



DEMENTIA SERVICES
INFORMATION AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

*promoting excellence
in dementia care*

The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre

| ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Introduction

The **Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSIDC)** is a national organisation committed to best practice in all aspects of dementia care. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and care for all those affected by dementia. We aspire to make Ireland a country for people to live well with dementia supported by family members and service providers with a thorough understanding of dementia. Staff at the Centre provide education and awareness sessions, disseminate information, participate in research and collaborate with other professional groups. These collaborations, which are both national and international, reflect the effective synergy between the Centre's academic research policy and service development pillars of Education, Information and Research.

Conferences & Seminars

In June 2017, the DSIDC co-hosted the 7th Annual Memory Clinic conference; the theme for the conference was "The difficult to diagnose dementias". The conference dealt with assessment and management of difficult to diagnose cases that warrant special assessment in Memory Clinics throughout Ireland, the UK and the United States of America. Professor Tim Lynch and Dr Ted Huey delivered the latest information on the management of frontotemporal dementia, Professor Julie Snowden explored the difficulties in diagnosing and managing semantic dementia. Dr Justin Kinsella addressed the topic of genetic Alzheimer's disease and Dr Clodagh Power reviewed the relatively new concept of behavioural variant



(L-R) Prof Ken Wilson, Dr Edward Huey, Prof Brian Lawlor, Dr Mircea Balasa, Dr Clodagh Power, Prof Julie Snowden, Dr Justin Kinsella, Prof Tim Lynch at the National Memory Clinic Conference 2017.

phenocopies. Professor Ken Wilson opened the afternoon session with a thought provoking account of the often controversial area of alcoholic dementia. The afternoon session was rounded up with Dr Clíona Ní Cheallaigh and Dr Mircea Balasa speaking on the subjects of dementia in the homeless community and CSF biomarkers to support Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. The event was well attended by medics and health care professionals and received good reviews. The conference was held at the Trinity Sciences Centre, St James's Hospital, Dublin.



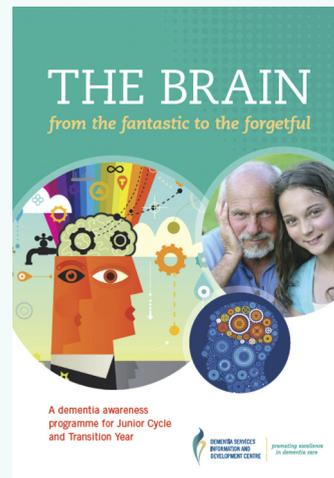
(L-R) Prof Sabina Brennan, Prof Brian Lawlor, Dawn Bailey, Matthew Gibb, Suzanne O'Dwyer, Caroline Osborne, Sinead Grennan, pictured at the launch of the HSE "Understand Together campaign".

Staff from the Centre participated in several national and international conferences throughout 2017 including the Alzheimer Europe conference "Care today, Cure tomorrow" which took place in Berlin. The main focus of the conference was on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of dementia and on the important contributions of European research efforts in advancing these fields.

The DSIDC were also involved in the Future Health Summit, the Sonas and Aramark conferences and the launch of the HSE's 'Understand Together' campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise people's awareness of dementia and to help them find supports and resources in the community.

Education & Information

DSIDC staff continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. In addition staff from the Centre delivered in-house workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia related topics to Liberty IT, the Alzheimer Café and various professional and voluntary groups. The DSIDC continued to work with other organisations including MISA and its Creative Life arm, Our Lady's Hospice, Nursing Homes Ireland, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC continued to make a significant contribution to the e-learning programme of the St James's Hospital led DemPath project, funded by Genio. The main objectives of the project are to reduce the need for hospitalisation, to reduce the length of stay, to provide early intervention and to provide dementia specific education for the Hospital workforce.



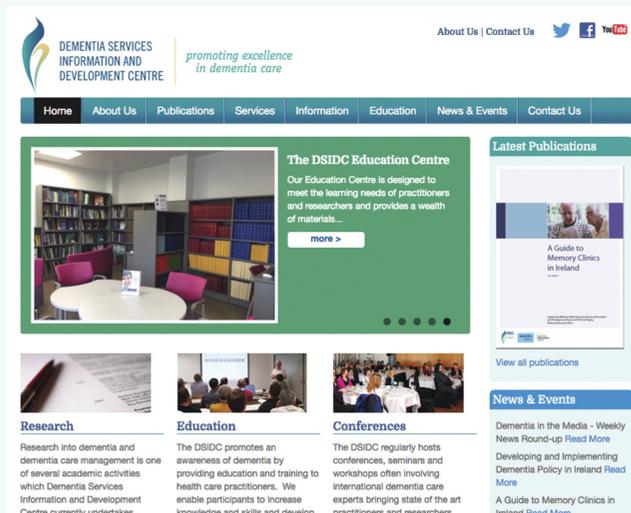
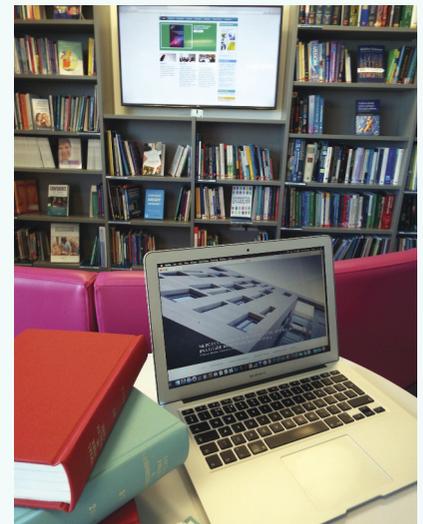
During 2017 we announced the launch of our online teaching resource for schools *The Brain from the Fantastic to the Forgetful*.

Teachers and students can now download an interactive pdf version of this comprehensive brain awareness programme directly from our website www.dementia.ie

Information & Consultancy Services

Our information and consultancy service reflects the increased quest on the part of practitioners and the public for information on dementia related topics. These queries came from a variety of organisations and settings. Facilitating design consultations continues to be an important facet of the Centre's work in meeting the needs of the residential sector. We provide a professional consultancy service offering advice on a broad range of issues including architectural design, service evaluation, quality of life issues, situational analysis and strategic planning.

Throughout 2017 DSIDC staff responded to queries from health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work. We also received many requests from the general public for advice and information on general memory and cognitive issues and from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Centre incorporating our dementia-specific library, now features on the HSE Libraries website as a partner library.



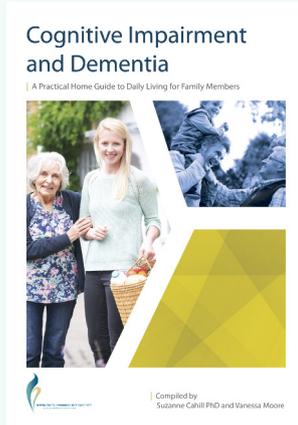
The DSIDC website, Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to be a valuable information source for both health service professionals and the general public and offers users a forum to seek out assistance, information and advice on any dementia related enquiry they may have.

We aim to keep the public and professionals updated with the latest thinking on best practice in dementia care. A popular new addition to the website is our weekly news bulletin highlighting interesting articles and research which have appeared in the media during the week.

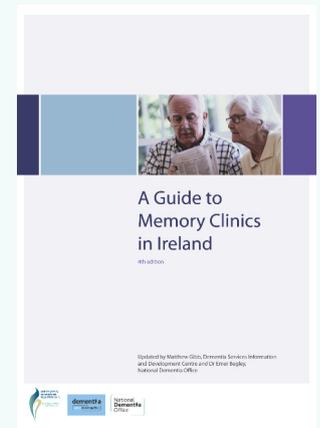
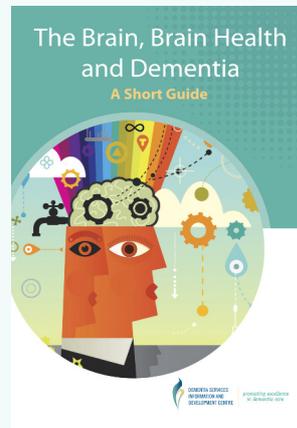


www.dementia.ie





The Brain, Brain Health and Dementia: A Short Guide was another new addition. This dementia awareness booklet provides an opportunity for young people and the general public to learn about the brain, memory, brain health and dementia. By providing young people with the opportunity to learn about dementia we are not only contributing to building a dementia friendly generation, we are also supporting the wider aim of building dementia inclusive communities in Ireland.



During the year we published both new and revised versions of several of our information booklets. New publications included **Pills, Bills and Wills**, providing helpful information following a diagnosis of dementia about medications for memory loss and lifestyle advice. The booklet also explains Enduring Power of Attorney and gives some tips on managing personal finances.

Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: A Practical Home Guide to Daily Living for Family Members; this booklet provides practical information and advice to family members supporting a relative at home diagnosed with dementia or cognitive impairment. It aims to help them to cope with the day-to-day choices and dilemmas they often face. The booklet contains simple suggestions about adaptations that can be made which can improve the environment and quality of life for the person diagnosed with dementia.

The DSIDC and the National Dementia Office worked together on updating the fourth edition of **A Guide to Memory Clinics in Ireland**. This publication gives a comprehensive overview of memory clinics and provides a list of clinics throughout Ireland. All of the above booklets can be downloaded from our website www.dementia.ie. Staff from the Centre held information stands at several events including the Irish College of General Practitioners conference in June and the Irish Gerontological Society in September

During 2017 Professor Suzanne Cahill and Dearbhla O’Caheny from DSIDC were interviewed by the Irish Examiner on tips for explaining dementia to children and on the DSIDC’s dementia awareness resource for schools. Professor Brian Lawlor and Matthew Gibb published an informative article in the Law Society’s Gazette offering advice to practitioners in identifying and dealing with clients who may have a diagnosis of dementia.

During 2017 DSIDC staff participated in a number of national and international networks, steering committees and projects including:

- National Steering Group for Dementia Friendly Communities
- Steering Committee for Tallaght Hospital’s dementia friendly project
- HSE National Dementia Education Programme
- Post-diagnostic Support Group (National Dementia Office)
- National Dementia Strategy Monitoring Group
- Understand Together HSE dementia awareness campaign
- Dementia and Neurodegeneration Ireland
- Living Well with Dementia (LWwD) South Dublin (Genio)
- The Social Workers Special Interest group on Ageing
- The Alzheimer Café
- DemPath Project
- National e-referral System for Memory Clinics
- Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) Updates

Awards



In March 2017, the European Foundation Initiative on Dementia (EFID) launched a new call for awards “Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia”. EFID’s mission is to improve the lives of people with dementia by enabling a dementia friendly and inclusive environment in communities across Europe. An independent jury selected twelve initiatives across ten European countries aimed at valuing the expertise of people living with dementia as an acknowledgement of their work in respecting the autonomy, dignity and right to self-determination of people living with dementia.

We are delighted to announce that in November 2017 Matthew Gibb and the DemPath project team were the proud recipients of an award for the evaluation of St James’s Hospital’s way finding system. The DemPath Team, in conjunction with the Hospital’s Quality Improvement Directorate, carried out an evaluation of the Hospital’s way finding system to ascertain which areas were in need of improvement. Specific members of the public were selected with no prior knowledge of the Hospital including a person living with dementia.

This evaluation augmented a detailed report, submitted to the Chief Executive of the Hospital by the Patient Experience Office, outlining recommendations to improve people’s experience of the St James’s Hospital campus. Learning from the evaluation informed the development of the signage system in the MISA building.

Governance Structure

During 2017 Professor Suzanne Cahill retired from her post as Director of the DSIDC and Matthew Gibb was appointed to the position of Acting Director. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for her valued contribution to DSIDC and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Steering Committee meetings were held in January and September and a National Advisory Group meeting was held in November. All professional activities undertaken by the DSIDC are overseen by a Steering Committee, Dr Declan Byrne continues as Chair of the Committee and Professor J B Walsh as Vice Chair.



(L-R) Prof Davis Coakley, Prof Suzanne Cahill, Prof J B Walsh pictured at Suzanne’s retirement celebrations.



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