



EPINews

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Newsletter

October 2016

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Since the last issue, a number of our outstanding PhD students have submitted their PhD theses. Congratulations to Ms Sarah Fitzgerald, Ms Dervla Hogan and Mr Jamie Madden on this wonderful achievement and the very best of luck with your upcoming Vivas. On Wednesday last, Dr Sharon Cadogan successfully defended her thesis entitled '*The design, implementation and evaluation of a laboratory based intervention to optimise serum immunoglobulin test use in primary care*'. Sharon's PhD explored the efficiency of laboratory test use among primary care physicians in the South of Ireland, with a key focus on the design, development and evaluation of a behaviour change intervention targeting serum immunoglobulin test use. This research was a collaboration with the Department of Haematology at Cork University Hospital, under the supervision of Professor Mary Cahill, Professor John Browne and Professor Colin Bradley. We wish you all the best for your future career Dr Cadogan!

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 emily.kelleher@ucc.ie

Ms. Emily Kelleher

DEPARTMENT NEWS

2016 EASD Annual Meeting

In September, the [European Association for the Study of Diabetes](#) held their 52nd Annual Meeting in Munich. [Dr Sheena McHugh](#), Research Fellow in the [Department of Epidemiology and Public Health](#), was in attendance to present her research entitled '[Prevalence and Risk of Falls among Older People with Diabetes in Ireland](#)'. The aim of this study is to estimate the prevalence of falls among older people with diabetes and identify the risk factors which may mediate the relationship between diabetes and falls using nationally representative data from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing ([TILDA](#)). The mission of EASD is to promote excellence in diabetes care through research and education.

IN THIS ISSUE

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

CORE TEACHING PROGRAMMES

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

University of Alberta Placement

Ms Emily Kelleher, PhD Scholar in Population Health and Health Services Research, is currently working on

her PhD which explores the implementation of a community-based, family-focused, multicomponent programme for the treatment of childhood obesity. As part of her international placement she got the opportunity to spend time with Dr Geoff Ball and his colleagues at the Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Geoff's research in pediatric obesity takes a number of different methodological approaches that include clinical trials, qualitative inquiry, reviews, and clinical studies, with the overarching goal of generating new knowledge that can optimize weight management care for childhood obesity. The team's current research projects include: comparing different group-based, parent-focused interventions for the management of obesity in 8–12

year olds, working with primary care to prevent obesity in children and youth and finally understanding families' decisions regarding initiating, continuing, and terminating weight management care. The latter area of research is an area Emily is concentrating on albeit in a community-based setting and while on placement she received invaluable guidance and advice from Geoff and his team. Emily would like to extend her deepest gratitude to Geoff, Arnaldo, Jill, Nadia, Maryam and Nicole for their warm welcome! For more information you can subscribe to their blog [Childhood Obesity Research Insight](#).

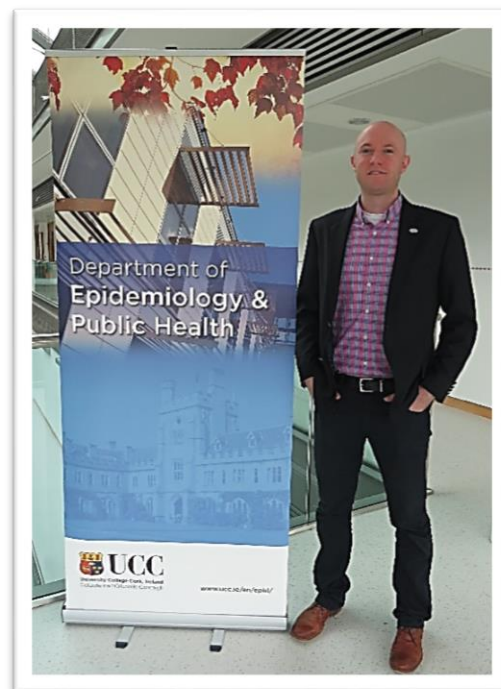


Studies within a Trial (SWAT) Award

Earlier this year the HRB-TRMN School Teaching Awareness of Randomized Trial ([START](#)) competition invited 4th, 5th and 6th class students and their teachers to design, carry out and evaluate their very own clinical trial. Students from Cork Educate Together National School (C.E.T.N.S) scooped second place for their entry entitled '[The Sequential Art Trial](#)' which proved that cartoons, comics and visual aids can assist children to achieve better results in their tests. In June, [Prof Patricia Kearney](#) and [Ms Caroline Hurley](#) (UCC START Trial Ambassador) welcomed students and staff from C.E.T.N.S to a small award ceremony held in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health to acknowledge and celebrate the students' great work. The START competition will run again in 2017.

Welcome Dr Christopher Seitz

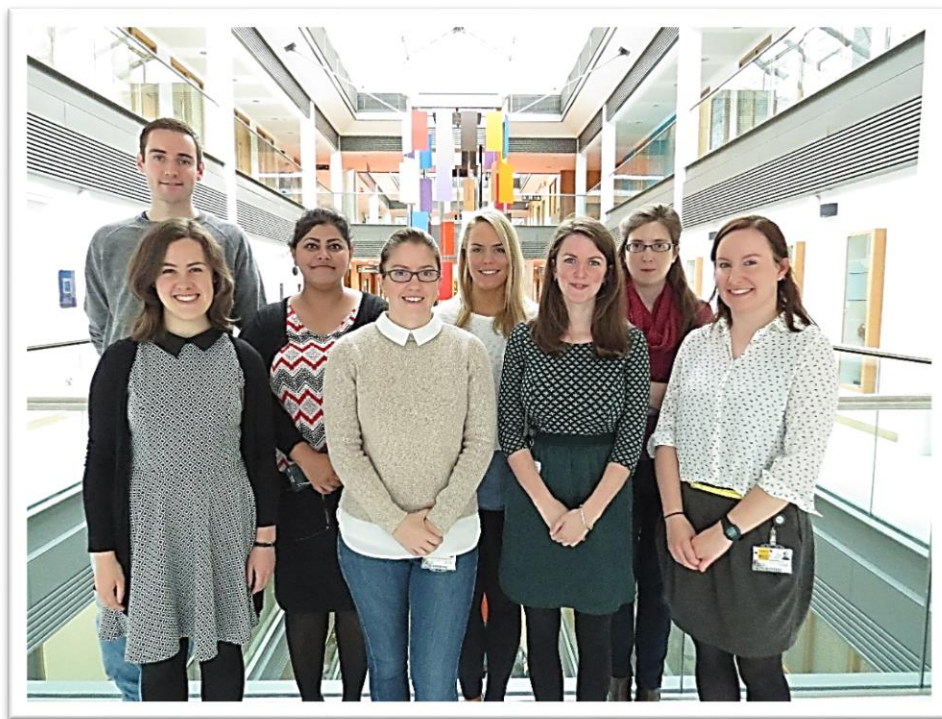
Christopher Seitz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public and Community Health at Liberty University, located in Lynchburg, Virginia. He will be a Fulbright Scholar in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College Cork. His teaching and research will focus on collaborating with students through a "photovoice" project to advocate for a change in university policies that could improve the health of those on campus. He will also work with faculty members in the department on various tobacco control and alcohol related research projects.



Dr Christopher Seitz

SSM 2016

The [Department](#) of Epidemiology was well represented at this year's 60th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Social Medicine, which was held in the University of York from 13-16th September. During the three days, various colleagues showcased their work in the areas of public policy, health promotion and clinical practice on the prevention and management of obesity, diabetes and related metabolic disorders. [Dr. Conor Foley](#), was in attendance to present his research entitled 'Understanding perspectives on major service changes: Exploring the development and communication of arguments for and against system reconfiguration' on the first day of the conference. PhD students [Ms Emily Kelleher](#) and [Ms Fiona Riordan](#) also presented their research on childhood obesity and diabetes respectively. In addition to these oral presentations, [Ms Caragh Flannery](#), [Ms Brenda Lynch](#), [Ms Laura McCarthy](#), [Ms Kate O'Neill](#) and [Ms Shelly Chakraborty](#) presented posters highlighting other research projects related to this field. The Society for Social Medicine aims to promote the development of scientific knowledge in social medicine, and covers a range of subjects including epidemiology, the medical and health needs of society, the provision and organization of health services and the prevention of disease.



From L-R: Staff who presented at the most recent SSM 60th Annual Conference held at York University

SPHeRE Updates...

[SPHeRE](#) are hosting their 3rd Annual Conference on Thursday 12th January 2017 in the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. This conference creates a space for dialogue between all interested stakeholders in the field of Population and Health Services Research throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland and showcases existing studies which will be of interest to Irish policymakers and practitioners. The theme of the 3rd SPHeRE Network Annual Conference is 'Supporting solutions: Connecting Research, Policy and Practice'. Considering this, the specific role of population health research and health services research in supporting solution for policy and practice will be discussed. Registration will open on 29th November.

Furthermore, the [SPHeRE Blog](#) is up and running. The focus of the SPHeRE blog will be to contribute to discussion on topical issues. It is envisaged that the blog will be updated every two weeks with new content ranging from public health policy formation and deliberation to health services practice and population health research. The blog will have a range of contributors from individuals across the SPHeRE network. Should you have any ideas or topics to contribute to the blog, please don't hesitate to contact [Martin Davoren](#) at m.davoren@ucc.ie

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Evaluating the implementation of a national clinical programme for diabetes to standardise and improve services: a realist evaluation protocol.](#) McHugh S, Tracey ML, Riordan F, O'Neill K, Mays N, Kearney PM. *Implementation Science*. 2016;11(1):1-13.

[Metabolically healthy obesity across the life course: epidemiology, determinants, and implications.](#) Phillips CM. *Ann N Y Acad Sci*. 2016 Oct 10. doi: 10.1111/nyas.13230.

[Diageo's' Stop Out of Control Drinking' Campaign in Ireland: An Analysis.](#) Petticrew M, Fitzgerald N, Durand MA, Knai C, Davoren MP, Perry IJ. *PloS one* 2016, 11(9):e0160379.

[Risk based monitoring \(RBM\) tools for clinical trials: A systematic review.](#) Hurley C, Shiely F, Power J, Clarke M, Eustace JA, Flanagan E, Kearney PM. *Contem Clin Trials* November 2016;51, 15-27

[Walking in hospital is associated with a shorter length of stay in older medical inpatients.](#) McCullagh R, Dillon C, Dahly D, Horgan NF, Timmons S. *Physiol. Meas.* 2016;37(10):1872.

[The association between weight perception and BMI: Report and measurement data from the Growing Up in Ireland Study of 9-year olds.](#) *International Journal of Obesity*. Shiely F, H Yan Ng, EM Berkery, C Murrin, CC Kelleher, K Hayes. 2016 Sep 27. doi: 10.1038/ijo.2016.162.

[The Effects of Mindfulness Interventions on Prenatal Well-being: A Systematic Review.](#) Matvienko-Sikar K, Lee L, Murphy G, Murphy L. *Psych and Hlth*, 2016;31(12): 1415-1434

[The association between parental attitudes and alcohol consumption and adolescent alcohol consumption in Southern Ireland: a cross-sectional study.](#) Murphy E, O'Sullivan I, O'Donovan D, Hope A, Davoren MP. *BMC Public Health* 2016, 16(1):821.

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

Welcome to all new postgraduate students to the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health!

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health began on the 1st of September 2016 with an extremely strong cohort of students. While final numbers are still being processed through registration, [Prof Ivan Perry](#), [Dr. Janas Harrington](#), [Mr Declan Whelan-Curtin](#) and many other teaching staff, welcomed over 50 students to the programme at orientation. Some of these students were part of other innovative, multidisciplinary programmes now linked with the MPH, such as the [Masters in Dental Public Health](#), [MSc in Older Person Rehabilitation](#) and the new [M.A in Health and Society](#). The new M.A in Health and Society is a collaboration between the [Department of Philosophy](#) and the [Department of Epidemiology and Public Health](#). The very first cohort of 6 students have begun this exciting new course and their experiences and feedback will no doubt mould the future of this programme.



Master of Public Health Class 2017

MSc Occupational Health

The MSc Occupational Health began with a fresh intake of students on September 12th 2016 with introductions from [Prof Ivan Perry](#), [Dr Birgit Greiner](#), [Mr Declan Whelan-Curtin](#) and contributing internal and external lecturers.

The [MSc in Occupational Health](#), this year, sees its largest intake since its inception with 27 students registered for the two year part-time programme and a waiting list in place should places become available. The huge popularity of the programme this year is due to a focused marketing campaign by the Occupational Health team as well as increasing interest in this ever evolving area. Students come from diverse backgrounds in academia and practice such as Nursing, Psychology, Sociology, Public Health, Health and Safety, as well as Health and Safety Practitioners, Managers, Health and Safety Representatives and a Prison Officer. This wide and diverse student profile adds significantly to the peer learning approach encouraged throughout the MSc.



Class of MSc Occupational Health 2017

Aurora programme 2016 / 2017

Congratulations to [Ms Maura Smiddy](#), Lecturer in Health Protection, who was awarded with a place on the Aurora programme for 2016 / 2017. [Aurora](#) is the women-only leadership development programme developed by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education in the UK in response to research which indicated that the level of women in influential and senior positions in higher education is now lower than 10 years ago. It is a five year research project, with two more years remaining. The programme is targeted at women in lecturer, senior lecturer, research and professional services roles across all academic disciplines and throughout university administration. It is designed to introduce key leadership topics and skills in 4 workshops (each 1 day), complemented by networking, role models and guest speakers at each event. Further, on-going support is ensured through action learning, online resources and institutional level support including mentoring and institutional Aurora Champions. In 2016-17, UCC committed to make again available up to 20 places on the Aurora Programme 2016-2017. Congratulations Maura!



Benard Bene and Philip Fadahunsi of Imperial College London and Ms Caragh Flannery

City University London visit

In June, third year [SPHeRE](#) scholar [Caragh Flannery](#) travelled to the School of Health Sciences at City University London, a world-leading centre for healthcare education and applied healthcare research, for her international placement. Caragh spent three weeks working under the guidance of [Dr Ellinor Olander](#) who is a widely published researcher in the field of obesity, weight management and service development for obese pregnant women. Ellinor and Caragh have teamed up to work on a systematic review entitled "*Physical activity interventions for overweight and obesity during pregnancy: a systematic review of behaviour change interventions*" which is part of Caragh's PhD. While on placement Caragh attended a Patient and Public Involvement session run by the Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research where women shared their pregnancy experiences and gave advice to different research teams. Caragh also had the opportunity to present her work to the Health Psychology Group at City University; furthermore she gave a seminar at Centre for Behaviour Change, University College London and linked in with Dr John O'Donoghue (a past student of UCC) and his research team at the School of Public Health, Imperial College London. Caragh's PhD focuses on exploring the feasibility and potential effectiveness of a technology supported behaviour change intervention for physical activity during pregnancy and is using the Behaviour Change Wheel to create a physical activity intervention for overweight and obese pregnant women.

9th Annual Diabetes Conference

The 9th annual diabetes conference was held in Cork on 21st of September. This conference has grown from strength to strength with an attendance of 98 at the inaugural conference in 2008, to an attendance of 260 booking this year. The theme of this year's conference was '*Prevent, Detect, Intervene: Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention*' with the goal that all participants would leave the conference with newly acquired skills and knowledge, that can be used in improving the care that they provide to patients with diabetes. Prof Donal O'Shea, Clinical Lead for Weight Management at St. Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown opened the conference with a session on '*Where to start with the Prevention of Diabetes*'. [Ms Marsha Treacy](#), PhD Student in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, presented her work on the patient's perspective of attendance and non-attendance for retinopathy screening while Dr James Ryan, newly appointed Endocrinologist in the Mater Private Hospital in Cork, addressed the conference on achieving optimum control to prevent the complications of diabetes. Finally Ms Pauline Lynch informed the meeting of the services available at the newly opened Diabetes Care Centre in St. Mary's Street Cork.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Identity Construction In Dementia Caregiving: "Them" And "Us"](#). Matvienko-Sikar K, McCarthy J. Age and Ageing 2016;45(suppl 2):ii13-ii56

[General practitioner views on the determinants of test ordering: a theory-based qualitative approach to the development of an intervention to improve immunoglobulin requests in primary care](#). Cadogan SL, McHugh SM, Bradley CP, Browne JP, Cahill MR. Imp Sci 2016 Jul 19;11(1):102.

[Drivers for inappropriate fever management in children: a systematic review](#). Kelly M, Sahm LJ, Shiely F, O'Sullivan R, McGillicuddy A, McCarthy S. Int Jof Clinl Pharm, 2016 Aug;38(4):761-70.

[A Systematic Review of the Effects of Mindfulness Interventions on Cortisol](#). O'Leary K, O'Neill S, Dockray S. J Hlth Psych 2016; 21(9):2108-21.

[Trial of a novel plasma gas disinfection system \(Radica\) to reduce mattress residual bacterial contamination in the acute hospital setting: a preliminary study](#). Shiely F, Fallon D, Casey C, Kerins DM, Eustace JA. Ir J Med Sci. 2016 Jan 21

[Factors associated with current and severe physical side-effects after prostate cancer treatment: What men report](#). Steentjes L, Siesling S, Drummond FJ, van Manen JG, Sharp L, Gavin A. Eur J Cancer Care. DOI: 10.1111/ecc.12589

[Why Did U.S. Healthcare Professionals Become Involved in Torture During the War on Terror?](#) Balfe M. J Bioeth Inq. 2016 Sep;13(3):449-60.

[The association between parental attitudes and alcohol consumption and adolescent alcohol consumption in Southern Ireland: a cross-sectional study](#). Murphy E, O'Sullivan I, O'Donovan D, Hope A, Davoren MP. BMC Public Health 2016, 16(1):821.

Follow Us

Come join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter



Global Burden of Disease

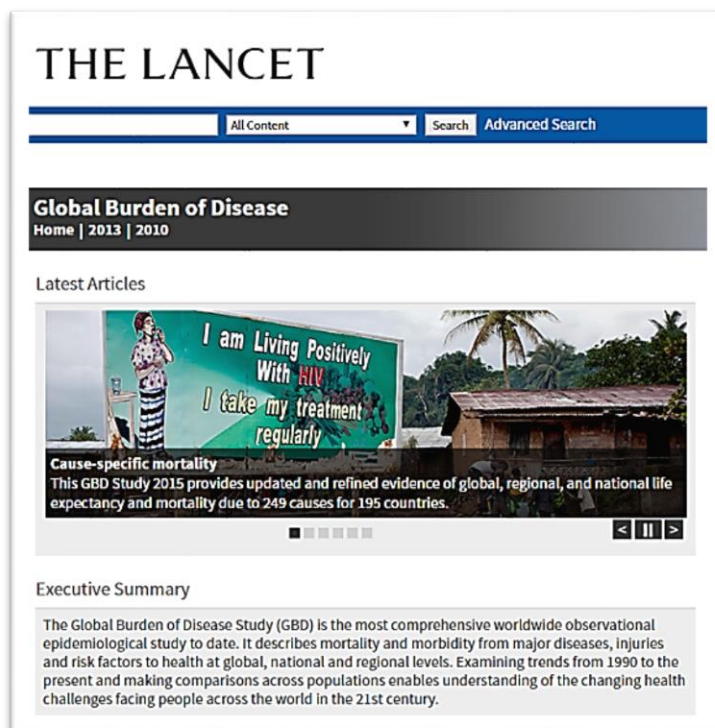
The [2015 Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study](#) (GBD) was launched in a special Lancet series on 8th October 2016.

[Dr Zubair Kabir](#), Senior Lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, is the GBD collaborator from Ireland to have contributed to all these seven capstone papers published in the Lancet, as one of the co-authors, in collaboration with the Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation (IHME), United States- Dr Christopher Murray and his team at the IHME.

With GBD now in its 20th year, for the first time GBD collaborators from around the globe benchmarks countries based on a combination of income, education, and fertility through a new index termed as the Socio-Demographic Index (SDI). This SDI was employed to develop a health-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) score, which captures the overall performance of a nation.

Iceland tops the list with an overall SDG score of 85, but Ireland is not far behind, with an overall score of 81 ranking 13. However, the areas where Ireland has achieved an overall score of 50-60 are: overweight; HIV, suicide, alcohol and smoking highlighting the specific areas where the Irish government has to invest in more.

For more information on the GBD Study please contact [Dr Zubair Kabir \(z.kabir@ucc.ie\)](mailto:z.kabir@ucc.ie) or [Ms Shelly Chakraborty \(shelly.chakraborty@ucc.ie\)](mailto:shelly.chakraborty@ucc.ie).



The screenshot shows the Lancet website interface. At the top, it says 'THE LANCET' with a search bar and 'All Content' dropdown. Below that is a navigation bar with 'Home | 2013 | 2010'. The main heading is 'Global Burden of Disease'. Underneath, there's a section for 'Latest Articles' featuring a banner image of a woman with a sign that says 'I am Living Positively With HIV I take my treatment regularly'. Below the banner is a text box titled 'Cause-specific mortality' with a summary of the study. At the bottom, there's an 'Executive Summary' section.

MEET...

Dr Zubair Kabir



Dr Zubair Kabir

[Dr Zubair Kabir](#), Senior Lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, a graduate of medicine from India in 1990, went on to complete a higher specialty training in public health medicine from India in 1996. He moved to Ireland in 1999 for greener pastures on an Indo-Irish Fellowship Program to pursue an MSc in Public Health in TCD, which led to obtaining a PhD from TCD in 2004.

Zubair held post-doctoral positions in TCD, HSPH, Tobacco Free Research Institute Ireland, before joining this Department in September 2012. He was elected a Fellow to the American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP) in October 2014 in recognition of his work in global tobacco control.

Zubair hails from a teaching family and as a result loves teaching. He is a lead on several MPH (both [online](#) and [campus-based](#)) modules including Epidemiology & Tobacco Control. He juggles teaching and other administrative duties. For example he serves as an Editor on several journals and leads the [Tobacco Use Insights Journal](#). Zubair serves on several committees within UCC including SREC (social research ethics committee) and is also a member of the Research & Post-Graduate Action Committee (RPAC) within the School of Medicine.

Zubair collaborates with international research partners. More recently he contributed to the [2015 Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study](#) (GBD) which was launched in a special Lancet series on 8th October 2016.

Did you know? On Saturday afternoons you may spot Zubair on St Patrick Street lecturing on the 'Epidemiology of Islam'!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2016

[Statistics for Nutrition Research](#), 9th
November, London, UK

[9th European Public Health Conference](#),
9-12th November, Vienna, Austria

[AICR 2016 Research Conference on
Nutrition, Physical Activity, Obesity,
and Cancer](#), 14-16th November, North
Bethesda, United States

[ICPAH: 6th International Congress on
Physical Activity and Public Health](#), 16-
19th November, Bangkok, Thailand

[A New Politics for Health – Moving
Forward from the Ottawa Charter](#), 23rd
November, Birmingham, UK

[European Scientific Conference on
Applied Infectious Disease
Epidemiology \(ESCAIDE\)](#), 28th -30th
November, Stockholm, Sweden

December 2016

[Winter Conference: Diet, Nutrition and
Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), 6-7th
December, London, UK

[New Horizons Research Conference](#),
8th December, UCC, Cork

January 2017

[Sphere 3rd Annual Conference](#), 12th
January 2017, Royal College of
Surgeons, Dublin

February 2017

[15th World Congress on Public Health](#),
3 – 7th April, Melbourne Australia

[3rd Digital Behaviour Change
Conference 2017](#), 22-23rd February,
UCL, London

March 2017

[Diabetes UK Professional Conference
2017](#), 8-10th March, Manchester, UK

[ICOHS 2017: 19th International
Conference on Occupational Health
and Safety](#), 9-10th March, Miami, USA
[6th International Conference on the
History of Occupational and
Environmental Health](#), 29-31st March
Gothenburg, Sweden

April 2017

[International Society for
Pharmacoepidemiology \(ISPE\) Mid-
Year Meeting](#), 1-4th April, London, U.K

[15th World Congress on Public Health](#),
3 – 7th April 2017, Melbourne, Australia

[International Forum on Quality and
Safety in Healthcare](#), 26-28th April,
London

May 2017

[7th ICOH Cardiovascular Diseases and
work Environment International
Conference](#), 3-5th May, Varese, Italy

[24th European Congress on Obesity
\(ECO2017\)](#), 17-20th May, Porto,
Portugal

June 2017

[International Society for Behavioural
Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual
Conference](#), 7-10th June, Victoria,
Canada

[23rd Symposium on Shiftwork and
Working Time](#), 19 – 23rd June, Ayers
Rock Resort, Northern Territory,
Australia

July 2017

[2017 International Health Conference
'Patient Centered Care'](#), 29th June - 1st
July 2017, Oxford, UK

August 2017

[33rd International Conference on
Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic
Risk Management](#), 23-27th August,
Nova Scotia, Canada

[International Forum on Quality and
Safety in Healthcare](#), 24-26th August,
Kuala Lumpur

[EPICOH 2017 Conference - Eliminating
Occupational Risk: Translating
Research into Action](#), 28 – 31st August,
Edinburgh, Scotland

[6th International Congress of the ICOH
Scientific Committee on Work
Organization and Psychosocial Factors
\(ICOH-WOPS\)](#), 29th August – 1st
September, Mexico City, Mexico

September 2017

[Xxi World Congress on Safety and
Health at Work 2017](#), 3rd – 6th
September, Singapore

[UK Congress on Obesity](#), 7-8th
September, Pontypridd, Wales

[53rd European Association for the Study
of Diabetes \(EASD\) Annual Meeting](#),
11-15th September, Lisbon, Portugal

[10th European Public Health
Conference 2017](#); sustaining resilient
and healthy communities. 1st -4th
November, Stockholm, Sweden,

Ongoing

[Stata courses](#)

[Stata training](#)

CONTACT US:

Epidemiology & Public Health,
Western Gateway Building, Western
Road, University College Cork, Cork,

TEL: +353 (0)21 420 5500

EMAIL: EPIDEMIOLOGY@UCC.IE

