

ASI Research Newsletter

Summer 2025



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the Summer edition of your ASI Research Newsletter!

We are delighted to bring you updates from our Dementia Research Advisory Team, exciting news from the EU Commission on Leqembi and a variety of research opportunities available through our TeamUp for Dementia Research service, including a chance to contribute to an important Europe-wide study on research participation.

The Dementia Research Advisory Team

The members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team (DRAT) have had a busy few months! The nature of their work is to ensure that the lived experience of dementia is kept central to the entire research experience by collaborating with researchers, this is known as Patient Public Involvement or PPI. In addition to lending their personal expertise and insights to a variety of unique projects nationwide, they have also

- contributed to research funding discussions with local representatives at the Dáil,
- co-delivered modules to researchers about PPI in University College Cork and Royal College of Surgeons Ireland,
- and launched their very own research event, "DRATgons' Den," for early career researchers with a funding prize of €3000!

As we enter the second half of the year, they are busily preparing for a number of presentations at the Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna, with some members also representing the team at the annual Walking the Talk for Dementia immersive conference in Camino de Santiago.

We look forward to sharing even more highlights of the DRAT's commitment to dementia research over at their Twitter page. Keep up to date here: https://x.com/DRAT_ASI



Research in the News

EU Commission gives marketing approval for Leqembi in Europe

In April, The ASI welcomed the EU Commission's decision to approve Leqembi (lecanemab) for the treatment of early Alzheimer's Disease. This marks a pivotal moment in dementia care. Ireland should now prepare to integrate Leqembi and future treatments into the healthcare system to ensure timely access.

While promising, Leqembi is not a cure and is suitable only for a limited number of people in the early stages. It has modest effects and potential side effects, underscoring the need for continued investment in dementia services, diagnosis, and support. The ASI remains committed to supporting those affected and working with stakeholders across the health system.

For more information please see www.alzheimer.ie.

Research & Policy Strategy



The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's newest Research & Policy Strategy is officially launched!

This new strategy sets out the objectives and actions that will guide our research activities over the coming years. It is designed to sharpen our focus – ensuring we maximise impact and drive meaningful change in the midst of a transformative period in dementia research.

You can find a copy of it on our website.

TeamUp for Dementia Research

TeamUp for Dementia Research connects people affected by dementia with opportunities to take part in ethically approved dementia research. Members are invited to participate in research projects that align with their stated preferences.

Should you have any questions on the studies below, please email teamup@alzheimer.ie.



Alzheimer Europe have launched a public opinion poll to understand attitudes towards dementia research participation and data sharing. This brief, anonymous, online survey examines what motivates people to become involved in research and what are the perceived barriers to participation?

Findings from this research will show who is likely to take part in research, who isn't, and the reasons behind their decisions. This is important because not enough people participate in dementia research, which can make it difficult to apply the findings to a wider group.

The results of this survey will be shared in a public report outlining how people can be encouraged to get involved in dementia research across Europe.

To complete this survey, please follow this link: www.alzheimereurope.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_efWN0hszkxA9140 or check out their website, www.alzheimer-europe.org

**** In-person, lab-based for people aged 50+ with Mild Cognitive Impairment or early stage Alzheimer's Disease****

Study Title: Diminishing accelerated long-term forgetting in mild cognitive impairment

This research is investigating whether memory performance can be improved by applying a non-invasive form of stimulation. Participants will complete a series of memory and mood-based questionnaires, neuro-stimulation will be applied while they complete a computer-based memory task, and the first session also includes EEG (a non-invasive way of recording brain activity). For more information or to become involved, **please email teamup@alzheimer.ie**



**** Phone or online semi-structured interview (or in-person within Dublin)****

Study Title: Testing & Improving Quality of Life Questionnaire

This project aims to find out if a health and wellbeing questionnaire, called the EQ-HWB, is easy to understand and suitable for people who care for someone with dementia, such as family members or friends. The EQ-HWB has recently been updated, with some questions changed and the order and layout adjusted. We want to make sure these changes make the questionnaire better, or at least do not make it harder to use.

For more information or to become involved, **please email teamup@alzheimer.ie**

