

DEMENTIA TRIALS IRELAND



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Summer Newsletter

ISSUE 1



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Hello and welcome to our first issue! We're so happy you're here. We're excited to share with you some exciting updates and news from Dementia Trials Ireland (DTI). DTI is a HRB Clinical Trials Network with a remit to develop a national trials infrastructure, attract and conduct dementia trials across the state, upskill the healthcare workforce to deliver better trials and harness the lived experience of dementia to inform the day-to-day development of our work. Our **primary mission** is to enable everyone living with, or at risk of dementia, access to clinical trials. Our hope is that through regular communication we can keep you apprised of progress. So, on behalf of the DTI team, we hope you'll join us on our journey to improve **participatory**

opportunities in research for people with dementia; and to position Ireland internationally as a trials centre with the motivation, capacity and capability to deliver impactful, **high quality, dementia trials**.

Iracema, Seán

Lara and Anne-Marie

DTI Steering Committee

- Prof. Mary McCarron, TCD
- Prof. Brian Lawlor, TCD
- Prof. Sven Vanneste, TCD
- Prof. Suzanne Timmons, UCC
- Dr. Rónán O'Caomh, UCC
- Prof. Cathal Walsh, TCD
- Prof. Ronan Killeen, UCD
- Dr. Justin Kinsella, SVUH
- Prof. Tim Lynch, UCD
- Prof. Richard Reilly, TCD
- Prof. Geraldine McCarthy, NUIG

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: dementiatrials.ie

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Priority Setting Partnership: many views, one aim

Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) bring clinicians, patients and their carers together on an **equal footing** to identify and prioritise evidence uncertainties (i.e. questions that cannot be answered by existing research) with a view to informing the direction of future clinical research whilst also ensuring that it is **relevant, focused and cohesive**.

Supported by HRB TMRN, DTI is committed to undertaking a PSP (working to **JLA principles**) in collaboration with university- and HSE-based investigators, clinicians, third sector voluntary organisations, policy developers, people living with or at risk of dementia, their care

partners (and including special interest groups as appropriate) to identify topics for future trial development and to inform the strategic direction of our research **priorities, policies and workplan**. Before we do so however, we must elucidate an evidence baseline of existing national trial activity and establish the capacity of existing trial infrastructures to support the particular needs of dementia trials.

As such, DTI has devised two **national surveys** designed firstly, to tally existing trials and secondly, to establish current trial site feasibility. Outcomes will be used to inform baseline setting for the PSP.

Importantly the surveys are not solely focused on capturing industry sponsored or pharmacological trials but are designed to capture data on all drug, non-drug and pre-trial methodological interventions in health care provision, academic/research and care home settings. **Taking part:** If you are a health care or research professional and would like to participate in the baseline surveys please use the following links:

Trial activity:

<https://forms.office.com/e/cQGyhMEQ45>

Trial Site Feasibility:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5qebs2Cjq4>

For additional information contact our office: info@dementiatrials.ie

DTI EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT

DTI Seed Funding Award

DTI is pleased to announce that it will, again in 2023, be making its **early career research (ECR) development award**. The award, intended to support a trial preparation project, has the potential to be highly impactful. It is designed to make a significant contribution towards leveraging larger scale research funding in the future. Applications focusing on DTI priorities are particularly welcome.

The 2022 award was made to Dr. Irina Kinchin, TCD, who is undertaking a Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) in the area of **Lewy Body Dementia (LBD)** research. LBD, despite being the second most common type of dementia, is relatively under-recognised and under-

researched in Ireland. Dr. Kinchin's work aims to raise awareness of LBD by identifying critical research needs and advocating for improved care strategies for LBD patients and their care partners.

The PSP, aligned with James Lind Alliance (JLA) methodologies, is designed to pinpoint critical gaps in LBD research which will inform the development of future trials within DTI. Equally it will guide the scope of dementia trials for LBD, giving patients and care partners the opportunity to influence the priorities of their care.

For further information on DTI's 2023 award email: info@dementiatrials.ie



Dr. Irina Kinchin
DTI Seed Funding Recipient 2022

"DTI Seed Funding has been instrumental in illuminating the uncharted paths of Lewy Body Dementia understanding. This backing is a **critical stepping stone** in our journey to transform patient care and redefine the future of dementia treatment in Ireland"



AAIC, Amsterdam

DTI Patient and Public Involvement work (PPI) was honoured, this year, to be chosen as one of six projects to present at one of Alzheimer Association International Conference's prestigious 'Featured Research Sessions'. This is only the second year in AAIC history that PPI in Dementia Research has been given a platform of its own. AAIC is the largest and most influential international meeting dedicated to advancing dementia science.

DTI PPI's presentation, which will feature several of the network's PPI panel is centred on the theme of 'I am PPI, We are PPI'. It speaks to the network's commitment to the concept of 'co-creation', of using the lived experience to inform and shape its day-to-day work programme and strategic focus.

DTI's PPI panel consists of people from all over Ireland with combined lived experience with different types and stages of dementia, across several age groups. Further info: aaic.alz.org and dementrials.ie/who-we-are



DTI PPI Panel consists of people with lived experience of dementia, carers and advocates for dementia research, trials in particular.



TRIAL FOCUS

evoke

DTI coordinates Irish involvement in **Novo Nordisk's Evoke Trial**. An international phase III trial, the Evoke trial seeks to confirm the superiority of oral **Semaglutide** versus placebo on the change in cognition and function in patients, aged 55 - 85 years of age, with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and mild Alzheimer's disease (AD). Semaglutide is a type of medicine called a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) which mimics a naturally occurring hormone. It is a medication currently used to treat

type 2 diabetes, it may also reduce systemic inflammation.

The journey of investigating GLP1 RAs in Alzheimer's disease began 20 years ago with the first studies examining their potential role in neuronal protection. Semaglutide is thought to work in a number of ways to improve nerve cell, inflammation and vascular health that could potentially help to slow the clinical progression of Alzheimer's disease.

It is hoped that the trial recruits 1840 participants worldwide before its end date in June 2023. Local recruitment took place across 4 Irish sites (St. James', St. Vincent's and Tallaght University Hospitals in Dublin and Mercy

University Hospital, Cork) with Irish sites expecting to reach target. Patients enrolled in this study will be followed and assessed for changes in cognitive function for just over 3 years. Novo Nordisk is also running a parallel trial, **Evoke+**, which aims to recruit some ≥20% of participants with significant small vessel co-pathology. Irish sites are also recruiting for this study.



Novo Nordisk and DTI Evoke Investigator Meeting, March '23