



DRATgons' Den

Thursday 23rd October 2025, 09.30 - 15.30

The Ohana Floor, Salesforce Tower, Northwall Quay, Dublin 1, D01 W2Y3

Event Programme

We are delighted you will be joining us for DRATgons' Den - the knowledge exchange event for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to showcase their Research & Communication Skills to an audience of peers & experts, hosted by the Dementia Research Advisory Team (DRAT).

09.30 – 10.30 Registration / Professional Headshots

Teas / Coffees / Pastries on arrival for all attendees

10.30 – 10.40 Welcome and Opening Remarks

MC: Tony McIntyre, Dementia Research Advisory Team member

10.40 – 10.55 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Avril Kennan, CEO Health Research Charities Ireland

11.00 – 12.15 Pitch Session 1

5 DRATgons with 3 Early Career Researchers pitching their research ideas

- *Anupa Sara Paulose (UCD) - Investigating the Role of Microglia, the Brain Immune Cells, in Sex Differences Seen in Alzheimer's Disease*
- *Ruth Maher (SETU) - Exploring Knowledge and Attitudes of Undergraduate Irish Nursing Students Towards Persons Living with Dementia and Developing Recommendations to inform a future Educational Intervention*
- *Debby Gregg (UG) - A Narrative Exploration of Spirituality for People Living with Dementia in Ireland*

12.15 - 13.30 Lunch / Professional Headshots

13.30 - 14.45 Pitch Session 2

5 DRATgons with 3 Early Career Researchers pitching their research ideas

- *Alyssa Rychtarik (UCD) - Supporting sexual expression and preventing sexual harm in nursing homes: An examination of the understanding, approaches and educational needs of staff working with people living with dementia in Catalonia and Ireland*
- *Qiuxia Li (UG) - Carer Circles Online: Co-Designing and Testing Peer-Led Support for Dementia Carers*
- *Nina Zumbrunn (DCU) - The potential of multisensory integration to act as an early marker of dementia*

14.45 - 15.15 Networking / Poster Discussion

Teas / Coffees for all attendees

15.15 – 15.30 Awarding of funding / Runner up prize / Certificates

15.30 Event closes

