Career Researcher Event



Dementia Research Network Ireland (DRNI) held their annual Early Career Researcher event in Belfast at Queen's University Belfast, Royal Victoria Hospital.

It was a great day of oral and poster presentations from dementia researchers across all disciplines on the island of Ireland. A sincere congratulations to all who won prizes!

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland was one of three organisations who offered travel bursaries to support

early career researchers to attend the event. Three students were awarded The ASI's ECR Travel Bursaries (pictured right). A massive well done to:

- Anupa Paulose from University College Dublin
- Men Hoang from Trinity College Dublin
- Aoife O'Connell from University of Galway

(Photo: Thanks to DRNI)

Anupa Paulose was also winner of Best Poster so congratulations!

Quotes from researchers on what they had enjoyed most or learned from the day included:

"This was my first time connecting with the wider network of dementia researchers in Ireland, and it was amazing to see the incredible work being done to improve the lives of people with dementia. Meeting so many researchers who share the same goals and passion as I do was both exciting and motivating—it reinforced my commitment to this field."



Research in the News—Update to Blood Based Biomarkers

In February, emerging research from a team of researchers at Trinity College Dublin, St. James's Hospital and the Tallaght Institute of Memory & Cognition was published on the potential of a new blood test for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Findings from this work highlighted how this new blood test could potentially replace expensive and invasive diagnostics in the form of lumbar puncture / spinal tap in over half of patients who have the early signs of Alzheimer's. This work highlighted that up to half of people currently living with AD do not have a formal diagnosis. This new blood test has the potential to improve diagnostic rates with accuracy and that can be conducted with a large population.

Data also showed that in validating this new blood test, results were >90% accurate as results that were obtained through lumbar puncture. The team believe this new test has the potential to replace over half of the lumbar punctures undertaken, with patients avoiding this procedure to lieu of providing a simple blood sample.

This is a very exciting area at the moment both in terms of diagnostics and looking forward, for the potential use for early identification of AD in patients who may be suitable for future disease modifying therapy drugs if and when they come to market in Ireland.

TeamUp for Dementia Research



The poster features the UCC logo at the top, followed by the text 'PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH'. Below this is a large, stylized graphic of two people sitting and talking, with the text 'What is your Experience of the' arched over them. The main title 'TeamUp for Dementia Research Service' is prominently displayed. The text below explains that they are conducting an evaluation of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's 'TeamUp for Dementia Research' (TUDR) service. It invites healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocacy organizations to participate in a short interview. Contact information for Lauren Mahony is provided, along with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland logo and a small graphic for 'Centre for Community and Rehabilitation'.

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

What is your Experience of the

TeamUp for Dementia Research Service

We are conducting an evaluation of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's 'TeamUp for Dementia Research' (TUDR) service. We want to know about what works well, and any ideas for improvement.

If you are a healthcare professional, researcher, member of an advocacy organisation, and have close links with dementia research and/or the TUDR service, please get in touch if you would like to **participate in a short interview!**

Email laurenmahony@ucc.ie
Call 0214627347

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND

CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY AND REHABILITATION

The TeamUp for Dementia Research service connects people living with dementia and informal carers (i.e. family members and friends) with opportunities to take part in ethically approved dementia research.

Established in July 2021, the service makes research participation accessible and provides a safe and supported way for members to consider research participation opportunities. It currently has over 350 members and in 2024 it supported ~15 projects.

An in-depth evaluation of the service is now being carried out. Please note, if you are a TeamUp for Dementia Research member or have used this service for recruitment for your research, we invite you to take part in this evaluation using the information below. An external evaluation team is undertaking this work in UCC. As always, participation is voluntary and choosing not to take part will not impact future research opportunities.

New Foundations Funding Scheme

We have been lucky over the last few years to collaborate and support a number of researchers under the New Foundations Scheme.

We will soon be looking for new research partners for this scheme so watch this space! For more information on the New Foundations Scheme, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Alzheimer Europe Conference: October 2025

Early bird registrations and abstract submissions for Alzheimer Europe's 35th Conference are now open.

- Date: 6-8th October 2025
- Place: Bologna, Italy

Abstract submission closes on 30th April. Alzheimer Europe in collaboration with the INTERDEM Academy are offering ten bursaries of €1000 for early stage researchers who wish to present and attend this year's conference. For more information check out [HERE](#).

Engaging Dementia Conference: May 2025

The 17th Engaging Dementia Conference two day, in-person event is taking place on the 7th & 8th May 2024, at the Athlone Springs Hotel, Co. Roscommon.

This year's theme is "Bridging Worlds in Dementia Care: Connecting Global Perspectives and Local Solutions".

17TH INTERNATIONAL DEMENTIA CONFERENCE
7th and 8th May | 2025 | Athlone Springs Hotel

'BRIDGING WORLDS IN DEMENTIA CARE: CONNECTING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS'

 IRACEMA LEROI Global Brain Health Institute	 SHEENA CADOO & CHARLIE DRAKE North Cork Dementia Alliance	 SEAN O'DOWD Updates on Medical Research	 MICHELLE KELLY Cognitive Stimulation Therapy
 MIKE HANRAHAN Music Therapy & Dementia	 PAUL MALONEY Update on the National Dementia Office and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Working Group	 CARU End of Life Programmes	 PANEL DISCUSSION ON CARING
 DEMENTIA CAFE PANEL	 PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE SENSES	 IRMA EVERINK & SIL AARTS Collaboration between Maastricht University and Nursing	 FRANK GOLDEN Sharing about writing a book about Irish History
 IRENE HARTIGAN InTouch Research	 FIONA FOLEY Brain Health	 EDEL CAREY Feileacan Ban (White Butterfly) Supports	 IRISH RAIL Dementia Inclusive Travel
 XIAOXIAO HOU Chinese Cultural supports in Liverpool and role of music	 SUZANNE DOOLEY Dementia and Communication	 IRISH DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP	 Home Instead Engaging Dementia WWW.ENGAGINGDEMENTIA.IE