



Gary Macmanus
Project Coordinator

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest Carelink Newsletter. With under a year left to go, the Carelink research project, funded under the European AAL programme, has been making good progress towards its goal of developing a smart, adaptive and low-cost solution for positively managing the wandering of people with dementia, enabling them to walk freely while reducing the stress on the caregivers. We continue to focus on user and commercial validation.

Gary Macmanus

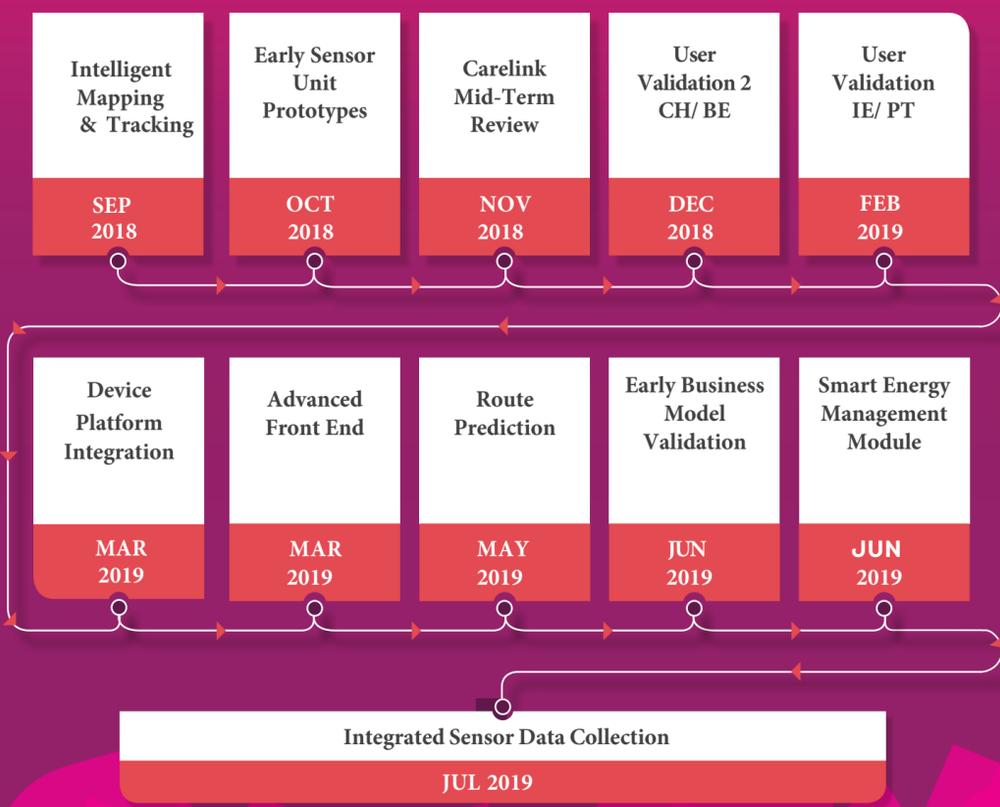
EDITORIAL

The project review in late 2019 was a good opportunity to take stock. The review was positive and some excellent progress has been made on all fronts, progress which consolidates our belief that Carelink is unique. Some of the most exciting outcomes, including hardware and software updates, are detailed below and in the Carelink blog.

Philosophical Approach and Value Proposition: As the team listened to feedback from carers, dementia subject experts and people with dementia and over the course of our product road-mapping and value proposition discussions, Carelink has shifted its emphasis away from monitoring and tracking individuals ensuring known location at all times towards a more enabling view with an emphasis on optimising quality of life. Safety is still paramount but Carelink has shifted its communications towards what the solution can facilitate rather than the preventative aspects of the technology. This will help address stigmatisation concerns associated with tracking devices.

Read Full Blogpost [here](#).

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE



CARELINK RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

The Carelink team includes expert researchers in the areas of intelligent communications, artificial intelligence, sensor device and networks. We will use the Research Spotlight to highlight some of the key research investigations that underpin the Carelink solution.

Assessment of Risk for People with Alzheimers by Monitoring Heartbeat and Identifying Falls

Fernando Luis Ferreira, Daniel Rodrigues, David Pereira, Joao Sarraipa, Ricardo Goncalves

The Uninova team has worked to develop an app that can detect falls or risk of falls in the elderly. Research has indicated that falls are a big cause of concern in this demographic, resulting in follow on health implications that can seriously impact on quality of life. Uninova has developed the android app which can be leveraged through the increasingly pervasive smartphones, thereby eliminating the need for other equipment purchase. Through the use of sensors on the smartphone such as the accelerometer, risks can be identified and only when a subject does not respond or take remedial action will alerts or notifications be triggered. Fall data including intensity, longitude and latitude are recorded and records enable identification of false positives resulting in better system performance. Heartbeat can also be monitored giving greater context in a given situation. Uninova presented its work in this regard at the 10th International Conference on eHealth in July, 2018. Access our Research Insight Centre [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

Including People with Dementia as Key Stakeholders in Research

The importance of collaboration with people with dementia has received some welcome attention in recent times. Wendy Mithcell's [blog post](#) articulates the importance of meaningful involvement really well – researchers should not use people with dementia to secure funding or tick a box.

A good example of meaningful collaboration is highlighted by Damian Murphy (Director, Innovations in Dementia) in [this blog](#) which references Dementia Enquirers, a UK project equipping People with Dementia to lead their own research ideas using their own research agendas. A suitable language and framework will need to evolve in order to facilitate the collaboration between Research veterans embedded in their specific contexts and People with Dementia.

On the subject of intelligent assistive technologies (IATs), a [report](#) published by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in July 2018 highlights the need for more research into the development and development of IATs including the importance of collaboration with PwD and Carers and the need for a robust regulatory framework to ensure quality of research and timely clinical trials. Ethical considerations referenced by this report include the themes of autonomy, privacy, beneficence, non-maleficence, interdependence and justice. As Carelink develops its smart tracker the team has been conscious of the need to collaborate with and get feedback from their most important stakeholders (people with dementia). Completing this research in an ethical manner is not without its challenges including in the areas of meaningful involvement and informed consent. We cover more on our privacy and permission considerations on the [Carelink blog](#).

USEFUL LINKS

Access useful resources about Dementia.

Innovations in Dementia (UK) Publications - <http://www.innovationsindementia.org.uk/resources/our-publications/>

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Publications - <http://www.innovationsindementia.org.uk/resources/our-publications/>

Genio Publications and Research - <https://www.genio.ie/our-impact/research-evidence?programme-area=dementia>

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/13 March – Carelink consortium meeting (Lisboa, Portugal)

15 – 18 April – IEEE 5th World Forum on Internet of Things (Limerick, Ireland)

30 – 31 May – Innovation on Research, Technology and Applications (Lisboa, Portugal)

17 – 19 July – 11th International Conference on e-Health (Porto, Portugal)

23 – 25 September AAL Forum 2019 (Aarhus, Denmark)

Date TBD, - mHealth Conference NUIG (Galway, Ireland)

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