



March 2018

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 15th issue of EPINews. In January, the SPHeRE Network held their Annual Meeting at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin and the School was very well represented with 6 oral and 7 poster presentations. The theme of this year's meeting was *'The Value of Patient and Public Involvement in Research, Healthcare and Health Planning'* and many of our staff and students were present to showcase their research in various areas ranging from experiences of implementing patient and public involvement in research to diabetes care.

Since the last issue, there have been many changes to the school. We are delighted to welcome Declan Whelan-Curtin back to the School of Public Health in his new role as School Manager. We are sad to say goodbye to Caroline Hurley and wish her well in her new position. Congratulations are in order for Dr Marsha Tracey who graduated from her PhD which studied the public health burden of diabetes in Ireland.

This issue is once again packed full with news, research updates, events and training opportunities and as always, I would encourage you to circulate EPINews among your colleagues and direct any queries or comments to me at Niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie or to Emmy at emmy.racine@ucc.ie.

Ms. Niamh McGrath and Ms Emmy Racine

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Declan

We are delighted to congratulate and welcome Declan Whelan Curtin to the School of Public Health in his new role as School Manager. Declan previously held various posts in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and we are sure he will do a super job as School Manager! You can contact Declan at Declan.whelancurtin@ucc.ie.

IN THIS ISSUE

- [School News](#)
- [Recent Publications](#)
- [Meet...](#)
- [Events and Training Opportunities](#)

CORE TEACHING PROGRAMMES

- [BSc in Public Health Sciences](#)
- [MPH Master of Public Health](#)
- [Postgraduate Certificate in Health Protection](#)
- [Postgraduate Certificate in Health Protection \(Online\)](#)
- [MSc in Occupational Health](#)
- [PhD Programmes](#)

SPHeRE Network Conference 2018

The Structured Population and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE) Network held its 4th Annual Conference in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin in January. The theme of this year's conference was *'The Value of Patient and Public Involvement in Research, Healthcare and Health Planning'*. This Conference was a special one for the SPHeRE Programme as it celebrated its 10th birthday - #SPHERE10!

Once again there was great representation from the School of Public Health with 6 oral presentations and 7 poster presentations. During the PPI session, Ms Emmy Racine presented work from the TRUST (Thyroid Hormone Replacement for Subclinical Hypo-Thyroidism) Trial, *'Participants perspectives and preferences on Clinical Trial Result Dissemination: the TRUST Thyroid Trial experience'*. Emmy also presented on *'Older people's experiences of attending falls risk assessments clinics'* during the Quality Care and Services session. Ms Fiona Riordan, Gillian Maher and Sarah Jane Flaherty gave oral presentations on their respective PhD topics as part of the Population Health session. Fiona's talk on integrated Type 2 Diabetes care was titled *'Challenges experienced by community-based Diabetes Nurse Specialists in supporting the delivery of integrated care: a qualitative study'*. Gillian presented *'Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in the offspring: a systematic review and meta-analysis'* and Sarah Jane presented *'Individual autonomy and localised privacy: exploring the factors influencing acceptability of healthy eating apps in a lower socioeconomic cohort'*. During the afternoon session on Chronic Illness, Ms Kate O'Neill presented her work on the costs of diabetes care in her talk, *'Trends in diabetes-related prescription costs in Ireland'*.



Ms Emmy Racine presenting her work which used PPI as part of the TRUST

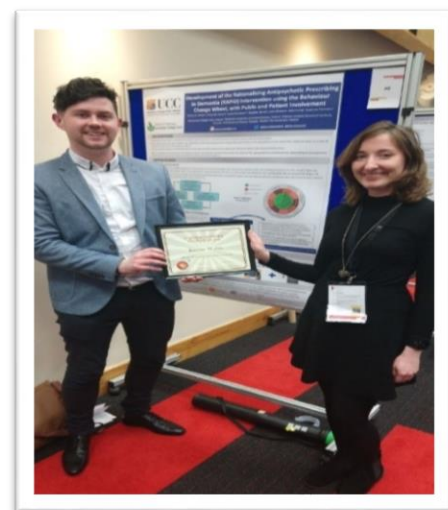


Ms Kate O'Neill in action delivering her talk, *'Trends in diabetes-related prescription costs in Ireland'*

Mr Kieran Walsh, Ms Niamh McGrath, Ms Brenda Lynch, Mr David O'Sullivan, Ms Ailbhe Spillane, Ms Caragh Flannery and Ms Rebecca Dennehy presented poster presentations at the conference. A special word of congratulations to Kieran who won Best Poster Prize on the day. Kieran is pictured above with one of his supervisors, Dr. Jenny Mc Sharry, NUIG, in front of the winning poster. The title of the poster was *'Development of the Rationalising Antipsychotic Prescribing in Dementia (RAPID) Intervention using the Behaviour Change Wheel, with Public and Patient Involvement.'* Congratulations and well done Kieran! Niamh presented her work on implementation of the Diabetes Cycle of Care, *'Exploring attitudes toward and implementation of the Diabetes Cycle of Care in primary care'*.

Brenda's poster related to her PhD topic surrounding urgent and emergency care in Ireland and was titled, *'Avoidable emergency admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions in the Republic of Ireland: analysis of regional determinants'*. David's presentation was, *'Examining the feasibility of an academic detailing intervention with GPs in primary care: A mixed methods study'*. Ailbhe's poster was called *'What are the physical and psychological health effects of suicide bereavement on family members? An observational and interview mixed-methods study in Ireland'*. Caragh presented, *'Social, biological, behavioural and psychological factors and physical activity during pregnancy: a cross-sectional study'* and Rebecca's poster was titled, *'Evaluating a Young Person's Advisory Group as a Model for Participation'*.

Before closing the conference, Professor John Browne, Director of the SPHeRE Programme, also gave an engaging keynote address entitled, *'Public and provider perspectives on the underlying drivers of urgent and emergency care reconfiguration in Ireland'*. We are already looking forward to next year's conference and hope the School of Public Health, UCC will continue to be so well represented there!



Mr Kieran Walsh with his supervisor Dr Jenny McSharry with his Best Poster Prize

ISS21 Lunchtime Seminar Series

ISS21 (*Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st century*) is an interdisciplinary research institute for the social sciences in UCC, that seeks to build, sustain and enhance research on social, economic and cultural issues that will shape Ireland during the 21st century. The Institute brings together social scientists from a broad range of disciplines to pursue research at Irish and international levels in interdisciplinary areas such as citizenship, childhood, innovation and creativity, family, gender, health, migration, social justice and sustainability. It involves collaboration with a number of academic departments. SPHERE Scholar, Ms Rebecca Dennehy recently presented at the ISS21 lunchtime seminar series. Rebecca's presentation titled "A rights-based approach to cyberbullying research: The implementation and evaluation of a young person's advisory group" gave a detailed account of the implementation and evaluation of a rights-based approach to involving young people in the design, conduct, and interpretation of a qualitative exploration of cyberbullying in post-primary school students.



Ms Rebecca Dennehy presenting her work at the ISS21 Lunchtime Seminar Series

Lunchtime Seminar Series

Thanks to Ms Gillian Maher and Prof Patricia Kearney for continuing to organise the lunchtime seminar series this semester. A number of thought provoking and interesting talks have been given on various topics. Dr Cormac Powell presented on "The physical activity behaviours of older Irish adults: findings from the MCR Study" (7th February, 2018). Dr Darren Dahly presented on "Should scientists spend their valuable time on social media?" (27th February, 2018). Prof Johnathon Todres presented on "Preventing Child Trafficking: A Public Health Approach" (5th March, 2018). Lunchtime seminars can be viewed [here](#) on the School of Public Health's YouTube channel.



Prof Johnathon Todres, Georgia State University recently gave a lunchtime seminar in the School of Public Health, UCC.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Replacement of Sedentary Time with Physical Activity: Impact on Lipoproteins.](#) Phillips CM, Dillon CB, Perry IJ. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2017 Dec 7.

[Cost-effectiveness of a complex workplace dietary intervention: an economic evaluation of the Food Choice at Work Study.](#) Fitzgerald S, Murphy A, Kirby A, Geaney F and Perry IJ. *BMJ Open.* 2018 Mar 1;8(3):e019182.

[Can existing mobile apps support healthier food purchasing behaviour? Content analysis of nutrition content, behaviour change theory and user quality integration.](#) Flaherty, S-J., McCarthy, M., Collins, A., & McAuliffe, F. *Public Health Nutrition*, 21(2), 288-298. 2018.

['Working away in that Grey Area...' A qualitative exploration of the challenges general practitioners experience when managing behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.](#) Jennings AA, Foley T, McHugh S, Browne JP, Bradley CP. *Age and ageing.* 2017 Dec 6:1-9.

[The MRCGP Clinical Skills Assessment: an integrative review of evidence.](#) McLoughlin K, Pope L, Walsh E, Jennings A, Foley T. *Education for Primary Care.* 2018 January:1-7.

[Development of an infant feeding core outcome set for childhood obesity interventions: study protocol](#) Matvienko-Sikar K, Byrne M, Kelly C, Toomey E, Hennessy M, Devane D, Heary C, Harrington J, McGrath N, Queally M, Kearney PM. *Trials.* 2017 Dec;18(1):463.

[Physical and psychosomatic health outcomes in people bereaved by suicide compared to people bereaved by other modes of death: a systematic review.](#) Spillane A, Larkin C, Corcoran P, Matvienko-Sikar K, Riordan F, Arensman E. *BMC public health.* 2017 Dec;17(1):939.

[Parental experiences and perceptions of infant complementary feeding: a qualitative evidence synthesis.](#) Matvienko-Sikar K, Kelly C, Sinnott C, McSharry J, Houghton C, Heary C, Toomey E, Byrne M, Kearney PM. *Obesity Reviews.* 2017 Dec 15.

Visit the department website for a full list of [publications](#)

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Congratulations to School of Public Health Graduates!

Congratulations are in order for a number of postgraduate students who graduated at the College of Medicine and Health's Conferring on Friday 23rd February, 2018.

Dr Marsha Tracey graduated from her PhD. Her thesis was titled "Public health burden of diabetes in Ireland: time trends, determinants of complications and the implementation of a public health intervention to improve health outcomes for people with diabetes". Dr Tracey was funded by Prof Patricia Kearney's Research Leader Award which aims to improve care for people with diabetes by developing a population approach to prevention and control. Dr Tracey's supervisory team included Prof Patricia Kearney, Dr Sheena McHugh, Dr Tony Fitzgerald, Dr Claire Buckley and Dr Ronan Canavan. Dr Tracey is currently working with the Health Technology Assessment Group in the HSE.

Congratulations to the Online Masters in Public Health (MPH) students who graduated on the day. The online MPH course provides individuals from a range of different professional backgrounds with academic and experiential development in the theory and practice of public health. We wish our recent graduates the very best of luck in their future careers!

February. The conference theme was Behaviour Change for Health: Digital and Beyond. Sarah Jane presented her qualitative research which explored the factors that influence acceptance of healthy eating apps in a lower socioeconomic cohort as part of the food and weight management stream. The conference was attended by a range of international academic and industry experts and was a fantastic opportunity to share findings and gain insight into ongoing research from many international research groups.



Dr Marsha Tracey pictured with her supervisors Prof Patricia Kearney and Dr Tony Fitzgerald.



Dr Fiona Geaney giving the conferring address at the ceremony.

Congratulations are also due to Dr Fiona Geaney (Chief Executive Officer, Food Choice at Work) who delivered the conferring address. Fiona spoke eloquently on the day about her experiences of translating research into practice with Food Choice at Work endeavour. This is a significant honour and represents University level recognition of Fiona's work and achievements to date.

4th Annual UCL Centre for Behaviour Change Conference - Behaviour Change for Health: Digital & Beyond

Sarah Jane Flaherty delivered an oral presentation at the fourth annual conference of the UCL Centre for Behaviour Change which took place in London on the 21st and 22nd

INMED (Irish Network of Medical Educators) Conference 2018

INMED 2018 was held in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, University College Cork over three days from 7th – 9th February. Dr Aisling Jennings delivered an oral presentation entitled 'Development and evaluation of an inter-professional dementia educational intervention for primary care' at the 2018 INMED Conference.

Food Choice at Work

Food Choice at Work have been as busy and successful as ever since the new year with lots of news to share with EPINews.

On the 2nd of February Food Choice at Work showcased their work to the KTI Board (Knowledge Transfer Ireland Board). KTI is the national office who works with Ireland's publicly-funded research sector to support business to access technology, intellectual property and expertise. Food Choice at Work were selected by UCC Gateway as one of UCC's innovative spin-outs to present their work to the KTI Board. Clare Kelly presented on the day on behalf of Food Choice at Work. She is pictured to the right with her presentation.

In February, Food Choice at Work were awarded with a Trading Online Voucher by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO). This competitive Government grant scheme is designed to assist small businesses and provides training and advice to help businesses trade online. We wish Food Choice at Work the very best with this endeavor!

Food Choice at Work were invited to attend the official opening of the new Microsoft Ireland Campus in Dublin on 22nd February. This campus was officially opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and has many different facilities. Microsoft Ireland is one of Food Choice at Work's current clients and Food Choice at Work were delighted to share in the opening of this campus with them.



Ms Clare Kelly representing Food Choice at Work in the presentation of their work to the KTI Board

Farewell Caroline!

We are sad to say goodbye to Ms Caroline Hurley as she leaves us for a new job with the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA). Caroline graduated with a BSc in Public Health and Health Promotion from UCC in 2008. In 2013, she completed her Masters of Public Health, specializing in Epidemiology. In 2014, she was awarded a prestigious PhD scholarship from the Health Research Board-Trial Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN). During her time with the school she also worked as a research assistant and clinical trial coordinator on the Thyroid Hormone Replacement for Subclinical Hypothyroidism Trial (TRUST Thyroid Trial). Although she is leaving the school, she will continue to work on her PhD which is due for submission in October 2018. Her PhD thesis is entitled "Risk-adapted approaches to the management of academic clinical trials". Her supervisory team includes Prof Joe Eustace, Prof Patricia Kearney, Prof Mike Clarke, Dr Frances Shiely and Dr Evelyn Flanagan. Best of luck with the new job Caroline!



Ms Caroline Hurley has moved to a new position with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

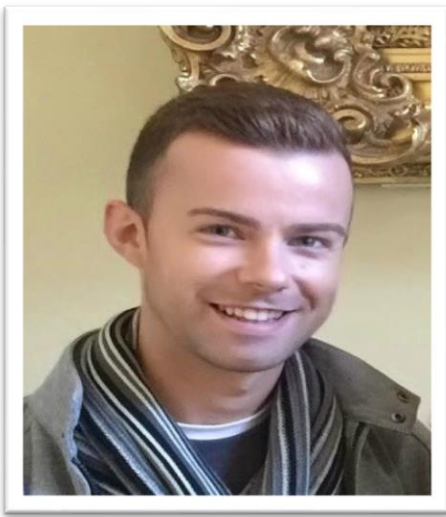
Congratulations to Shelly!

In January, PhD student Shelly Chakraborty celebrated her wedding to her new husband, Dr Akshay Ranade in Kolkata, India. PhD students from the School of Public Health, Ms Caroline Hurley, Ms Kate O'Neill and Ms Brenda Lynch and School alumnus Dr Marsha Tracey travelled to India to celebrate with Shelly, Akshay, and their families. Typical of Indian weddings, it was colourful, fun-filled and very big! The School of Public Health party are pictured to the right in their wedding saris with the bride and groom. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ranade, we wish you both all the happiness and health in the world!

Ms Caroline Hurley, Ms Kate O'Neill, Ms Brenda Lynch and Dr Marsha Tracey pictured with Shelly and Akshay Ranada at their wedding in Kolkata, India in January.



MEET...



Declan Whelan Curtin

Declan Whelan Curtin

Declan Whelan-Curtin holds a B.A. (English and Psychology) a Master of Public Health, specializing in Health Promotion and a PostGrad Cert in Third Level Teaching and Learning. Declan has worked for many years in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health in various roles and as Health Promotion Project worker with UCC Health Matters. He has spent the past 12 months as Centre Manager of the Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation where he has supported various projects in the areas of Dementia and Healthy Aging. Most recently Declan has taken up the position of School Manager of the new School of Public Health. Declan is spearheading the initiative to have UCC recognised as an Age Friendly University.

Did you know?

Did you know that Declan is a qualified tennis coach. He coached professionally and represented UCC on several occasions, once as the captain bringing home the National Intervarsity's Trophy. He once had lunch with Rodger Federer and played (non-competitively) with Tim Henman on a practice court in Wimbledon during the Championships.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

[Society for Behavioural Medicine 39th Annual Scientific Meeting and Sessions](#) 11th -14th April 2018, New Orleans

[32nd International Congress on Occupational Health - ICOH 2018](#) 29th April – 4th May 2018, Dublin

May

[16th Qualitative Methods Conference](#) 1st - 3rd May 2018 Banff, Alberta, Canada

[International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#) 2nd-4th May 2018, Amsterdam

[86th EGHRN Conference](#) 10-13th May 2018, Lille, France

[The Inaugural IBTN Summer School: Developing Behavioural Interventions and Conducting High-Quality Trials](#) 21st-26th May 2018, Montreal, Canada

[25th European Congress on Obesity](#), 23-26th May 2018, Vienna

[International Conference on Integrated Care 2018](#) 23-25th May 2018, Utrecht, Netherlands

June

[International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity \(ISBNPA\)](#) 3-6th June 2018, Hong Kong

[11th International Conference on Workplace Bullying and Harassment](#) 5th-8th June 2018, Bordeaux

[2018 International Health Conference](#) 28-30th June 2018, Oxford

July

[European Congress of Epidemiology Conference](#) 4th-6th July, Lyon, France

[The 47th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care](#) 11-12th July 2018, London

[5th World Congress on Public Health, Nutrition and Epidemiology](#) 23rd-24th July 2018, Melbourne, Australia.

August

[32nd Annual Conference of European Health Psychology Society](#) 21st – 25th August 2018, Galway

September

[19th Nursing Ethics Conference and 4th International Ethics in Care Conference](#) 1st-2nd September 2018, Cork, Ireland

[Society for Social Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2018](#) 5th-7th September 2018, Glasgow, Scotland,

[5th UK Congress on Obesity](#) 6th-7th

September 2018, Newcastle, England

[Euro-Global Conference on Paediatrics and Neonatology](#) 13th – 15th September 2018, Rome, Italy

[55th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes](#) 16th-20th September, Barcelona, Spain.

[Irish Gerontological Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#) 27th-29th September 2018, Cavan.

October

[Global Conference on Addiction and Behavioural Health](#) 4th – 6th October 2018, Las Vegas, USA

[4th Annual Trial Methodology Symposium 2018](#) 11th October, Galway.

[27th European Cardiology Conference](#) 22nd- 24th October 2018, Rome, Italy

[15th World Neonatal Conference](#) 26th-27th October 2018, Toronto, Canada

[24th Annual Qualitative Health Research Conference](#) 27th – 29th October 2018, Halifax, NS, Canada

November

[28th World Congress on Cardiology and Heart Diseases](#) 5th-6th November 2018, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

[13th European Diabetes and Endocrinology Congress](#) 26th-27th November 2018, Dublin, Ireland

[11th European Public Health Conference](#) 28th November-1st December 2018, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia

December

[European Conference on Epidemiology and Public Health](#) 4th-5th December 2018, Lisbon, Portugal

February

[2019 Annual SPHeRE Network Conference](#) 26th February 2019, Dublin, Ireland

Ongoing

[Stata courses](#)

[Stata training](#)

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