

IDS-TILDA Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2025



Seasonal Greetings

**from Prof. Mary McCarron
and the IDS-TILDA Team**



We hope our newsletter finds you healthy and happy as we prepare once again for Christmas. We at IDS-TILDA have had a busy year as we started Wave 6. Our team of field researchers have been out and about and have enjoyed talking to so many of you. Our team of research nurses have also made a terrific start with our Health Fair. We are looking forward to Wave 6 data collection continuing into 2026. We are hoping that Wave 6 will be the biggest wave we have had so far - hopefully we will have more participants than ever taking part.

A big thank you to everyone who has already taken part and we look forward to meeting with many more of you as we move into 2026. We must also mention family members and support staff who give their time so generously. Their support has been so important to the success of IDS-TILDA.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and hope that you have a wonderful New Year. May 2026 be especially joyful for you, your family and friends!

IDS-TILDA Wave 6 Field Researcher Training

IDS-TILDA Wave 6 training for 25 field researchers took place in Dublin over two days in August. Training was delivered by the core and wider IDS-TILDA team. People with intellectual disabilities were involved in assessing the skills of the interviewers as part of this training. A big thank you to our PPI contributors who played such an important role in training our field researchers.



The IDS-TILDA Health Fair

The Health Fair allows our IDS-TILDA participants to take part in a range of health assessments. Each person can choose to complete all of the assessments or only those they feel comfortable with, and we encourage everyone to participate at whatever level they're able. We have a dedicated space to conduct our Health Fair in Trinity College with accessible facilities and wheelchair parking. We are inviting all the participants to come visit us in TCD, enjoy lunch and a visit to the Old Library. We know this won't suit everyone, so in the New Year we will be holding outreach clinics around the country as well. We have trained experienced nurses who are conducting the assessments and we are ready to welcome all participants. The nurses will be delighted to see you all on your scheduled day, so keep an eye out for your invite. The team will be in touch with you all.



Congratulations to our Ambassador Liaison Officer

We are delighted to announce that the TCAID Ambassador Liaison Officer, Ms Mei Lin Yap, was awarded an honorary degree by Trinity College. This fantastic achievement is in recognition of Mei Lin's work to promote the rights of people with intellectual disabilities. Many congratulations Mei Lin on this terrific achievement – its well-deserved!

The IDS-TILDA Christmas card competition

We had a huge response to this year's Christmas card competition with more than 800 entries! We were delighted to receive so many wonderful pictures and would like to give a big thank you to everyone who entered our competition.

Our panel of PPI contributors had a difficult job choosing just three artworks from the wonderful pieces we received. Congratulations to our three winners!



Left: The winning entry in our Christmas card competition came from Caroline O'Grady, Millview Resource Centre, Newry

Centre: Second place went to Eamon Bennett, Strokestown, Brothers of Charity, Co Roscommon

Right: Our third place winner was John Paul Byrne, Cáirdeas Centre, Tullow, Co. Carlow

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