

Queen's on Ageing Newsletter August 22, 2025

The British Society of Gerontology Northern Ireland (BSG NI)



The [BSG NI](#) network will be launched at QUB later this year. This network will be hosted at QUB moving forward. Initial planning has explored development opportunities for NI policy impact, early career researchers and building research collaborations across the Devolved Nations.

The BSG NI committee, Prof Christine Brown Wilson, Dr. Steph Craig and Dr. Patrick Stark would like to invite Queen's on Ageing members who might be interested in joining BSG NI to an initial meeting. This will be a chance to discuss the launch, opportunities for impact & engagement across the field of gerontology in NI and to begin exploring the coming work of BSG NI. **If you would like to attend this meeting please email Patrick at p.stark@qub.ac.uk by September 1st 2025.**

NICOLA

NICOLA

NORTHERN IRELAND COHORT
FOR THE LONGITUDINAL
STUDY OF AGEING

NICOLA are holding a **one-day conference on September 16th**, which will endeavour to achieve three key aims:

- To demonstrate what longitudinal studies like NICOLA can achieve

- To provide an opportunity for us all to network together and to meet with interested external organisations working on ageing in NI.
- To take part in a workshop that helps us to be better at taking forward ideas from community and voluntary and public sector organisations and to start the process of a hackathon to encourage researchers to use the NICOLA dataset.

The event will take place at **Riddel Hall on September 16th**. You can see all of the details and register [here](#). Places are limited so please register as soon as possible.

Age Friendly Network NI



The Age Friendly Network NI will be hosting an Age Friendly Futures Summit from 10am-3pm on Tuesday 4th November 2025, in the Titanic Visitors Centre, Belfast. The Age Friendly summit aims to bring together senior decision makers and representatives from across government, community and voluntary sector organisations to discuss the core aspects that make up an Age Friendly Community; Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transport, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information and Community Support and Health Services.

The event will centre around three key objectives;

1. Raising awareness of Age friendly Northern Ireland
2. Influencing policy direction and change
3. Direction of travel for Age Friendly NI

The summit will also showcase some of the excellent work going on across all 11 Councils, share good practice, present the findings from the Age Friendly evaluation and place particular emphasis on the importance of planning appropriately for an ageing society.

The spaces at this conference are restricted but Queen's on Ageing have been given two invitations. Please email Gemma on g.carney@qub.ac.uk if you would like to attend.

The work is on-going so if you are interested in learning more about the Age Friendly NI initiative please contact **Jeff Scroggie, Ageing Well lead at Public Health Agency on Jeff.Scroggie@hscni.net**.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OF NETWORK MEMBERS



Queen's on Ageing members Dr. Mihalís Doulas, Dr Matthew Rodger and Dr. Gary Mitchell, together with Prof Ioanna Latu and Prof Donncha Hanna have been awarded a HEA North South Emerging Hubs of Excellence funding award.

The funding was announced by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD last week.

The total value of the award is €4million, with QUB portion being more than €1million over 48 months. The aim of the project is to 'Enhance wellbeing and quality of life in Parkinson's disease (PD-Life), through an all-Ireland, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional PD research hub'. The project is led by Queen's PI [Dr Mihalís Doulas](#) from the [School of Psychology](#) in collaboration with [University College Cork](#) PI [Professor Suzanne Timmons](#).

For more information on this funding programme click [here](#).

Given the work that Mihalís and his team have been doing on Parkinson's over the past number of years, there is no doubt that this funding will supercharge its impact and lead to long-term, positive outcomes for the older people affected by PD.

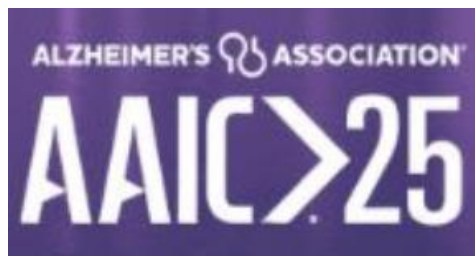


Congratulations to all members of the SPACE research project team who were involved in the publication of the following papers:

[Mapping the Complex Systems that Connects the Urban Environment to Cognitive Decline in Older Adults: A Group Model Building Society](#)

[Investigating Syndemic Effects of Air Pollution and Physical Inactivity on Cognitive Decline in Older Adults](#)

Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2025

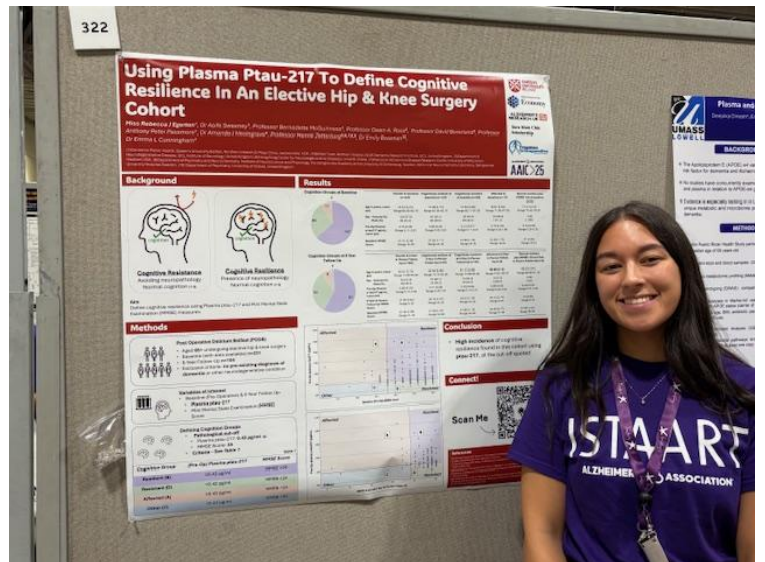


Congratulations to all researchers from the Centre for Public Health who attended the AAIC 2025 conference in Toronto, and to all those who received an award (see below). Many thanks to the Alzheimer's Research UK NI Network Centre for funding their attendance.

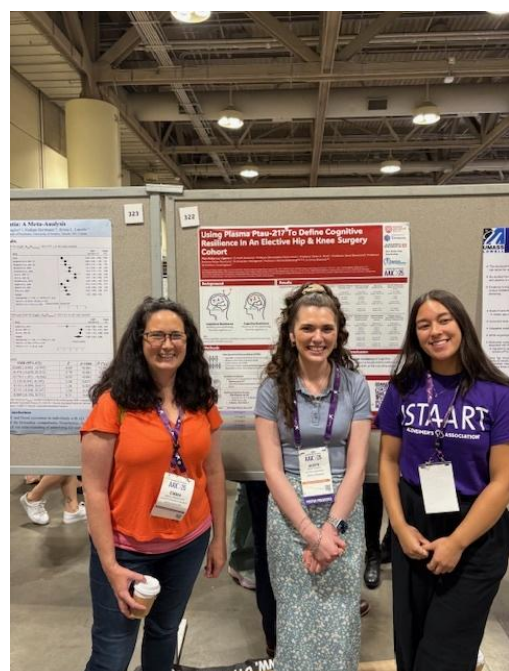
Emily Bowman was presented with her *Publication of the Year Award* by the Perioperative Cognition and Delirium ISTAART Professional Interest Area.



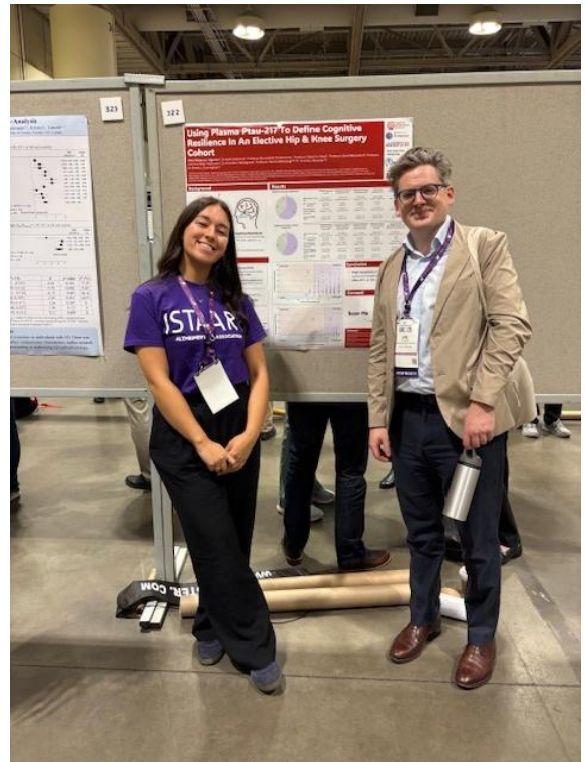
Rebecca Egerton was awarded a funded ISTAART Ambassadorship. Rebecca is pictured standing by her poster titled '*Using Plasma Ptau-217 to Define Cognitive Resilience in an Elective Hip & Knee Surgery Cohort*'.



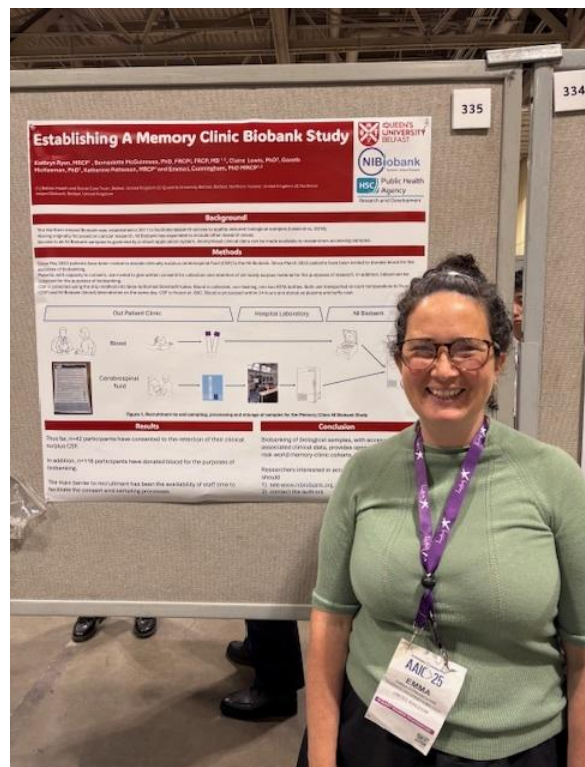
Pictured: Dr. Emma Cunningham & Dr. Aoife Hunter with Rebecca Egerton.



Pictured: Dr. Joe Kane & Rebecca Egerton.



Pictured: Dr. Emma Cunningham standing by another CPH poster titled '*Establishing a Memory Clinic Biobank Study*'.



Pictured (left to right): Joe Kane, Rebecca Egerton, Emily bowman, Emma Cunningham, Jamie Mitchell & Aoife Hunter.



Funding Opportunities



Please find details of a fully funded PhD opportunity at the Ageing Research Centre, University of Limerick. The project will focus on exploring alternative care pathways for older adults seeking emergency care.

This programme of research aims to evaluate the impact of implementing an Age-Friendly National Ambulance Service (NAS), guided by the evidence-based 4Ms framework, with the goal of improving outcomes and experiences for older adults while safely reducing ambulance conveyance to Emergency Departments (ED).

For more information and to apply, please use this [link](#).

Future plans for the Queen's on Ageing Network

At a recent meeting of the network leads we discussed our desire to expand the work of Queen's on Ageing and use it as a career springboard for members, particularly ECRs. So, we would like to recruit two more leads from each Faculty (one experienced and one PhD student/PDRA) to drive forward the network. Six additional leaders in total. The role would initially be for one year. If you are interested in this role, please make contact in the following way:

For MHLS Faculty contact Carmel Hughes on c.hughes@qub.ac.uk.

For EPS Faculty contact Mihalios Doumas on m.doumas@qub.ac.uk.

For AHSS Faculty contact Gemma Carney on g.carney@qub.ac.uk.

Thanks again to Malliadh McCann for pulling together the newsletter and to Kevin Fearon and his team for continuing to support the network