



# COBMS Newsletter

## Nollaig Shona!

The festive season is starting soon and to show our appreciation for your continued support we have included a small gift. We hope it will make your life a little easier.



## Interview - Dr. Christopher Dwyer

Chris manages the day to day operation of the trial

Chris is part of the COB-MS Team and is the subject of our second interview. His duties include co-ordinating the delivery of the therapy and analysis of the results.

### Where are you from?

I was born and raised in New York, but moved to Ireland when I was 18 to be closer to family - my mother's from Leitrim; and after visiting each year while we were living stateside, when I finished school, my parents and I decided to move to Ireland for good.



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THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

fact.  
MS Research  
The MS Society has a web page on current research in MS in Ireland. (Click [here](#))

1

### TRIAL STATUS

Our first treatment groups are nearly finished, just in time for Christmas.

2

### KEY STATISTIC

6 people in every 100,000 in Ireland have MS. <sup>1</sup>

3

### INTERESTING FACT

The MS Readathon is in its 32nd year. It raises vital funds to help people with MS.

**What is your specialty, and why did you choose it?**

My speciality area is Cognitive Psychology, particularly the more complex, higher-order cognitive processes, like critical thinking - which I wrote a book on - Critical Thinking: Historical Perspectives & Practical Guidelines, published by Cambridge University Press. I think I got into the area because I've always been interested in how people think and how we can improve that.

**Is there something you do which nobody would realise?**

Wow, that's a tough one. Since COVID-19 struck, all my sporting activities, which take place in groups, have been cancelled. So, I dusted off my old roller blades and have been going for a daily skate since this all began in March. I get a lot of strange looks for it - 'what man in his mid-30s goes around skating?' But, the fact is that I used to play Ice Hockey when I was younger (and likewise Roller Hockey), so it's nice to get outside after a stressful day and kind of... relive the days of past glory!

**What is your favourite film?**

Another tough one! I'd say any film by Stanley Kubrick - particularly The Shining, A Clockwork Orange, Eyes Wide Shut and 2001: A Space Odyssey... probably because no matter what the plot is, there's always a sense of mystery or suspense to - there's this unease that's created for the viewer; and so, it's up to the viewer to embrace that feeling and get on this roller-coaster. None of the films are ever surface-level - they all require that deeper analysis and, I guess, coming from a Cognitive Psychology background, I enjoy that aspect of it.

**The COB-MS Team****Principal Investigator**

Dr Sinéad Hynes

**Post Doctoral Researcher**

Dr Christopher Dwyer

**Assistant Researchers**

Eimear Bane

Robert Joyce

Anusha Moses

Fionnuala Rogers

**Contact Details**

**Phone:** 087-4491154

**E-Mail:** [cobms@nuigalway.ie](mailto:cobms@nuigalway.ie)

**Address:** Áras Moyola  
NUIG, Galway, Co. Galway

**Is there something you would love to do/see, and why?**

For obvious reasons, I'd love to see myself win the lotto!

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.msard-journal.com/article/S2211-0348\(17\)30027-5/pdf](https://www.msard-journal.com/article/S2211-0348(17)30027-5/pdf)