

## JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year from all of us here at Engaging Dementia, we hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. There is still a chill in the air, but 2024 is sure to be a wonderful year, and there is lots to look forward to.

### Submission deadline for our 2024 Conference

A reminder that we are still accepting submissions for Abstracts, Interactive Sessions, Demonstrations and Posters for our upcoming International Dementia Conference until 31st January.

The 16th Annual Dementia Conference will take place on 8th & 9th May in the Annebrook House Hotel in Mullingar. We hope you can join us for this fantastic event - keep an eye out on our website and social media for more details in the coming months.



### MEET THE TRAINER: PATRICIA CARROLL

Patricia Carroll has been an Activities Coordinator and Sonas Practitioner for more than 30 years, and was invited to become a Sonas Tutor in 2021. Patricia says she has always wanted to share her experiences with those working with older people.

Patricia has seen for herself the benefits of the Sonas Programme, she says 'with a group session the enjoyment and happiness it brings for that hour is immeasurable. I believe all Nursing Homes and long stay facilities, as well as day care setting should have this activity on their program as part of their schedule.'

If you would like to become a Sonas Programme Licensed Practitioner, please check out our website [www.engagingdementia.ie](http://www.engagingdementia.ie) for more details.



### **New booklet available from Mary Threadgold**

We are delighted to announce the release of a new booklet by Mary Threadgold RSC, called *Lift Up Their Hearts: Visiting Older People*. This wonderful resource can help make visiting loved ones a more meaningful and uplifting experience for all.

To get your copy, please visit the shop section of our website: [www.engagingdementia.ie](http://www.engagingdementia.ie)

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

*Here is a selection of our training courses starting soon. For more information on all our courses, please visit our website [www.engagingdementia.ie](http://www.engagingdementia.ie)*

### **Engaging People Living With Dementia In Conversation - Dublin, 26th January**

Delivered by Dr. Suzanna Dooley, a Specialist Speech & language Therapist in Dementia, this one day workshop will focus on

- increasing knowledge of communication challenges
- improving insight into the impacts of communication disability
- teaching ways to compensate for and support communication
- supporting the decision making and choices of the person with dementia
- exploring opportunities in the workplace to enhance communication through activities

To book a place, please visit: <https://engagingdementia.ie/product/engaging-people-with-dementia-in-conversation/>

### **Sonas Programme Training (Dublin) - Starting 16th February**

Our renowned Sonas course enables healthcare workers and others working with people living with dementia to qualify as a Sonas Programme Licensed Practitioner (SPLP).

This 3 day Sonas Programme has been designed to facilitate engagement and enjoyment for people with dementia. It involves stimulation of all five senses, gentle exercise, relaxing music, singalongs and memory-focused exercises. These techniques have been shown to enhance a person's mood, well being and communication.

Secure your place today by visiting our website: <https://engagingdementia.ie/product/dublin-s464/>

# UPCOMING TRAINING

## Understanding Responsive Behaviours - 30th January (Online)

This informative half-day course helps give an understanding of the Non Cognitive Symptoms of Dementia (NCSD), as well as how to improve symptoms and increase interpersonal connections through non pharmacological approaches.

This course is suitable for Healthcare Assistants, Activity Coordinators, and partners to those living with dementia.

To find out more, visit: <https://engagingdementia.ie/product/understanding-and-answering-responsive-behaviours-4/>

## Life Enriching Ways Through Late Stage Dementia - 8th & 22nd February

Delivered by Joyce Fitzpatrick, this enriching course is suitable for healthcare assistants, and all persons supporting those in late stage dementia.

The course will cover

- Dementia Care Mapping – learn to identify personal needs at this stage of life
- Alzheimer Observational Tool
- Rhythm, Melody and Harmony – using the senses to enrich interactions
- Terminal Lucidity – connecting to the end
- Coma Touch – providing comfort and being present
- Privacy, Confidentiality, and Consent

To book a place, please visit: <https://engagingdementia.ie/product/late-stage-dementia/>

## Sensory Modulation to Enrich and Expand Activities - 9th February (Online)

This half day workshop is for people caring for or supporting those living with dementia, in particular Healthcare Assistants and Activity Coordinators as there is a focus on the delivery of activities.

Experienced course tutor Danielle Keogh will explore the benefits of using sensory-enriching activities, along with outlining how to adapt existing activity programmes without increasing your budget. There will also be ideas regarding the appropriate and practical application of sensory modulation in a caring context.

To secure your place, please visit: <https://engagingdementia.ie/product/sensory-modulation-to-enrich-and-expand-activities/>