



# EPINews

## Newsletter of the School of Public Health

Jan 2019

### WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and welcome you to enjoy the 18<sup>th</sup> issue of EPINews. This issue brings 2018 to a close and is full of research updates, events, and highlights from the last quarter of the year.

On page 2 of this issue, Dr Zubair Kabir reflects on UCC's international rankings and his new mantra of 'low budget and high impact research'. On page 6, the BSc in Public Health Sciences is in the spotlight and on page, we have included some highlights from the Schools' inaugural Cameron Lecture. A special congratulations to Ms. Eunice Phillip on winning the Jacqueline Horgan Bronze Medal Award and also to Dr Maura Smiddy, Dr Ailbhe Spillane, Dr Fiona Riordan, Dr Caragh Flannery, Dr Caroline Hurley and Dr Kate O'Neill on successfully defending their PhD theses. We wish them the very best of luck in their future careers!

I hope you enjoy this issue and as always, I would encourage you to circulate EPINews among your colleagues and direct any queries or comments to me at [emmy.racine@ucc.ie](mailto:emmy.racine@ucc.ie) or to Niamh at [niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie](mailto:niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie).

Best wishes,

Emmy Racine and Niamh McGrath.

### SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to [Dr. Janas Harrington](#) who was successfully awarded a grant from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland to conduct a research study to assess the Dietary Salt Intake of the Irish Population. We look forward to hearing more about the study when it begins in 2019!

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### CORE TEACHING PROGRAMMES

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## 25 Lancet papers in 2 years: what does this mean for UCC?

[Dr Zubair Kabir](#) (Senior Lecturer) takes a step back and ponders on Universities' ranking. He contemplates the continuing dip in UCC's international ranking compared to other contemporaneous Irish Higher Education Institutions. Like many, he also thinks that UCC can perform better on the global stage. His new mantra is low budget high impact research. One such example is the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study. Dr Kabir is the lead researcher from Ireland to work with international colleagues on the GBD across 195 countries. Between 2016 and 2018, Dr Kabir has co-authored 25 Lancet publications on GBD studies, which have received more than 5,000 citations, and still counting! GBD findings are powerful tools to inform, frame, and act on national policies, with a return on investment. GBD produces comprehensive and comparable annual estimates of disease burden by country, age, and sex for more than 300 causes of death and injury and more than 80 risk factors. The UK and other European nations have established Local Burden of Disease (BoD) units within their respective countries to undertake comprehensive national and sub-national estimates to change and inform policies. Dr Kabir is currently collaborating with his European partners to harmonize expertise and methodology across EU nations towards a European Burden of Disease Study through his representation on the WHO-European Burden of Disease Network (EBoDN). He strongly thinks that a similar initiative in Ireland is necessary to benchmark Ireland's health performance against other EU nations. One such logical step is to establish a national BoD unit in Ireland. Dr Kabir concludes saying that "National BoD studies will provide GPS for health reforms and policy-making." Details on GBD studies in the Lancet are accessible [here](#).

## 18th Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference was held in UCC on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2018. The theme of this year's conference was "Delivering Excellent Healthcare in a Globalised World: Challenges and Opportunities". Ms Meadh Mac Sweeney, MPH, RGN and Medical Integrative Healthcare Therapist is one of our newly qualified MPH students. She presented her MPH dissertation research at the conference as a Poster Presentation. Her study entitled "The development of Key Performance Indicators using the Classic Delphi Technique for a Regional Lymphoedema Service in Ireland" was well received. The aim of the study was to develop relevant KPIs as an essential measuring tool for a Lymphoedema Service in Ireland; the KPIs centre around equity of access to the service, efficiency, patient education and evidence of effectiveness of service delivery. The study is the first Irish study to identify KPIs for LE services and this study will play an important role in the setting of standards for the quality of services going forward. Meadh did an excellent job in presenting her research and representing the School of Public Health. Meadh, is the Clinic Director of The Lymph Clinic, Cork and of the Regional Lymphoedema Service, HSE- Limerick.



*Ms. Meadh Mac Sweeney  
presenting her research at the  
Conference*

## Public Health Science 2018 Meeting

[Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar](#) had a poster presentation at the Public Health Science 2018 Meeting in Queen's University, Belfast on Friday 23 November, 2018. Karen presented her research: Developing an infant feeding core outcome set for childhood obesity prevention. The abstract for this presentation will be published in the Lancet.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Involving young people in cyberbullying research: The implementation and evaluation of a rights-based approach.](#) Dennehy R, Cronin M, Arensman E. *Health Expect.* 2018;00:1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12830>

[Development of a tool for monitoring the prescribing of antipsychotic medications to people with dementia in general practice: a modified eDelphi consensus study.](#) Jennings AA, Guerin N, Foley T. *Clinical Interventions In Aging.* 2018;13:2107-2117.

[Development and evaluation of a primary care interprofessional education intervention to support people with dementia.](#) Jennings A, McLoughlin K, Boyle S, Foley T. *Journal of Interprofessional Care.* 2018:1-4. [ePub ahead of print]

[The knowledge and attitudes of general practitioners to the assessment and management of pain in people with dementia.](#) Jennings AA, Linehan M, Foley T. *BMC Family Practice.* 2018;19(1):166.

[Surveying knowledge, practice and attitudes towards intervention fidelity within trials of complex healthcare interventions.](#) McGee, D., Lorencatto, F., Matvienko-Sikar, K., Toomey, E. *Trials,* 2018: 19:504.

[Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990-2016: a systematic review for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016.](#) GBD 2016 Alcohol Collaborators. *The Lancet.* 2018 Aug 23.

[‘Around the edges’: using behaviour change techniques to characterise a multilevel implementation strategy for a fall prevention programme.](#) McHugh S, Sinnott C, Racine E, Timmons S, Byrne M, Kearney P. *Implementation Science.* 2018 Dec;13(1):113.

[Health service utilization and related costs attributable to diabetes.](#) O'Neill K, McHugh S, Tracey M, Fitzgerald A, Kearney PM. *Diabetic Medicine.* 2018 doi:doi:10.1111/dme.13806

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

## Follow Us

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*Athena SWAN Self-assessment Team, School of Public Health.*

## Athena Swan Bronze Award

The Athena Swan charter aims to address gender equality in a wide range of disciplines and has made a measurable positive difference for gender equality in participating institutions and departments. UCC received their Bronze Athena Swan award in August 2016, and following the formal launch of the School of Public Health in October 2017, the School decided to apply for the Bronze school level award. The department is working to promote gender equality and to identify and address challenges particular to the SPH. The application is being chaired by Prof Patricia Kearney, and involves a group effort from the Self-assessment Team (SAT), which includes various members of staff across the department. The SAT has been meeting regularly, and is working hard to submit the application at the end of November. We sincerely appreciate all the hard work and dedication from our staff members who are involved, and hope to see a more supportive and equal work environment for all staff and students.

## Ms. Eunice Phillip awarded Jacqueline Horgan Bronze Medal

Ms. Eunice Phillip was awarded the Jacqueline Horgan Bronze Medal for her presentation at the RAMI (Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine) in November. The presentation was based on her MPH Dissertation work (supervised by [Dr Paul Corcoran](#)) entitled "Household air pollution from cooking fuel and anaemia in women and children in Sub-Saharan Africa: A cross-sectional study of six countries". It explored the link between the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs 3.1, 3.2, 3.9 and 7.1) with recommendation for actions at the local, national and international level to address these issues and reduce the global burden of disease. Strong emphasis on the role of social economist to estimate the cost of this burden in relation to poverty. Well done Eunice! What a fantastic achievement!



*Ms. Eunice Phillip being awarded her Jacqueline Horgan Bronze Medal.*

## HRB Applying Research into Policy and Practice Fellowship

[Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar](#) and [Dr Elaine Mc Mahon](#) were both awarded two separate Health Research Board Applying Research into Policy and Practice Fellowships. These are competitive and prestigious Fellowships that are awarded on recognition of scientific excellence and potential in mid-career researchers. Karen's research will focus on examining and reducing parental stress in the period from pregnancy to two years after birth ('the first 1000 days'). Elaine's research will investigate youth self-harm and suicide and will identify predictors of onset, escalation and premature mortality.

## Strong uptake of R workshops

This semester saw the running of the first 3-day and 1-day workshops given by [Dr Brendan Palmer](#) and colleagues in the R programming language. Over 40 students and staff from across the university have taken part. Currently statistics is primarily taught through SPSS, Stata or another proprietary statistical software package. Conversely, the R programming language is free to download, install and allows individuals to keep using it, even if they have left UCC. Together with the graphical user interface, RStudio, R is now the favoured data analysis tool across a variety of fields, including statistics. Dr Palmer has also been hosting lunchtime demonstrations on the more popular aspects of R, outside of its statistical capabilities. Two more 3-day (beginners) and 1-day (experienced users) workshops will be held in Spring 2019. Email [b.palmer@ucc.ie](mailto:b.palmer@ucc.ie) to register your interest.



*R workshop participants with workshop facilitator Dr. Brendan Palmer.*



# Congratulations

We are delighted to congratulate Dr Maura Smiddy, [Dr Ailbhe Spillane](#), [Dr Fiona Riordan](#), Dr Caragh Flannery, [Dr Caroline Hurley](#) and [Dr Kate O'Neill](#) on successfully defending their PhD theses. All their hard work and dedication has finally paid off. We wish them the very best of luck in their future careers!



## International Congress of Behavioural Medicine 2018

The 15th International Congress of Behavioural Medicine took place from November 14th to 17th in Santiago, Chile. [Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar](#) presented her work on Changing parent's infant feeding behaviours to prevent childhood obesity: Identifying important outcome measures. The abstract for this presentation is published in the International Journal of Behavioral Medicine. [Photo attached]

## Primary Care Diabetes Conference

The 14th National Conference of the Primary Care Diabetes Society (PCDS) was held on the 22–23rd November in Birmingham, UK. This conference is the annual meeting of the PCDS and provides a range of educational activities for clinicians developed and led for a primary care

audience by some of the leading diabetes experts in the UK. Founded in 2004, the aim of the PCDS is to support primary care professionals to deliver high quality clinically effective care, in order to improve the lives of people living with diabetes.

This year's conference was attended by [Dr Seán Millar](#), who presented two posters entitled "Predicting Type 2 Diabetes Development Among Patients in General Practice – A Prospective Analysis Comparing HbA<sub>1c</sub> with Fasting Plasma Glucose" and "Predicting Type 2 Diabetes Development Among Patients in General Practice – A Prospective Analysis Comparing Metabolic Syndrome Definitions and Components". The aim of Dr Millar's research is to explore the predictive ability of diagnostic tests and metabolic markers in order to better identify patients who are at risk of developing diabetes. Earlier identification of high-risk subjects could allow earlier targeted interventions or therapies, thus attenuating development of type 2 diabetes and related micro- and macro-vascular complications.

## TIDIRH- Ireland Training Course

In November, the ESPRIT research group hosted the inaugural Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health in Ireland (TIDIRH-Ireland). This blended training course combined online modules in dissemination and implementation (D&I) research with two days of in-person training. The course was developed in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US which has run the US-based TIDIRH programme for the past seven years.

We had 30 participants from across Ireland, Europe and as far away as Australia! The cohort included PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, senior academics and professionals from the health service and non-government organisations. TIDIRH training was facilitated by ESPRIT members [Dr Sheena McHugh](#), Prof. Patricia Kearney and [Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar](#). The 2-day in-person training included a dedicated research brief workshop.

During this session we welcomed 12 national and regional policy makers to the roundtable workshop where they worked with researchers to identify the key ingredients for an effective research brief. TIDIRH-Ireland was funded by the HRB Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme (KEDS). The course was seamlessly coordinated by Dr Emily Kelleher and Dee Brennan. We are looking forward to running TIDIRH-Ireland again in the future and express our thanks to everyone who participated, contributed and helped to make it happen.



## Implementation Science Seminar

To coincide with TIDIRH-Ireland, the ESPRIT research group also held an implementation science seminar to share the expertise of their international collaborators with the wider UCC community and to showcase implementation research in Ireland. 'The Rule rather than the Exception: Embedding Implementation Science in Population and Health Services Research to Promote Effective Translation' took place in the beautiful Nano Nagle Place in Cork City. We were extremely lucky to have speakers who are leaders in the field of implementation science. These speakers included Dr Cynthia Vinson of the National Cancer Institute, US, Professor Byron Powell of Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina and Professor Rachel Shelton of Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. The seminar was funded by the HRB conference and events sponsorship scheme.



Prof. Catherine Hayes, Prof. Byron Powell, Ms. Amber Haley, Dr. Cynthia Vinson, Dr. Sheena McHugh and Prof. Patricia Kearney who spoke at the Implementation Science Seminar.

## Award winning poster presentation

Congratulations to Ms. Katie Murphy, Mr. Jake Murphy, [Dr. Sheena McHugh](#), [Ms. Fiona Riordan](#) and [Prof. Colin Bradley](#) on winning first prize for their poster at the Irish Diabetes Nurse and Midwife Specialist Association AGM on Saturday 3rd November 2018. The poster looked at the acceptability and perceived impact of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (Diabetes Integrated Care) service among health professionals in primary and secondary care. Well done to all involved!

## College of Medicine and Health Autumn Conferings, 2018.

On Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, the College of Medicine and Health Autumn Conferings were held in Devere Hall, UCC. Professor Patricia Kearney delivered a poignant conferring address. During her address she reflected on the many societal changes which have taken place over the last 20 years since she graduated with a medical degree from UCC. She spoke about the rise of technology and Ada Lovelace who was a British mathematician and writer (1815-1852). We have included an extract from her address below:

*I would suggest that the questions Ada Lovelace asked 200 years ago about the Analytical Engine are questions that remain relevant to you all today. As a poet and a scientist, she argued that the division between art and science deterred people from understanding the essence of an idea. As graduates of the College of Medicine and Health many of you will now or in the future work in our health service and that may involve direct patient care or it may be at a health system level – you may be prescribing medications, providing speech therapy or developing health technology. Whatever the specifics of the work you are involved with the key features of that work are observation, interpretation and integration. Whether you are observing the way a patient is walking or speaking or whether it is look at radiological images or trends in admission rates, you will use the same skills to bring together what you see to understand and make inferences and decisions. These key features of observation, interpretation and integration were described by Ada Lovelace as poetical science. In her work, she examined how individuals and society relate to technology as a collaborative tool. I would like to share with you this quotation from Ada Lovelace which would have been relevant for me 20 years ago and I hope will resonate with you all today. "I never am really satisfied that I understand anything; because, understand it well as I may, my comprehension can only be an infinitesimal fraction of all I want to understand about the many connections and relations which occur to me"*



Prof Stephen Byrne, head of Pharmacy UCC, Prof Patricia Kearney, School of Public Health, Prof Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC and Prof Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health at the College of Medicine and Health Autumn Conferings.

## BSc Public Health Sciences Spotlight!



First year BSc Public Health Sciences students on a recent visit to a community project.

### Highlighting the Diversity of the Discipline

"We aim to engage the BSc students with their new discipline from the start, presenting them with different perspectives in public health to 'hit the ground running!' In order to heighten their awareness of the diversity of the discipline, they are exposed to a range of learning environments. There is the 'traditional' lecture, as well as small group work discussing often emotive public health issues with their peers. They watch films with a public health 'hat' on, or from the perspective of a specific public health actor e.g. the WHO or a community worker. Field visits to the waterworks or to community projects, provide the opportunity to see firsthand how different public health perspectives become the 'real thing'" - Dr Fiona MacLeod, First year Course Coordinator.



First year BSc Public Health Sciences students visiting the Old Cork Waterworks Experience.

### The perspective of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Mature BSc Public Health Sciences Student

"The second year of studying BSc in Public Health really builds on the core ideals introduced in first year. I am particularly enjoying learning about how social research and epidemiological studies are the building blocks to generate the evidence which informs good public health promotion strategies. The modules are well thought out and complement each other to give you an overall sense of the multidisciplinary nature of public health. The course is a great balance of science, health promotion theory and social research and study methodology. In semester two, I have selected a module titled "history of the media in Ireland" as an elective through the history department and am eagerly looking forward to this module. The importance of the media in public health

advocacy and the medias role in getting out the correct message is really interesting to me. As a mature student who has actively volunteered within the area of sexual health, I have found the BSc in Public Health reinforces many health promotion concepts that I have encountered in my volunteering." - Martin Keenan, Second Year Student.



Martin Keenan, Second year BSc Public Health Sciences student.

### Work Placement Profile

"For my work placement I was lucky enough to work with Food Choice at Work Ltd. The Food Choice at Work team are innovative, motivated and provided me with an essential insight into a potential career in Public Health Nutrition. Working in a small, dynamic team, I developed a wide range of new skills from researching established nutrient profile and traffic light labelling publications through to testing nutrition analysis software. I was pushed out of my comfort zone helping to create a client mobile app, where I was responsible for ensuring all recipes were 100% accurate and available to view on the mobile app by clients and users. The use of technology creates exciting possibilities to support public health communications and interventions. This addition of a mobile and web app provides a comprehensive up to date mode of delivering information to their client's employees. The mobile app provides employees with information about food that is available in the canteen on a given day including nutrient information, ingredients, allergens and whether a recipe is DASH Omni-Heart



Michelle Murphy, Fourth year BSc Public Health Sciences student.

compliant or not. I visited Cork City Council and received first-hand experience of the day to day running of the Food Choice at Work programme within a client and could see first-hand how the mobile app I helped to create added benefit to a healthy eating system, already delivering positive health outcomes in office environments. I am excited to see the work they will do here in the main restaurant in UCC in the coming months! I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Food Choice at Work and am grateful for the guidance and experience gained." – Michelle Murphy, Fourth Year Student.

## National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) Update



*Prof Ella Arensman and Dr Birgit Greiner with Gatekeeper Training Participants*

### Gatekeeper Training for Construction Workers

In August, [Professor Ella Arensman](#) and Dr Birgit Greiner from the School of Public Health and National Suicide Research Foundation in UCC, co-facilitated a Gatekeeper Training for construction workers. The training was entitled 'Awareness and Skills relating to Depression and Suicidal Behaviour'. The training programme was developed in accordance with the European Alliance Against Depression. The construction industry is a physically hazardous industry and usually ranks very high in the statistics on fatal accidents, however mental health issues have not been frequently addressed. Research internationally and in Ireland has revealed a high representation of men working in the construction industry among people who die by suicide, with up to 41.6% of people in the construction/production sector as identified by the Suicide Support and Information System. The gatekeeper awareness training was a start to get construction workers engaged in this topic. The evaluation of this training was part of the MSc thesis in Occupational Health, conducted by John Finbarr O'Brien.

### 17th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB17), Ghent, Belgium.

In September, several members of the National Suicide Research Foundation team presented their research and learning over the course of the four days. It was a great platform to engage with and learn from international colleagues and the NSRF team look forward to implementing new ideas into their own research.



*Members of the NSRF team at the European Symposium*

### Official Launch of the National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Five Year Report.

The National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Project Office, a joint programme of the HSE, National Office for Suicide Prevention and the National Suicide Research Foundation is delighted to share news of the launch of their five year report on the effectiveness of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) in Ireland. The report on the implementation, evaluation and research outcomes of DBT in Ireland, provides an overview of results as well as links to 12 peer reviewed papers in which the findings are presented in more detail. John Meehan, HSE Assistant National Director and Head of the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) launched the report and Daniel Flynn, Principal Psychology Manager Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare and National DBT Project Clinical Lead presented an overview of the findings at the launch. The report highlights that significant improvements were found for both adult and adolescent community mental health service users, with significant reductions in self-harming behaviours, emergency department visits, hospital admissions and bed nights used. A significant increase in use of skills to regulate emotions was also observed for both adults and adolescents. To read the full report please click [here](#). The National DBT Project team were also delighted to win the Professional Leadership at the HSE's Health & Social Care Professions (HCSP) Best Practice & Innovation Awards 2018 which took place on November 6th in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).



*LtoR Front: Dr Mary Kells, HSE, Daniel Flynn, HSE, Dr Mary Joyce, National DBT Project. Back: Conall Wrigley, Aoife Hayes, Conall Gillespie, Edel Gallagher, Louise Dunne, Justina Hurley, (all National DBT Project), Eileen Williamson (NSRF), Professor Ella Arensman (NSRF/School of Public Health), Sonia Greaney (Expert by Experience)*

## Lunch-time Seminar on the Role of the Media in Suicide Prevention, Suicide Clustering and Contagion.

On Wednesday 26th September, the National Suicide Research Foundation hosted a lunch time seminar on 'The Role of the Media in Suicide Prevention, Suicide Clustering and Contagion' in conjunction with the School of Public Health, University College Cork. [Professor Ella Arensman](#), Dr Paul Corcoran and Mr Niall McTernan presented their research followed by an informative and engaging discussion with panelists from local media, the HSE Communications Team and stakeholders involved in suicide prevention.

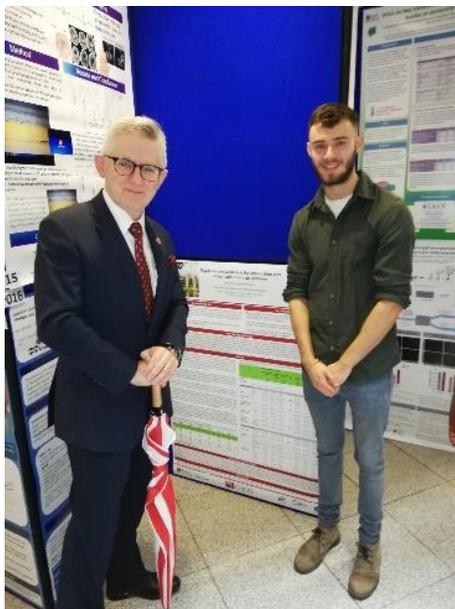


## Official Launch of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Report.

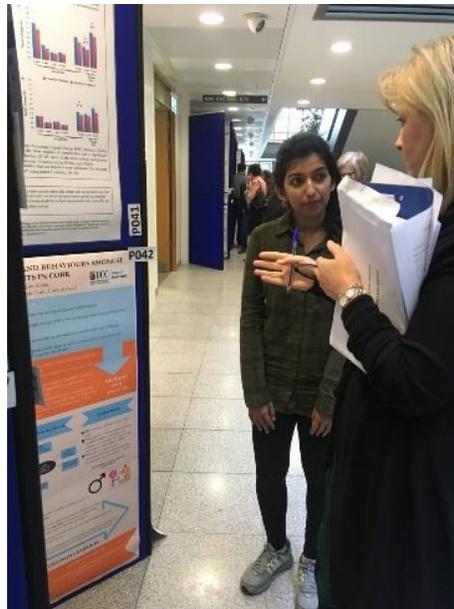
On October 4th, the National Suicide Research Foundation launched the 2017 annual report of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland at an event in Dublin. The report was launched alongside the 2017 Annual Reports of the National Office for Suicide Prevention and the Irish Prison Service Self-Harm in Irish Prisons by Minister of State with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older people, Jim Daly TD.

## New Horizons Research Conference, 2018.

The College of Medicine and Health held their annual New Horizons Research Conference in the Western Gateway Building, UCC on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. The conference highlighted the diverse range of translational research in UCC and included plenary sessions with short oral and poster presentations. Congratulations to Meadhb Mac Sweeney (MPH student) who won Best Poster Award at the Conference for her poster entitled "The development of Key Performance Indicators using the Classic Delphi Technique for a Regional Lymphoedema Service in Ireland". Well done Meadhb!



*Rhys Earl (3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc student) presenting his research to UCC president Prof Patrick O'Shea at the conference*



*Mekha Ann Mathew (MPH graduate) presenting her research on oral health literacy at the New Horizons Conference*



*Meadhb Mac Sweeney (MPH graduate) presenting her research on lymphoedema in Ireland.*

## School hosts its inaugural Cameron Lecture

The School of Public Health hosted its inaugural Cameron Lecture on Friday the 14th of December. The event was a great success and was well attended by staff and students from the School. Dr. Augustine Perriera, Director of Public Health, HSE South was the guest speaker at the event. There were also awards, prizes and presentations from high performing masters students.



Prof Ivan Perry giving the opening address.



Birgit Greiner presenting an award to Olivia Deasy



Zubair Kabir (far left) and Collette Cunningham (far right) presenting an award to Eunice Philipp.



Dr Augustine Perriera (far left) and Prof Ivan Perry (far right) awarding Aileen Callanan the Cameron Prize.



Meadhb Mac Sweeney being presented with an award by Collette Cunningham.



Zubair Kabir presenting an award to Mekha Ann Mathew.

## Quercus Undergraduate Scholarship Awards, 2018.

The annual Quercus College Scholarship ceremony, held in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, College of Medicine and Health took place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018. The Scholarships were awarded to students with the highest aggregate score (an overall grade of First Class Honours) in each degree programme within the College of Medicine and Health. Amongst the recipients were BSc Public Health students Ms Ellen Murphy, Ms Holly McGrath and Ms Lauren Alison O'Mahony .



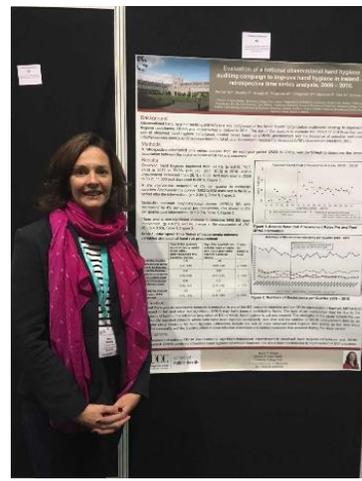
*Ms Ellen Murphy, Ms Holly McGrath and Ms Lauren Alison O'Mahony being presented with their Quercus Awards.*

## HSE Open Access Research Awards 2018

Congratulations are in order for Dr Ailbhe Spillane who was the overall winner of the HSE Open Access Research Awards 2018. She received the award for her recent publication entitled: "What are the physical and psychological health effects of suicide bereavement on family members? An observational and interview mixed-methods study in Ireland" . If you would like to read the publication, please click [here](#). Congratulations Ailbhe!



*Open Access Research Award 2018.*



*Dr Maura Smiddy presenting her research at the Healthcare Infection Society Conference in Liverpool.*

## Healthcare Infection Society Conference, Liverpool.

Dr Maura Smiddy presented a research poster at the Healthcare Infection Society Conference in Liverpool on the 26th November. Her poster was entitled "Evaluation of a national observational hand hygiene auditing campaign to improve hand hygiene in Ireland".

## 100 Years of Suffrage Anniversary, Commemoration Parade.

100 years ago, in December 1918, Irish women, over 30 and with property, received the vote. To commemorate this, on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, a celebratory parade took place around the Main Quad, UCC. The parade was led by Mrs Sabina Higgins, wife of the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and organised by Dr Finola Doyle O'Neill, School of History, UCC. Following the commemorative march, there was a series of short orations from well-known suffragettes in the Aula Maxima, North Wing. These included Mary MacSwiney, performed by our very own [Ms. Ber Madden](#). Well done Ber!



*Ber Madden performing a short oration as Mary MacSwiney in the Aula Maxima, UCC.*

## MEET...

## Dr Linda O'Keefe



Linda is a graduate of the BSc in Public Health (2010) and HRB SPHeRE programme (2014). Following completion of her PhD here at the School, she went on to work at the Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge and subsequently secured a four year MRC fellowship to study the life course epidemiology of cardiovascular risk, based at the University of Bristol. Linda is currently a visiting fellow at the School of Public Health and will be with us until next summer. Over the next several months she will work closely with Patricia, Tony and others and contribute to teaching, seminars and other activities across the School. She is keen to develop new networks and collaborations while here and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in life course methods, causal inference or cardiovascular health in general.

### Did you know?

Linda became interested in research during the first year of the BSc in Public Health when she got a part time job in the School (then department) in 2007. She was employed to help organise the Society for Social Medicine Conference but also ended up getting involved in lots of other work including the riveting task of data entry using teleform



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2019

#### January

[International Conference of Public Health and Preventive Medicine](#), 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January, Sanya, China

#### February

[5<sup>th</sup> Annual SPHeRE Network Conference](#), 26<sup>th</sup> February RCSI, Dublin, Ireland

#### March

[International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#), 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, Glasgow, Scotland

#### April

[19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Integrated Care](#) 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April, San Sebastian, Spain

[Behaviour Change for Health: Digital & Beyond 2019](#) 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April, London, England

[European Association for the Study of Obesity](#), 28<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May, Glasgow, Scotland

[Society for Behavioural Medicine 40th Annual Scientific Meeting and Sessions](#) 06<sup>th</sup> -09<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Washington

[26<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Obesity](#), 28<sup>th</sup> April-01<sup>st</sup> May 2019, Glasgow, Scotland.

#### May

[88<sup>th</sup> European General Practice Research Network Meeting](#), 09-12<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Tampere, Finland.

[Qualitative Methods Conference](#), 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Brisbane, Australia

[21st International Conference on Occupational Healthcare](#), 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May, Tokyo, Japan

[7<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Public Health, Nutrition and Epidemiology](#) 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, Singapore

#### June

[International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity \(ISBNPA\)](#), 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June, Prague, Czech Republic.

#### July

[Society for Academic Primary Care](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July, University of Exeter, England

#### August

[Global Conference on Addiction and Behavioural Health](#) 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August, London, UK.

#### September

[30<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention](#). 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September, Derry, Northern Ireland.

[International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#), 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September, Taipei, Republic of China.

[33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of European Health Psychology Society](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

[Society for Social Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting and European Congress of Epidemiology 2019](#), 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Cork, Ireland.

[6<sup>th</sup> UK Congress on Obesity](#), 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September, Leeds England

[55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes](#) 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September, Vienna, Austria.

[Euro-Global Conference on Paediatrics and Neonatology](#) 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September London, UK.

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