



December, 2025

# NEWSLETTER

The Dublin Neurological Institute  
at The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of our DNI newsletter.

2025 has been a busy year for the Dublin Neurological Institute (DNI) at the Mater. Our clinical work continues in a renovated Georgian building, with the All-Ireland Deep Brain Stimulation Service running multiple clinics for Parkinson's and tremor. We also support patients through nurse-led clinics and our active Day Ward. The DNI has focused on expanding teaching, research, and innovation, with research fellows funded by the MJ Fox Foundation, Aspire Fellowship, and the International Movement Disorder Society—recognition of our excellence in neurology.



We hosted successful national conferences on Parkinson's, Movement Disorders, and Multiple Sclerosis, attracting both national and international attendees. Research initiatives have flourished, supported by our research coordinators and guided by Dr Conor Fearon. Projects include using eye movements for diagnosis, skin analysis in Parkinson's, gait measurement with wearables, neurogenetics, community care via technology, and developing a Parkinson's disability dog. These collaborations involve Institutions like Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Mayo Clinic, UCL, Queen Square, and Columbia University.

To sustain this excellence, we need to raise funds. We thank you for your support of the DNI and aim to increase fundraising in 2026 for key research and educational projects. In 2025, we successfully held our Golf Classic, Bloomsday Ball, and a summer run—though the Fairyhouse event was cancelled due to the weather. In 2026, we plan to hold events at Fairyhouse and Croke Park, and we encourage everyone to support and bring friends to help improve understanding of Mind and Brain disorders in Ireland.

Finally, I want to thank all the staff at the DNI and Mater Neurology for their hard work. A dream becomes reality through dedication and effort. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you a joyful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

*Tim Lynch*



# RESEARCH

The research team have been working at full steam this year, with 16 ongoing research studies and over 250 participants volunteering to take part in the various studies. The research team is also growing! Research assistant Aoibheann Gill has joined the DNI, having just completed her Masters in Biomedical Engineering in Trinity College. We are thrilled to have her expertise join the team.

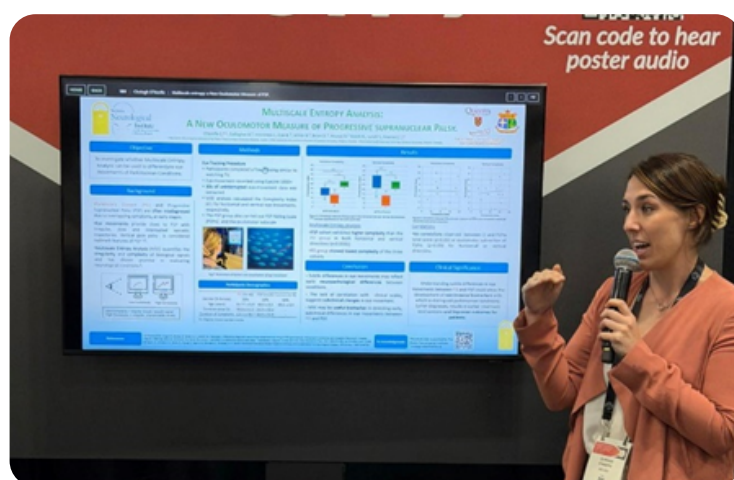
We are very excited to announce in December we reached 100 participants in our study on understanding falls and balance in Parkinson's disease, making this one of our largest studies to date. Using the results from this study, we can model falls using machine learning, to gain better understanding of all the elements that may contribute to a loss of balance or fall.

The team began recruitment and data collection for multiple new studies, such as a speech study and a skin biopsy study, which looks at characterising speech and biological characteristics in various neurological conditions. We believe that subtle changes and differences in speech between Parkinsonian conditions may help us differentiate conditions and lead to earlier diagnoses.

In October, our research coordinator Dr Clodagh O'Keeffe presented several ongoing research projects at the International Movement Disorders Society Congress in Hawaii. These projects included the benefit of animal-assisted therapies to help improve gait in people with PD, differences in eye movements in early onset PD and how that relates to brain regions, emotional facial recognition in dystonia, and outcomes of advanced therapies for Parkinson's disease such as how Deep Brain Stimulation improves gait stability.



Dr C Fearon, Christian Vincas & Dr C O'Keeffe



Photos from Movement Disorders congress, Honolulu

# RESEARCH

In November, Professor Doug Munoz visited the DNI to discuss our ongoing collaboration between the DNI and the Munoz Lab in Toronto. Professor Munoz is an expert in eye-tracking and has worked closely with the DNI for several years, collaborating on a large-scale study funded by the Michael J Fox Foundation. Dr Gallagher wrapped up data collection for this study this year, which hopes to help us learn more about the difference between genetic forms of PD and idiopathic PD. The team had great discussions with Professor Munoz, and future plans include expanding our eye-tracking research into other movement disorders such as dystonia.

Dr Clodagh O'Keeffe has recently presented the team's work at events such as the Parkinson's Ireland Research Webinar, and the Trinity Centre of Biomedical Engineers research day, where she highlighted the longstanding DNI-TCBE collaboration and its key results. This mutually beneficial collaboration has spanned 20 years and has sparked countless successful and impactful research studies.

We are currently seeking volunteers to complete a survey on the attitudes of people with Parkinson's disease on the use of wearable devices in symptom monitoring. Survey can be accessed by the link below:

If you are interested in taking part in any of our ongoing research projects or would like to hear more about them, please don't hesitate to contact our Research Coordinators John Inocentes and Clodagh O'Keeffe by phone at 01 853 5033 or by email at [research@dni.ie](mailto:research@dni.ie)

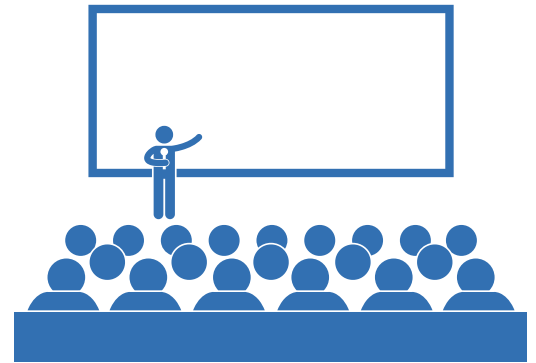
SCAN ME



<https://tinyurl.com/3pt73cf5>

Link to Technology survey for those living with PD

This year's Annual National Parkinson's disease and Movement Disorder Day event took place in October. The day featured in-depth case discussions and fascinating talks from a diverse group. Firstly, we had an inspiring talk from bestselling author and fashion editor Annmarie O'Connor, about her diagnosis of young onset Parkinson's disease.



She spoke about the importance of really listening to your body and recognising its early, often subtle signals, and of finding your own new rhythm with Parkinson's rather than trying to keep pace with your "old" normal. Her talk was enlightening and an excellent opportunity for clinicians to learn from a patient perspective, highlighting how self-awareness, pacing and lifestyle adjustments can support living well with Parkinson's. Ultimately, with patients being at the heart of the work we do, this talk was very impactful.

Professor Alberto Espay from the University of Cincinnati gave two insightful talks—one on the lessons he has learned throughout his career and in the other he introduced the idea of moving "beyond clinicopathology," proposing to replace the traditional clinico-pathologic convergence with systems biology divergence. This fresh perspective offers a more complex and personalized understanding of Parkinson's, focusing on diverse biological mechanisms rather than a single pathological cause. His talks were not only intellectually stimulating but also appear to have convinced some members to reconsider their traditional views on Parkinson's diagnosis and management, potentially fostering openness to new research and clinical paradigms!

As always, a key highlight of the Masterclass was the patient participation. Three patients with complex movement disorders participated in the Masterclass Grand Round session, where Professor Espay showcased the diagnostic process of a world-leading expert. He carefully explored the patients' histories and conducted detailed neurological examinations, demonstrating the rigorous approach needed to achieve accurate diagnoses. This engaging session provided valuable insights into expert clinical reasoning for attendees. Following Professor Espay's live diagnostic demonstrations, attendees put their skills into practice during an engaging session. Our registrars and specialist registrars presented a variety of excellent video cases featuring patients with movement disorders, sparking lively audience discussion and diagnosis.

This interactive format, involving a wide range of professionals, underscored our collective commitment to advancing treatment and outcomes for those with these challenging conditions.

We were also delighted to announce the launch of the Irish Movement Disorder Society. This society will disseminate knowledge and understanding of movement disorders, improving expertise for all patients across Ireland. With support the IMDS will trigger increased clinical and academic collaboration across all of Ireland to improve the care of people with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

A sincere thank you to all speakers, attendees who contributed to the success of this year's event!



Dr Espay Presenting 'Beyond Clinicopathology: A Biophysical Framework for Parkinson's Disease



Ms AnnMarie O'Connor talking about her experience of living with PD.



Registrars presenting interesting case studies.

# MINISTER OF HEALTH VISITS THE DNI



Pictured: Minister of Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Professor Richard Walsh & The Mater Hospital CEO Josephine Ryan

We were delighted to welcome the Minister of Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill to The Dublin Neurological Institute (DNI) at the Mater Hospital. The visit took place at our facilities located at 57 Eccles Street and was an inspiring occasion for our team.

Minister MacNeill generously dedicated her time to learn more about the vital work we do at DNI. She received a comprehensive presentation from Professor Tim Lynch, along with our dedicated staff, highlighting our ongoing research, patient care, and community initiatives in the field of neurology.

The visit was both positive and encouraging. We are grateful for the Minister's interest and engagement, which will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to improve the lives of those living with neurological conditions.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Department of Health and to making further strides in neurological and patient care.

# MINISTER OF HEALTH VISITS THE DNI



# 23RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



On the 18th of September this year, we proudly hosted our 23rd Annual Golf Classic at the beautiful Hermitage Golf Club. This year's event was our most successful to date, raising over €45,000 to support the vital work of The Dublin Neurological Institute.

Despite a gloomy start, the weather took a turn for the better as the day progressed, and the sun made a welcome appearance just as it often does at our Golf Classic, bringing a bright and optimistic atmosphere to the course. We were delighted to see 28 teams participating, all enjoying a fantastic day of golf, camaraderie, and community spirit.

## **A special mention to our top 4 finishers:**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Chris McCann Team

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Michael Maher Team

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Justine van der Spuy Team

**4<sup>th</sup>** John Hurley Team

This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their support, making it possible for us to continue our research and patient care.

A special thank you to all participants for your enthusiasm and commitment. Your involvement helps us make a real difference in the lives of those living with neurological conditions. We look forward to seeing you all again next year for what promises to be another memorable event!

# 23RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



**Visit our website to see all the fantastic images that were captured during our Golf Classic event**

[www.neurologicalinstitute.ie](http://www.neurologicalinstitute.ie)

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Fundraising@dni.ie

57 Eccles Street, Dublin 7. D07W7XF

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2026



**RUN AS ONE**

**7<sup>th</sup>  
March**



**FAIRYHOUSE  
EVENT**

**4<sup>th</sup>  
April**



**CROKE PARK  
EVENT**

**June  
2026**



**GOLF CLASSIC**

**17<sup>th</sup>  
Sept**

**..... AND MUCH MORE!**

## HOW TO HELP?

**While much has been achieved we have aspirations for so much more. This cannot be done without your support. Please give what you can - some of the ways in which you can help are:**

- ✓ Consider making a donation to the Dublin Neurological Institute (DNI). By making a regular donation per month, we can plan for the future, which means you are supporting the DNI all year long.
- ✓ Simply scan the QR code below.
- ✓ Organise a local fundraising event such as a coffee morning or a table quiz
- ✓ Take part in a fundraising event for example, participate in a Fun Run, Marathon, Triathlon or a Sponsored Walk.
- ✓ Consider remembering the Dublin Neurological Institute in your Will - just call 01 803 2659 for more information.

