

ASI Research Newsletter: Spring 2026

Dear @FIRSTNAME@

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter of 2026! The Research & Policy team has a number of exciting updates and opportunities in this issue. We are thrilled to announce the launch of our flagship ***Experience of Dementia Survey 2026*** this week! We will also highlight our incredibly successful public research event which was held in Tallaght, and share some great opportunities for researchers. Keep reading for more details on all of these, and to meet our newest team members!

The Experience of Dementia Survey 2026



The Alzheimer Society is delighted to announce that its flagship survey for people with dementia and their carers, the ***Experience of Dementia Survey 2026*** has been launched!

The first survey in 2023 saw a large number of people across Ireland contribute. The insights gathered have been instrumental in informing services, supports, and advocacy, and have been widely cited in research publications.

There are two versions of the survey - one for people with dementia and a separate one for carers. To allow as many people as possible to be able to complete the survey, it is available online, by phone or through a mailed paper version.

We are keen to partner with clinicians, researchers, social care practitioners and anyone in contact with people with dementia and or their carers to enable the survey reach as broad and diverse a population as possible.

Please contact survey@alzheimer.ie if you would like more information, or would like to receive promotional packs or hard-copy versions for people with dementia in your network, community

or support groups.

[Click here for more information and to access the survey](#)

Public Research Event on Brain Health and Dementia held in Tallaght

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI), in collaboration with Dementia Research Network Ireland (DRNI), recently held a public research event dubbed **'Brain Health and Dementia: Understanding and Connection'**. Held at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght, the event brought together over 200 attendees from the local Tallaght community and beyond.

Across the programme, a diverse panel of experts shared insights ranging across clinical practice, neuroscience, dementia care, lived experience and the arts. Participants also learned practical ways to improve their brain health at every stage - with the emphasis that it was never too early or too late to do so!

The event reflected a growing public appetite for accessible, evidence-based knowledge on brain health and dementia with **100%** of respondents saying they would recommend the event to a friend/ family member!

Video recordings of the sessions are available on YouTube.

Enjoy some picture highlights from the event below! (Photocredit : Tom Scott Photos)

This event was generously sponsored by the Health Research Board (HRB).



[Click here to watch recordings of the presentations](#)

Upcoming Events

Early Bird Registration for Alzheimer Europe Conference Dublin 2026!

36th Alzheimer Europe Conference

Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership

27 - 29 OCT 2026
DUBLIN, IRELAND



Early Bird Registration

The excitement is definitely building up as Ireland prepares to host the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference!

Early Bird Registration is open now and ends on 30 June 2026. Take advantage of the Early Bird Rate and Register today by clicking [here](#)!

Abstract Submission Closing

Soon!

This is a fantastic opportunity for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers any anyone working in the dementia space to share their work on an international stage and contribute to shaping the future of dementia care and research.

The abstract submission portal is open now and will close on 30 April 2026. Read more about the call [here](#).

ASI ECR Registration Bursary for Alzheimer Europe Conference

The ASI is proud to provide five bursaries to Early Career Researchers to cover registration fees for the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference. This is as part of our research strategy to drive research investment, by supporting the next generation of researchers in Ireland to share their work on an international stage, build lasting networks, and learn the newest updates in dementia research.

Eligibility

Current postgraduate students (Masters or Doctoral/PhD) in a relevant area in a Higher Education Institution in the Republic of Ireland.

Closing Date: 5pm on Friday, 8th May 2026.

Click [here](#) to apply and for further information, and share with an early-career researcher who might be interested!

Enquiries : research@alzheimer.ie.

Research in the News

ASI Response to Cochrane Review on Alzheimer's Treatments

The Cochrane Review published on Thursday 16 April, examines the efficacy of anti-amyloid treatments for Alzheimer's disease and has prompted significant discussion. The review states that these medicines show 'no clinically meaningful benefit' for people with Alzheimer's. Pooling several different therapies including both first- and second-generation drugs, as has been done in this review can obscure important differences between them. All anti-amyloid therapies are not the same. Two of the seven therapies, lecanemab and donanemab have shown an effect on slowing cognitive decline in people with early-stage Alzheimer's Disease. Furthermore, several regulators across the world have weighed up the benefit-risk profile of these agents, and approved them, including the European Medicines Agency.

This is an area of research that continues to evolve rapidly. Our interpretation of the evidence must continue to evolve alongside that progress. It is also important to recognise that these treatments represent early generations of disease-modifying therapies for Alzheimer's disease, marking an important step forward in research after decades without options that target the underlying disease process. They are not cures, and any benefits observed to date have been limited. However, they have emerged in the context of significant unmet need, where there are currently no alternative treatments available that can slow disease progression.

While clinical assessments of 'meaningful benefit' are an important part of evaluating treatments, we must remember that what is meaningful for people affected by dementia is also shaped by individual circumstances and lived experience. Even modest changes can matter when experienced in the context of everyday life. Statistics are valuable, but they do not fully capture how people live – and navigate – their daily lives, which are complex and nuanced. Quantitative measures alone do not tell us whether an intervention enables a person to maintain employment a little longer, support children or grandchildren with schoolwork, or bring a sense of reassurance and hope to a household coming to terms with a diagnosis.

Following decades of limited therapeutic progress, recent years have marked a turning point in Alzheimer's research, with the emergence of treatments that can slow disease progression in its early stages. While this does not represent a cure, it does represent meaningful progress – and that cannot be underestimated in a condition where, for so long, there were no alternatives. As the science rapidly evolves, it is essential that emerging treatments continue to be evaluated carefully and thoughtfully. At the same time, there has been important progress and a promising drug development pipeline, reinforcing the importance of keeping outcomes that matter to people living with dementia and their families at the centre of the conversation.

Click [here](#) to read the full statement.

New Policy Officer at ASI



The ASI is delighted to welcome **Sarah McDonnell**, who has joined us as Policy Officer in January 2026. The Research and Policy Team plays a central role in ensuring that the organisation provides a strong, informed, and consistent voice for people living with dementia and their families.

Sarah will be responsible for monitoring and analysing policy developments at national and international level. This includes developing policy positions to ensure that dementia policy in Ireland remains a national priority. Sarah brings legal and policy experience from previous roles in the civil service, legal sector and charity sector. She holds a Barrister-at-Law degree from the Honourable Society of King's Inns, an LL.M. from the University of Amsterdam, and an LL.B. from Trinity College Dublin.

Research Team Interns

We are grateful to Carolina Vasconcelos Connor and Yasmin El Khachia from Maynooth University who have come to the end of their placement with the ASI's Research and Policy Team.

As third year psychology undergraduates, Yasmin and Carolina joined us at the beginning of February 2026 and introduced new and interesting perspectives to our work in the dementia research environment. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours!



For any research enquiries, please get in touch at research@alzheimer.ie



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