

INVITED SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Adaptive homeostasis in the lab, the clinic, and our institution!

Professor Ken D. O'Halloran, *Professor and Chair, Department of Physiology, University College Cork.*



Professor Ken O'Halloran is Professor of Physiology at University College Cork. He is an integrative physiologist with a long-standing interest in the control of breathing in health and disease. The focus of his research group at present is respiratory muscle physiology and neural control of respiratory behaviour in animal models of neuromuscular disease, ageing, and cancer cachexia. His research studies employ multi-disciplinary approaches in pre-clinical models, and extend to include collaborative studies in clinical populations, and studies of cardiorespiratory and renal physiology in humans at high altitude. Ken is a Fellow of The Physiological Society, where he served as Trustee and Meetings Secretary, responsible for the scientific conference portfolio of The Society. He is a senior editor of *Experimental Physiology* and *The Journal of Physiology*.

Professor O'Halloran's talk will take place in Session 1 from 09:10 – 09:35 in WGB_G05.

Public Health approaches to preventing suicide and self-harm: Progress and challenges.

Professor Ella Arensman, *Head of School of Public Health, Professor of Public Mental Health, Chief Scientist, National Suicide Research Foundation, University College Cork.*



Professor Ella Arensman is Head of the School of Public Health, Professor of Public Mental Health with the School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health and Chief Scientist with the National Suicide Research Foundation, University College Cork. She is Vice President of the European Alliance Against Depression and past President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. She is Visiting Professor with the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Griffith University, Brisbane, and an advisor for WHO. Over more than 35 years, she has initiated numerous national and international interdisciplinary research consortia on suicide and self-harm surveillance, intervention and prevention programmes for suicide, self-harm, depression, anxiety, and excess mortality among young people and adults with mental health conditions. Examples of ongoing research consortia and programmes include: Self-Harm Assessment and Management of Self-Harm in General Hospitals (SAMAGH), Adapting and Implementing EAAD's Best Practice Model to Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe (EAAD-Best), Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders: An Interdisciplinary Training, Research and Intervention Programme (MHAINTAIN), Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings" (MENTUPP), COVID-19: Estimating the burden of symptomatic disease in the community and the impact of public health measures on physical, mental and social wellbeing and Promoting Positive Mental and Physical Health at Work in a Changing Environment: A Multi-level Approach (PROSPERH).

Professor Arensman talk will take place in Session 2 from 12:10 – 12:35 in WGB_G05.

EHRA-PATHS: Addressing multimorbidity in elderly atrial fibrillation patients through interdisciplinary, patient-centred, systematic care pathways.

Professor Gerry Lee, *Professor of Nursing and Chair of Health Services Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork.*



Professor Gerry Lee is a Professor of Nursing and Chair of Health Services Research at University College Cork in Ireland. She has worked in advanced practice for thirty years examining the role of nurse practitioner in relation to clinical outcomes. Her main research interests lie in cardiovascular disease, cardio-oncology and optimising health in long-term conditions using shared-decision making and digital technology. In 2018, she established a nurse-led rapid access clinic at St Thomas's Hospital, London for patients with suspected atrial fibrillation and ran this clinic for 5 years. Professor Lee is an ex-officio member of the Council of Cardio-oncology at the European Society of Cardiology. She has published 150 peer reviewed publications and is a principal investigator on a Horizon 2020 European Union EHRA-PATHS study: 'Addressing multimorbidity in elderly atrial fibrillation patients through interdisciplinary, tailored, patient-centered care pathways.' (EHRA-PATHS). **Professor Lee's talk will take place in Session 3 from 15:00 – 15:25 in WGB_G05.**

Experiences from the Coalface: Navigating the highs and lows of clinical trials for the benefit of patient care.

Professor Denis O'Mahony, *Director of Research, HSE South-West Region.*



Professor Denis O'Mahony is a Professor in the Department of Medicine UCC and a Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine to Cork University Hospital and St. Finbarr's Hospital, Cork. Denis was appointed to the role of inaugural Director of Research in the HSE South-West Region, which is a new position in the HSE that will commence in 2025. His main research interests focus on inappropriate prescribing and polypharmacy which are highly prevalent problems globally. These problems apply particularly in elderly patients with multiple comorbid medical conditions, requiring complex pharmacotherapy. Inappropriate prescribing and polypharmacy are associated with increased incidence of adverse drug events with consequently increased morbidity and mortality in this patient group. Denis and his colleagues have devised and validated new criteria for inappropriate prescribing in older people (STOPP/START criteria) aimed at applying them in routine clinical practice for the purpose of minimizing adverse drug reactions and events. His team have completed clinical trials showing that STOPP/START criteria as an intervention significantly improves medication appropriateness and reduces the rate of adverse drug reactions in acutely ill older patients in the hospital setting. Moreover an on-going clinical-trial funded through a Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Award from the Health Research Board is aiming to assess the effectiveness of the intervention in the transition from hospital to primary care.

Professor O'Mahony's talk will take place in Session 3 from 16:20 – 16:45 in WGB_G05.