*Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care*

*The first* [*Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals*](http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/irishnationalauditofdementia/ReportoftheNorthernIrelandAuditofDementiaCareinAcuteHospitals.pdf) *has recently been published, led by Dr Suzanne Timmons, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, University College Cork, and co-ordinated by Ms Emma O’ Shea.*

*The audit took place in all 12 acute hospitals in Northern Ireland, to obtain a baseline picture of the quality of care from admission through to discharge. This is an important area for development given the evidence to suggest that hospital admission is distressing and disorientating for a person with dementia, and is associated with a decline in cognitive ability and functioning.*

*The Northern Ireland Health Minister, Simon Hamilton, welcomed the findings of the audit, saying “Dementia has a huge impact on families and on society as a whole and there are currently 20,000 people living with dementia in Northern Ireland.  The recommendations from this audit highlight the importance of understanding the care needs of patients with dementia when they are admitted to an acute hospital ward. This information will shape the implementation of the regional dementia strategy, in particular the actions relating to hospital care.”*

*The Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care follows the publication of the first* [*Irish National Audit of Dementia in Acute Hospitals*](http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/irishnationalauditofdementia/INADFullReportLR.pdf) *(2014), both of which were funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies.*

*The combined audits identify universal challenges to dementia care in busy acute hospitals, and opportunities to improve upon current care practices.*