



EPINews

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Newsletter

March 2015

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of EPINews for 2015. The year kicked off to a great start with a number of successes for the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. The new integrated Course in Occupational Health began in January with 16 individuals enrolled in the programme. The format of this course is entirely online, is run part-time over 18 months and is offered by experienced academic experts and professionals from the community of health and safety practitioners. Initial feedback has been very positive and interest surrounding the programme is ever-increasing.

PhD candidate Martin Davoren has been busy making headlines as his protégées Eimear Murphy and Ian O'Sullivan were crowned winners of the 51st BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. Furthermore, Martin caught the public's interest with his work exploring hazardous alcohol consumption and related adverse consequences. Like previous issues I would encourage you to circulate EPINews among your colleagues and direct any queries or comments to me at emily.kelleher@ucc.ie

With Best Wishes,
Ms. Emily Kelleher

DEPARTMENT NEWS

New HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research (CHDR) website

The HRB CHDR is a leading research hub in Public Health Nutrition which focuses on promoting the health and wellbeing of the Irish population. Established in 2008, its purpose is to inform public policy, health promotion, clinical practice and the citizen. The long term goal of the centre is to develop a cohesive and sustainable National Centre for Health and Diet research linking with national and international centres of excellence and supporting policy and practice in health. The Centre has recently launched an updated project website which provides an effective platform to transfer and disseminate knowledge and create awareness of the Centre's work. This includes all the latest publications and reports, projects and research and the most up-to-date news of the Centre's achievements and awards. For more information please visit the centres [website](#).

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Student alcohol use signals last call for national intervention

This cross-sectional class-room based study, exploring Hazardous Alcohol Consumption and related adverse consequences with a particular interest in gender differences, was led by UCC researcher and PhD candidate [Martin Davoren](#), originally from North Clare, with input from UCC colleagues [Dr Frances Shiely](#) and [Professor Ivan Perry](#) of UCC's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and Dr Michael Byrne, Head of UCC's Student Health Department.

The study found a high prevalence of hazardous alcohol consumption among the 2,275 undergraduates who responded compared to the general population. Noteworthy is the narrowing of the gender gap with patterns of hazardous alcohol consumption now similar in men and women. A key finding was that 66.4% of students responding reported hazardous alcohol consumption, 65.2% for men and 67.3% for women. At the higher end of the scale, approximately 17% of men and 5% of women were consuming more than six units of alcohol at least 4 times per week, and in some cases on a daily basis. Read the [full text](#) in *BMJ Open*.

PhD Scholar Graduations

Huge congratulations to Dr. Maria Boyce and Dr. Sarah-Jo Sinnott on their recent graduation from University College Cork. Both were recipients of a four year scholarship on the prestigious Health Research Board Ireland PhD Scholars Programme in Health Services Research. Maria's PhD entitled "*The effectiveness of using patient-reported outcome measures as quality improvement tools*" explored the effectiveness of PROMs in improving the quality of care for patients undergoing hip replacement surgery. Dr Boyce is currently working as a clinical audit analyst at Bon Secours Hospital in Cork. Sarah-Jo's PhD research focused on analysing the impact of recently introduced prescription charges on the Medical Card scheme (national public health insurance) on adherence to different types of medicines. Dr. Sinnott joined the ESRI in January 2015 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Health Economics. We wish them every success for their future.



From L-R: Dr. Maria Boyce and Dr. Sarah-Jo Sinnott at their recent PhD Graduation



Martin Davoren, PhD Candidate dept. Epidemiology and Public Health, University College Cork, Photo Credit: Thomas Tyner

Mitchelstown Cohort continues to deliver

The Association of University Departments of General Practice in Ireland (AUDGPI) 2015 Conference was held in Belfast on March 6th. Congratulations to [Dr. Carol Sinnott](#), Department of General Practice, who was awarded with the Professor William Shannon Prize for her presentation and research on "*Psychosocial complexity in multimorbidity: the legacy of adverse childhood experiences*". This study was a secondary analysis of data from the Mitchelstown cohort.

Congratulations to Ms. E Von Choung, 4th year Medical student, who recently presented her work entitled "*The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on Later-life Mental Health and Well-being*" at the 7th Annual Medicine and the Humanities and Social Sciences Conference held at Sam Houston State University in Texas. This conference aimed to promote interdisciplinary discussion around contemporary health challenges, to develop networks for future research, and to examine how social factors facilitate the health and well-being of children and adults across the global community.



From L-R: Cllr. Mary Shields, Lord Mayor of Cork, Mr. Mark Stanton UCC Students Union President, Dr. Michael Murphy, UCC President and Sandra Coughlan, Senior Health Promotion Officer, HSE South

UCC leads way on becoming first Irish Health Promoting University

Guided by the UCC Health Matters project the University followed the HSE South's Framework for Health Promoting Universities and has gained formal recognition. This is the culmination of several years' work and acknowledges that health has been meaningfully integrated into the culture, processes and policies of UCC under the umbrella of the Health Matters initiative. The Department of Epidemiology and Public Health has been integral in establishing this status with Professor Ivan Perry acting as chair of the steering group since its inception in 2010. Others involved include [Mr Martin Davoren](#), [Ms Mary Cronin](#), [Ms Fiona Geaney](#), [Dr Frances Shiely](#) and Ms Caroline Daly of the [National Suicide Research Foundation](#). A ceremony took place on the 25th of February where the HSE South presented UCC with a flag representing the University's continued commitment to health promotion.

Success at the 51st BT Young Scientist Competition

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy and Ian O'Sullivan, both from Coláiste Treasa in Kanturk, who were crowned winners of the 51st BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition with their project entitled 'Alcohol Consumption: Does the apple fall far from the tree?'. Under the supervision of Martin Davoren, their study aimed to identify one potential cause of hazardous drinking in teenagers – parental drinking habits and attitudes to their children's drinking. Fifth and sixth year students from the Kanturk-Mallow area were surveyed. Uniquely for this type of survey, the parents of 360 of these students also agreed to report on their own drinking and attitudes. They discovered that fathers' drinking levels were a major factor in teenagers' excessive drinking while fathers' attitudes to alcohol are crucial in shaping drinking of both boys and girls.



Pictured L-R: PhD candidate Martin Davoren with BT Young Scientist winners Eimear Murphy and Ian O'Sullivan from Coláiste Treasa in Kanturk, Co. Cork and their Science teacher Mr. Derry O'Donovan

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Overweight and obesity on the island of Ireland: an estimation of costs.](#) Dee A, Callinan A, Doherty E, O'Neill C, McVeigh T, Sweeney MR, et al. *BMJ Open*. 2015;5(3).

[Nutrition knowledge, diet quality and hypertension in a working population.](#) Geaney F, Fitzgerald S, Harrington JM, Kelly C, Greiner BA, Perry IJ. *Preventive Medicine Reports*. 2015;2(0):105-13.

[What to give the patient who has everything? A qualitative study of prescribing for multimorbidity in primary care.](#) Sinnott C, Hugh SM, Boyce MB, Bradley CP. *The British journal of general practice : the journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*. 2015;65(632).

[The influence of partial public reimbursement on vaccination uptake in the older population: a cross-sectional study.](#) McHugh SM, Browne J, O'Neill C, Kearney PM. *BMC Public Health* 2015, 15:83

[Implementation and evaluation of a clinical data management programme in a primary care centre.](#) J Sweeney S McHugh, IJ Perry. *Irish Medical Journal* 2014;107:10

Evaluation of ABPM in a primary care centre. Barry L, J Sweeney, Herlihy D, Murphy EL. *Forum Journal of the Irish College of General Practitioners* 2015;32:1



Auckland, New Zealand

International research visit to the University of Auckland

In December 2014, [Dr Sheena McHugh](#) visited the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the School of Population Health, University of Auckland, New Zealand. This visit was part of the HRB Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement research programme examining lifestyle transitions across the life course. Sheena's research focuses on the health service determinants of obstetric interventions using data from the SCOPE study (Screening for Pregnancy Endpoints). SCOPE is an observational prospective cohort study conducted in New Zealand (Auckland), Australia (Adelaide), UK (Manchester and London, Leeds and Manchester), and Republic of Ireland (Cork). Prof. Louise Kenny, collaborator on the HRB ICE project, is the PI of the Irish SCOPE study conducted in Cork University Maternity Hospital. In Auckland, Sheena worked with Prof. Lesley McCowan and Prof. Philip Baker, PIs of the Auckland SCOPE study, and Reneé Taylor, SCOPE study coordinator.

SCOPE participants were healthy nulliparous women with singleton pregnancies and the primary aim was to develop screening tests to predict preeclampsia, small for gestational age infants and spontaneous preterm birth. During her visit, Sheena collated data on the model of care from the Auckland cohort and analysed the impact of public/private patient status on induction rates among healthy first time mothers. She also attended a research seminar and met with researchers at Gravida, the National Centre for Growth and Development based at the University of Auckland.

Welcome to new staff

A number of new staff have joined the department. We would like to welcome;

[Conor Foley](#) joined the department as a post-doctoral researcher on the HRB-funded study of the Impact of Reconfiguration on Emergency and Urgent Care Networks ([SIREN](#)).

Post-doctoral researcher [Eoin Coughlan](#) is currently working on the HRB funded 'Research on the Emergency Department Adult Clinical Escalation (RED-ACE)' based in the Emergency Department at Cork University Hospital.

[Declan Whelan-Curtin](#) is the new course co-ordinator/administrator for the MSc Occupational Health within the Department. Declan combines his role in the Department with his position as Health Promotion Project Worker with UCC Health Matters.

[Shauni Fitzgerald](#) is currently employed as a research assistant on the DEDIPAC,

determinants of diet and physical activity project.

Laura McCarthy has been working with the Departments E-learning team and is currently assisting with the development of an Online MSc in Occupational Health.

Marian O'Meara is working on a number of activities within the Department including acting as work placement co-ordinator on the BSc Public Health programme, HRBCHDR and Department website administrator as well as being a key member of the E-Learning team.

Liz Johnson has recently joined the team to work on re-screening of participants involved in the Mitchelstown Cohort Study which is to begin later this year.

[Shelly Chabraborty](#), began her PhD in December under the supervision of [Dr Zubair Kabir](#). Her PhD primarily focuses on the National Burden of Cancer and other obesity related diseases in the Republic of

Ireland and is funded by Centre for Health and Diet Research (Health Research Board).

Ms Fiona Barry joined the Department in March 2015 as a Lecturer in Health Protection. Fiona will be involved in teaching at both undergraduate and post-graduate level.

For more information on staff please visit the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health [website](#).

Sphere 2014/2015

We would also like to welcome scholars [Ms Rebecca Dennehy](#), [Ms Brenda Lynch](#), [Ms Ailbhe Spillane](#), [Ms Sarah-Jane Flaherty](#), [Ms Caragh Flannery](#) and [Mr Kieran Walsh](#) who recently began their PhDs on the [SPHeRE](#) programme.

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CRF-C

The HRB Clinical Research Facility Cork (**CRF-C**) was established to promote excellence in the design, safe conduct and analysis of patient-focused research. The purpose of the CRF-C is to provide the dedicated infrastructure, experienced research and support staff and the necessary quality and oversight programs that are critical for the successful conduct of world-class patient-focused research. Their vision is to position UCC at the forefront of patient-focused research within Ireland and to enhance its international reputation for research excellence.

The CRF-C is now a centre of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, but it retains its own reporting structure. The Director of the CRF-C is [Professor Joe Eustace](#), a consultant nephrologist and Professor of Patient Focused Research Education. The CRF-C supports studies that gather information and samples from patients with given conditions in order to better understand the causes and consequences of these illnesses. It provides a gateway that allows local researchers to integrate with the research work of colleagues both nationally and internationally and to ensure that the most current advances in treatment are available in Cork.

The HRB CRF-C supports research undertaken through UCC and affiliated hospitals, as well as in the primary care setting. Staff at the CRF-C are happy to guide your study from the conceived idea through funding application, sponsorship, regulatory and ethical submission, data collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination. For further information on the facilities, support and expertise available at the CRF-C please contact us at crfc@ucc.ie or 353 (0) 21 4935150



HRB Clinical Research Facility Cork

MEET...

Dr Frances Shiely



Dr Frances Shiely

[Dr Frances Shiely](#) was appointed Lecturer in Epidemiology and Public Health at UCC in 2005. She obtained her PhD degree from the University of Limerick in 2003 in the area of lifestyle epidemiology, researching on physical activity uptake and maintenance. She held a senior postdoctoral research position from 2003 to 2005 at the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Sciences, University College Dublin where she worked in population health, specifically nutritional epidemiology, obesity and the determinants of health in old age. In 2008 she was a visiting scientist at the Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle where she worked on an STD partner notification study. Frances was appointed Senior Research Methodologist in the HRB Clinical Research Facility, UCC in January 2013.

In March 2015, she was appointed Senior Lecturer in Patient Focused Research Education. In the **CRF-C**, she takes the lead on the Educational aspects of Patient Focused Research. She also provides methodological support to research studies in the CRF-C. Her epidemiological research is both patient-focused and population health focused and her research areas include; methodology of clinical trials; lifestyle epidemiology; risk taking behaviour; physical activity and diet related research for the prevention of disease.

Did you know? Frances is a traditional Irish Music fanatic. She plays Piano Accordion and Tin Whistle with a group in her local pub, weekly, and sings traditional/folk songs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2015

[International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology \(ISPE\) 2015 Mid-Year Meeting](#), April 12-14th, Bordeaux, France

Eradicating Food Poverty among Children and Young People in Ireland: A Partnership Approach, 8:45 - 2:00pm, 15th April College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, 22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2. For more information please contact Delphine: Ph: 00353 (1) 613 9001 or email info@healthyfoodforall.com

[8th International DIP Symposium; Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome & Pregnancy](#), 15-18th April, Berlin, Germany

[9th UK and Ireland Conference on Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology](#), 16th April, Oxfordshire, UK
[IEA 7th Annual International Course](#), 27th April – 8th May, Nepal, India

May 2015

[Work, Stress & Health 2015; Sustainable Work, Sustainable Health, Sustainable Organizations](#), 6-9th May, Georgia, US

Conference of Applied Statisticians in Ireland (CASI), 11-13th May, Maryborough House Hotel and Spa, Cork

[Public Health 2015](#), 25th-28th May, Vancouver, BC

[Global Implementation Conference](#), 26-28th May, Dublin, Ireland

[Integrating Prevention Science and Public Policy](#), 26th-29th May, Washington, DC

[31st International Congress on Occupational Health](#), May 31st – June 5th, Seoul, Korea

June 2015

[Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute 2015](#), 1st-26th June, New York

[14th Meeting of International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity \(ISBNPA\)](#), Advancing Behaviour Change Science, 3-6th June, Edinburgh, Scotland

[Introductory Course on the Epidemiology & Surveillance of Infectious Disease](#), 8-12th June, Colindale, England

[SCOPE School, The principles of combining treatment modalities](#), 9-10th June, London, UK

[28th Residential Summer Course in Epidemiology \(Summer 2015\)](#), 22nd June – 10th July, Florence, Italy

[Advanced Epidemiological and Statistical Methods](#), 22-26th June, Bristol, UK

[European Congress of Epidemiology 2015](#), Healthy Living, 25-27th June, Maastricht, The Netherlands

[APIC Annual Conference 2015](#), 27-29th, Nashville, TN

July 2015

[Summer Session for Public Health Studies](#), 1st July – 14th August, Boston, MA

August 2015

[3rd International Conference on Epidemiology & Emerging Diseases](#), 4th - 6th August, Valencia, Spain

[Measurement, Design, and Analysis Methods for Health Outcomes Research](#), 17-19th August, Boston, MA

[31st International Congress on Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic Risk Management \(ICPE\)](#), 22-26th August, Boston, Massachusetts

[12th Cambridge Diabetes Seminar](#), 23-29th August, Cambridge, UK

[27th Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology \(ISEE\)](#), Addressing Environmental Health Inequalities, 30th August – 3rd September, Sao Paulo, Brazil

September 2015

[Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Social Medicine](#), 2-4th September, Dublin, Ireland

[9th International Conference on Diet and Activity Methods](#), 1-3rd September, Brisbane, Australia

[UK Congress on Obesity \(UKCO\)](#), 9-11th September, Glasgow, Scotland

November 2015

[ESCAIDE 2015](#), European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Diseases Epidemiology, 11th-13th November, Stockholm, Sweden

October 2015

[EUPHA: 8th European Public Health Conference](#), 14-17th October, Milan, Italy

[12th European Nutrition Conference](#), Nutrition and Health throughout the Lifecycle – Science for the European Consumer, 20-23rd October, Berlin, Germany

[World Obesity Federation, Hot Topic Conference: Obesity and Pregnancy](#), 29-30th October, London, UK

May 2016

[International Congress on Obesity \(ICO\) 2016](#), 1-4th May, Vancouver, Canada

Ongoing

[Stata courses](#)

[Stata training](#)

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