

# What's new in dementia this month

June 2019

## Ireland : Meetings and Conferences

### Virtual Dementia Tour : (June 10th-12th 2019)

A “Virtual Dementia Tour” will be brought to five locations this month as part of Carers Week 2019. The free tour is aimed at providing visitors with the opportunity to briefly experience what life is like for those who have been diagnosed with dementia. The tour will begin in **Blanchardstown**, Dublin, at homecare provider **Right at Home’s** head office, **Patricia Lodge**, Main Street, Blanchardstown, on Monday, June 10th (9.30am to 5pm). The following day it will be at **Rathfarmham Shopping Centre** car park in the morning (9.30am-noon) and in **Tesco car park in Newbridge, Co Kildare**, in the afternoon (3pm-5pm). On Wednesday, June 12th, it will be at **Douglas Court Shopping Centre, Cork (9.30am-5pm)**, and, finally, the following day in **Right at Home, Mulvoy Park, Galway (9.30am-5pm)**.

**For further information:** <https://www.rightathome.ie/events/virtual-dementia-tour>

### Masterclass in the use of Doll Therapy: Person-centredness in Action (3rd July 2019)

Speaker: Dr Gary Mitchell.

Learning Outcomes from this Masterclass

- To share current empirical evidence
- To identify gaps in what we know as practitioners
- How does doll therapy help some and not others living with dementia
- To explore ethical issues and how we respond to them in practice
- To discuss best practice guidelines and how to introduce this therapy to your service.

**Location :** Glengesh Room, CNME Letterkenny

**For further information:** <https://www.understandtogether.ie>

## **Ireland : What's in the media:**

### **What kind of country asks someone with Alzheimer's to be a carer?' - plea for help :**

**Published June 10th 2019**

Leading dementia advocate Helen Rochford Brennan, who was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's eight years ago, has revealed her upset at being refused vital HSE home help she needs to help care for her frail husband. Ms Rochford Brennan (69), of Tubbercurry, Co Sligo, and her husband Sean (74) have just half-an-hour's home help a week but were turned down for any more despite her suffering memory lapses and being at risk of forgetting to give him his medication.

**Read more:** <https://www.independent.ie>

### **People avoid you rather than speak to you about it' - The loneliness of a dementia diagnosis**

**Published June 6th 2019**

'I knew there was something wrong, but I couldn't pinpoint it.'

Around four years ago, David Bateman's wife started to behave in ways that were strange for her character. She stopped reading books and seemed to lose interest in TV soaps. She had always enjoyed Irish fiction writers like the late Maeve Binchy and following stories on the small screen. She also stopped venturing out into the garden of their Rathfarnham home, and the bright display of plants she'd taken pleasure in disappeared.

**Read more:** <https://www.independent.ie>

### **Designers and artists win coveted medals at Bloom**

**Published June 10th 2019**

Robert Moore from Kilmacanogue was awarded a gold medal for his 'Memories are made of this - Dementia: Understand Together Garden', which he created for the HSE. The medium-size garden took its inspiration from the 1950s to create a space where people living with dementia can reminisce in a welcoming and supportive way. The garden, named after the song made famous by Dean Martin, aimed to take people back in time to when gardens not only provided food for the soul, but food for the table too. It featured a manicured formal space with box hedges and tea roses emblematic of the era, as well as a practical fruit and vegetable patch that provided much of what was on the menu in people's homes at the time. For many of those living with dementia, recalling memories from years gone by is often easier than remembering more recent events and so the garden shed was transformed into a relaxing place that allowed visitors to access memories and share them in a comfortable setting.

**Read more:** <https://www.independent.ie>

## UK and International News

**Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) has commissioned the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) to create the world's largest survey on people's attitudes around dementia, which will form the basis for the World Alzheimer Report 2019, to be released in September.**

ADI's survey is fully anonymous, accessible and available both online and offline in **multiple languages**. The survey will only take around **10 minutes** of your time but completing it will benefit people with dementia all over the world. The questions are predominantly multiple choice and targeted to four key socio demographic groups:

- **the general public**
- **health and care professionals**
- **people living with dementia**
- **carers of people with dementia.**

**For further information:** <https://www.alz.co.uk/research/world-report-2019>

### **Biogen and Eisai remain committed after discontinuation of ENGAGE and EMERGE programmes**

**22 March 2019** – Pharmaceutical companies Biogen and Eisai have announced the discontinuation of two Phase 3 trials of aducanumab. The decision came after analysis by an independent monitoring committee indicated the trials were unlikely to succeed. Biogen and Eisai will continue to investigate other treatments for Alzheimer's disease, including anti-amyloid treatment BAN2401.

[read more] <https://www.alz.co.uk/news/biogen-and-eisai-remain-committed-after-discontinuation-of-engage-and-emerge-programmes>

### **Roche remain committed after discontinuing CREAD programme**

**30 January 2019** – Pharmaceutical company Roche has announced the discontinuation of their CREAD programme. This was following the finding of two Phase III trials that crenezumab, a possible new drug treatment for Alzheimer's disease, was not expected to meet its efficacy targets. The Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative (API) will continue to investigate crenezumab in a pivotal trial to prevent Alzheimer's disease in healthy people with familial Alzheimer's disease. Crenezumab was discovered by Swiss biotechnology company AC Immune SA and developed by Roche.

[read more] <https://www.alz.co.uk/news/roche-remain-committed-after-discontinuing-cread-programme>

## World governments still failing to tackle the increasing growth of dementia

*A new report by ADI reveals that, on the second anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025, only 18 percent of WHO Member States have national dementia plans, a shortfall of 120 plans.*

**Geneva, 21 May 2019** – World governments are failing to address the dementia crisis according to a new report out today from Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). On the two-year anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025, the primary target to have 146 of the 194 Member States develop a national response plan to dementia, is falling further behind.

**Read more:** <https://www.alz.co.uk/media/190521>

## New type of dementia identified (published April 30th 2019)

Millions of elderly people have a form of dementia that has been misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's disease, according to researchers. One expert called it the most important dementia finding in years. The condition, limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy, or Late, shares similar symptoms to Alzheimer's, but it is a distinct disease, the journal *Brain* reports. It may partly explain why finding a dementia cure has failed so far.

**Read more:** <https://www.bbc.com>

## The power of music: Vicky McClure's dementia choir (published May 2nd 2019)

A million people in the UK are expected to be living with dementia by 2025. While there is no cure, there's growing evidence that music can help ameliorate symptoms such as depression and agitation, writes Kelly Oakes - and also bring these people and their families some much-needed moments of joy.

Most of the evidence concerning music and dementia relates to courses of music therapy. A research review published in 2018, looking at music therapy trials in nursing homes or hospitals, found that the sessions **improved symptoms of depression and behavioural problems** in people with dementia, but said more research was needed to determine the duration and other effects. Other reviews have found evidence that **music therapy can help decrease agitation**, and that **music therapy is effective for reducing behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia**.

**Read more:** <https://www.bbc.com>

