

January Newsletter

Happy New Year to you all.

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2026 which covers:

- Upcoming Courses
- Sonas Course Update
- 18th International Dementia Conference
- 17th International Dementia Conference Video Presentations
- Part-time Sonas Tutor Vacancies
- Emerald Lewy Body Day

Upcoming Courses

We have a number of courses coming up this March:

Creating Meaningful Activities on a Budget – Online | Thursday 19th March

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) Workshop – Online | Friday 20th March

Sonas Licence Renewal Day – Online | Friday 27th March

Sonas Programme Training

Dublin: starts Friday March 13th

Cork: starts Friday March 27th

Athlone / Galway: start Friday March 27th

We will have the courses online shortly. In the meantime, if you are looking for more details, or to book a course now, contact admin@engagingdementia.ie

Sonas Course Update

Based on feedback from course attendees, the **Sonas Course** will now be delivered over **two in-person days and one online day**.

We're delighted to be able to make this change and will be sharing full details very soon.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their feedback — it's very much appreciated.

18th International Dementia Conference

This year's International Dementia Conference will be held at the Athlone Springs Hotel on 13th–14th May 2026 and we are delighted to announce even more confirmed speakers including:

- Minister Kieran O'Donnell
- Dr. Kellyn Lee - Dementia Community Hubs
- Prof. Sean Kennelly - Solutions for managing brain health risk- The Brain Health Clinic Model
- Dr. Sabina Brennan – Book on Caring
- Deirdre Lang - Update on HSE
- Dr. Caoimhe McGarvey - Modifiable dementia risk factors in Ireland / TILDA
- Michael Wright - Updates on Home Care legislation
- Mike Hanrahan & Karen Meenan - Session on Dementia & the Arts
- Deirdre Shangher - NHI Homes Strategy & Resident Groups
- Ziyue Wang - Young Onset Dementia

The theme for this year's Conference is “Let's Keep Connecting” and we will be putting out a Call for Abstracts and making our Early Bird Tickets available next week. Keep an eye on our website and on social media for ongoing updates.

If you have any queries, email conference@engagingdementia.ie or call us on 012608138.

17th International Dementia Conference Videos

At last year's conference, we recorded a number of presentations which are available to view on our [Youtube Channel](#) or you can click on the individual presentations below:

- [Brain Health by Fiona Foley](#)
- [From Canton to the Cavern: Chinese Wellbeing's Cultural Harmony for Merseyside Elders - Xiaoxiao Hou](#)
- [Voices of Resilience: Advancing Global Advocacy for Dementia Through Lived Experience by Dr. Helen Rochford-Brennan](#)
- [Profiling the Communication Abilities of People with Dementia - Dr. Suzanna Dooley](#)
- [The Living Lab in Ageing and Long-term Care: the Dutch experience - Dr. Sil Aarts & Dr. Irma Everink](#)
- [Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Research Trends: Updates from Ireland and Abroad by Dr. Michelle Kelly](#)

- [Innovations in Dementia Care: A novel Approach for Patients and Families in a changing Landscape](#) by Edel Carey
- [An overview on emerging disease-modifying therapies in Alzheimer's Disease](#) by Dr. Seán O'Dowd
- [The North Cork Dementia Alliance: an Innovative and Award-Winning Community Dementia Service](#)

Part-time Sonas Tutors Wanted

As we continue to expand our training activity, we are seeking experienced trainers to join our national tutor panel on a part-time basis, delivering both in-person and online programmes throughout Ireland.

Tutors work as part of a national panel, supported by the Engaging Dementia training team, to deliver high-quality, evidence-informed dementia education. This role involves facilitating engaging learning experiences for a wide range of care partners across health, social care and community settings.

This is a part-time role, with training delivery scheduled in line with programme demand. Delivery may involve a combination of daytime sessions, online delivery and occasional travel for in-person training. Specific time commitments will be discussed with successful applicants.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role and expectations, please contact Kim Tully, CEO, Engaging Dementia, who will be happy to speak with you. (email KTully@EngagingDementia.ie)

For a detailed description of the position, please email: admin@engagingdementia.ie

Emerald Lewy Body Day

World Lewy Body Day takes place on Wednesday January 28th 2026, and there is a great event hosted by the **Emerald Lewy Program at Trinity College Dublin** on the day.

On the day you can learn all about Lewy Body Dementia – the second most common form of dementia, meet people with lived experience, contribute to a collaborative art piece, talk to researchers, engage with artists and play interactive games.

It all takes place at Unit 18, Trinity in the Community, Trinity East Campus, D2.