



NOV 2024, ISSUE 15

SPHPSS IN FOCUS

A quarterly newsletter from the UCD School of Public Health,
Physiotherapy and Sports Science



WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the Autumn issue of SPHPSS in Focus! Thanks to all of our contributors and the Newsletter team we have a bumper edition, jam packed with news on a variety of activities and achievements across the school.

Firstly, a huge thank you to Professor Catherine Blake for her leadership over the last 5 years and very best wishes to Associate Professor James Matthews who takes the reins for the next term.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and BSc Physiotherapy alumna, Ciara Mageean, who won the UCD Alumni Award in Sport 2024. Well done to Associate Professor Caitriona Cunningham who received the Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics Recognition Award.

Since our last issue there have been several new starters in the SPHPSS including Dr Dimuthu Rathnayake, Dr Derval Cumiskey, Laura Rice, Abigail Murfitt and Tiffany Hurtado. We also bid farewell to Associate Professor Cliona O'Sullivan. We wish you all the best in your new roles.

We celebrated the careers and contributions to the SPHPSS of Professor Colin Boreham, who retired from his position as Director of the Institute for Sport and Health, and Mary O'Mahony who retired from her role as Regional Placement Facilitator for Physiotherapy students. Best wishes to you both for your retirement!

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and encourage you to circulate SPHPSS in Focus among your colleagues and networks.

Asst Professor Catherine Phillips
Editor of SPHPSS in Focus

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- School and Division News
- Research Highlights
- Achievements and Awards
- Teaching and Learning Updates
- Healthy UCD events
- School Committee Updates
- New Appointments
- Recent Publications

CORE TEACHING PROGRAMMES

- [BSc Sport, Health and Exercise Science](#)
- [BSc Physiotherapy](#)
- [BSc Sport and Exercise Management](#)
- [H Dip in Safety, Health and Well-Being at Work](#)
- [Cert. in Safety and Health at Work](#)
- [MPH](#)
- [MPH \(Nutrition\)](#)
- [MPH \(Global Health\)](#)
- [MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics](#)
- [MSc Occupational Safety and Health](#)
- [Prof Masters in Physiotherapy](#)
- [MSc Coaching Science in Sport](#)
- [MSc Sport Management](#)

Assoc Prof James Matthews appointed as Head of School



Associate Professor James Matthews was appointed Dean and Head of the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science in September 2024, having been Deputy Head from 2022.

Previously, James held the role of Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning and is a former University Fellow in Teaching and Academic Development. He acted as the Academic Director for the MSc Sport Management from January 2013 to December 2020, leading the programme to a global ranking in multiple years. His teaching and research interests focus on the psychology of sport, exercise and health behaviour. Specifically, his research centres on physical activity related behaviour change, mental health promotion in sport, and performance management processes in elite sport. James provides psychological support services to the University's Ad Astra Elite Sport Scholars, and is a former chair of the Psychological Society of Ireland's Division of Sport, Exercise & Performance Psychology.

James leads a team of over 120 people who focus on providing market-leading programmes and delivering world-class research in a friendly and welcoming student-centred environment. We wish James all the very best in his new role.

Farewell to Outgoing Head of School, Prof Catherine Blake

Professor Catherine Blake finished her term as Dean and Head of School in September 2024. Catherine ably led the school from September 2019, having been Deputy Head from 2014. She also served as founding Head of the School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science from 2005-2007, leading the establishment of the subject area of Performance Science and the UCD Institute for Sport and Health.

Catherine has taken on the new role of Interim Director of the Institute for Sport and Health, replacing Professor Colin Boreham who retired in September. Catherine's significant contributions as Dean and Head of School were acknowledged at a farewell event in September, held at the UCD University Club.



MSc Sport Management Ranked 14th in World, 4th in Europe

The SPHPSS MSc Sport Management programme has been ranked 14th in the world, up 6 places from last year's rankings, in the 2024 SportBusiness Postgraduate Course Rankings. It is now ranked 4th in Europe, up from 6th place in 2023. 100% of alumni included in the survey are currently employed and the course is ranked 9th globally for return on investment.

Dr Tom Fabian, Director of the MSc Sport Management programme, said "It was brilliant to receive such glowing validation for our MSc programme. This is a testament to the efforts by our faculty and staff, students, and alumni. In the last couple of years, we have sought to internationalize our programme (with new staff, guest lecturers, and case studies from abroad), create stronger links with the Irish and European sports industries, and connect with our broad alumni network. Our graduates are well-placed to jump into the sports industry and come out with critical perspectives that serve them well in their careers. In effect, the rankings are simply validating what we already know: We provide a world-class programme that facilitates a multifaceted, diverse, and engaging student experience".

Find out more about the MSc Sport Management programme at our [website](#).



MSc Sport Management Welcome Event

Huge thanks to the MSc Sport Management alumni who joined us at the National Handball Centre at Croke Park in September to welcome our newest MSc Sport Management class.

Our new students got to hear valuable insights about our alumni's experiences on the programme and chat to them about their careers so far.



Graduation Time!

We bid a fond farewell to our #Classof2024 graduates on 5th September at O'Reilly Hall. Congratulations to all of our graduates; we wish you all the very best for your future careers.



ISCP Recognition Award

Congratulations to Associate Professor Caitriona Cunningham, who received the Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics Recognition Award on September 24th. Fantastic achievement - well done Caitriona!

UCD's Centre for Safety and Health at Work at the International Occupational Hygiene Association Conference

The UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work made significant contributions to a four-day international conference, which is held once every three years. The 13th International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) conference was jointly hosted by the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) and held in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin June 9th-13th. Assistant Professor Alison Connolly was the Scientific Chair, having been involved in the planning since 2022.



Asst Prof. Connolly, Assoc. Prof. Buggy and members of the scientific committee

The conference theme was 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world' and included 665 attendees from around 40 countries worldwide, 12 professional development courses, 33 sponsors and exhibitors, and 258 presenters. The conference consisted of over 50 sessions and approximately 80 poster presentations ranging from AI and big data, human bio-monitoring, education, communication and evolving technologies. Many renowned scientists and speakers delivered presentations throughout the week, and the very first keynote was from Dr Sharon McGuinness, ECHA's Executive Director and formerly, the Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Health and Safety Authority (HSA), who discussed the occupational health and safety issues related to chemical management.



Dr Sharon McGuinness, Executive Director of the European Chemical Agency (ECHA)



L to R: Darragh Doherty, Assoc. Prof. Buggy, Asst Prof. Connolly, Dr Richa Singh and Dr Sewon Lee



Assoc. Prof. Buggy, Asst Profs. Penpatra Sripaiboonkij and Connolly

The UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work had an exhibition stand at the conference where many delegates came to discuss educational possibilities. The research group, Darragh Doherty, Dr Richa Singh and Dr Sewon Lee also joined the conference as ambassadors, to assist with the smooth running of the conference. The group also presented, with the first session of the conference on human biomonitoring; a themed session arranged by the UCD exposure science research team and their collaborators at the Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine, Germany. Assistant Professor Alison Connolly chaired the session and PhD candidate Darragh Doherty presented his first oral presentation of his PhD, which was scheduled immediately after his stage transfer assessment. Well done Darragh!



The EIRE research team presenting at IOHA 2024



Asst Prof. Connolly presenting her work on exposure science education and training



Darragh Doherty, PhD candidate presenting at IOHA 2024

Assistant Professor Alison Connolly was also involved in a themed session for the European Chapter of the International Society of Exposure Science (ISES Europe) where she spoke about her work on elevating exposure science education in Europe. This work included the development of learning materials, the creation of a certification process and the development of an educational programme.

Congratulations to the UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work team and the exposure science research group for their contributions throughout the week.

Society for Social Medicine & Population Health 68th Annual Scientific Meeting



Dr Kaat Philippe, a postdoctoral research fellow in the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, gave a 15 minute talk and a 5 minute Q&A in the oral session "Parental Health" that covered topics related to preconception and pregnancy health, at the "Society for Social Medicine & Population Health 68th Annual Scientific Meeting", 4-6 September 2024, Glasgow, UK. Kaat's research contributes to the EndObesity project led by Assistant Professor Catherine Phillips at the SPHPSS.

Dr Kaat concluded that the conference was interesting with lots of networking opportunities.

Dr Kaat Philippe at the SSM conference

Global Food Regulators Summit, 2024, New Delhi, India



In September, Professor Patrick Wall, SPHPSS Professor of Public Health, was a distinguished panellist at the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 in New Delhi, India. Sharing the stage with high-profile leaders, Shri Chirag Paswan, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries; Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary of Health and Chair of FSSAI; and Steve Wearne, Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Professor Wall captivated the audience with his insights into food safety and regulatory innovation. Also joining him were key figures Dr. Clare Narrod, Director of Risk Analysis at the USA Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and Dr. Rajesh Maheshwari, CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies in India. Professor Wall's participation underscored his global influence and SPHPSS's leadership in food safety, making a powerful impact on high-level dialogues.



Call for Abstracts for Institute of Food and Health Research Showcase 2024



The third UCD Institute of Food and Health Research Showcase will be held on the 10th December 2024 in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. The showcase will include oral presentations, poster presentations, and talks from invited keynote speakers and will be followed by a social event.

Abstracts will be accepted on 1st November and the deadline is 15th November. Researchers are welcome to submit abstracts that have been recently used for other conferences. Keynote speakers include Professor Helen Roche (UCD) and Professor Julie Lovegrove from University of Reading. To submit your abstract please click [here](#).

We look forward to reading your submissions and hearing about your research on the 10th of December!

Visiting Professor Isabelle Gagnon

The SPHPSS was delighted to welcome Professor Isabelle Gagnon from the School of Occupational and Physical Therapy at McGill University in Montreal, Canada to UCD.

Professor Gagnon enjoyed a two day visit on September 23rd and 24th, which also included delivery of a guest lecture, which was well attended.



Pictured: Prof Gagnon with Assist. Prof Cliona O'Sullivan, Prof Catherine Blake and Assoc. Prof Caitriona Cunningham

46th European Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN) Congress on Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism, Milan



Pictured: Catherine Fallon at ESPEN

The annual ESPEN Congress, held in Milan, Italy, from September 7th-10th, provided an opportunity to highlight the newest research in clinical nutrition. Experts in their field and early career researchers discussed various themes such as geriatric nutrition, specifically malnutrition and sarcopenia, nutrition throughout cancer treatments, food sustainability, parenteral nutrition, and eating disorders. Catherine Fallon and Aoife Courtney attended the congress. Aoife Courtney presented a graphical poster based on her research supervised by Professor Lorraine Brennan, entitled "PROTEIN-I: Overview of Baseline Data Intake".

CARA Network Updates

The CARA Network's "Collaborating Across Borders: a multi-disciplinary approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship" Conference, 9-10 Oct 2024

The CARA Network, led by Prof. Akke Vellinga, successfully organised the 'Collaborating Across Borders: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship' conference for the second consecutive year on October 9 & 10, 2024, at the Ashling Hotel in Dublin. The event was jointly organised by the CARA Network (University College Dublin) and AMS Insight, with collaborators including St James's Hospital, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, and the Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre from Northern Ireland.

The two-day conference featured participants from across the island of Ireland who presented their research on antimicrobial stewardship. Keynote speakers included Dr Alike van der Velden (Assistant Professor, Julius Centre for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Centre Utrecht), Dr Amanda Daly (Programme Manager, International Cooperation Unit, Health Research Board), Professor Carmel Hughes (Professor of Primary Care Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast), and Becky McCall (Medical Journalist). Additionally, a workshop on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was delivered by Dr Robert Cunney (Consultant Microbiologist, Children's Health Ireland).

An interactive workshop was also conducted by Prof. Vellinga and Nathaly Garzon-Orjuela (PhD scholar) on the use of CARA dashboards, where attendees had the opportunity to engage with the dashboard. The CARA Network collaborates with GPs to develop interactive dashboards that allow them to visualise their practice data, compare it anonymously with other practices, and generate audit reports.



Top Row (L-R): Dr Gerry Hughes, Dr Robert Cunney, Prof Akke Vellinga, Becky McCall, Dr Alike van der Velden.
Front Row (L-R): Dr Aoife Fleming, Dr Alida Fe Talento, Sana Parveen, Prof Carmel Hughes, Dr Cristin Ryan, Dr Anita Hogg



Prof. Akke Vellinga, PI CARA Network



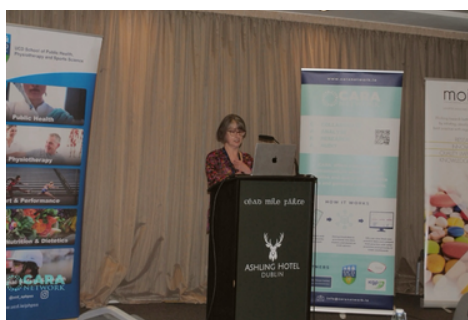
Dr Alike van der Velden



CARA Dashboard testing interactive workshop by Prof Vellinga and Nathaly Garzon-Orjuela



Becky McCall



Prof. Carmel Hughes



CARA Dashboard testing interactive workshop



Dr Robert Cunney

CARA Network Welcomes New Members

Welcome to new staff members and MPH alumni Tiffany Hurtado, who is a research assistant on the ECRAID project, and Abigail Murfitt, who has recently joined as a research assistant on the CARA project and is also the new Athena SWAN project manager.

Best wishes to you both in your new roles.

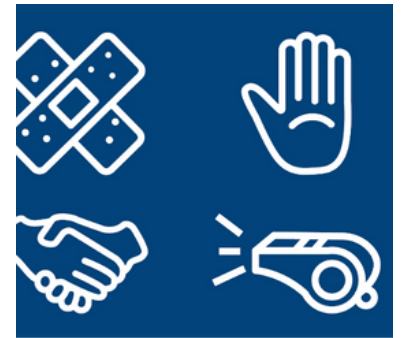
Pictured: Tiffany Hurtado (left) and Abigail Murfitt (right)



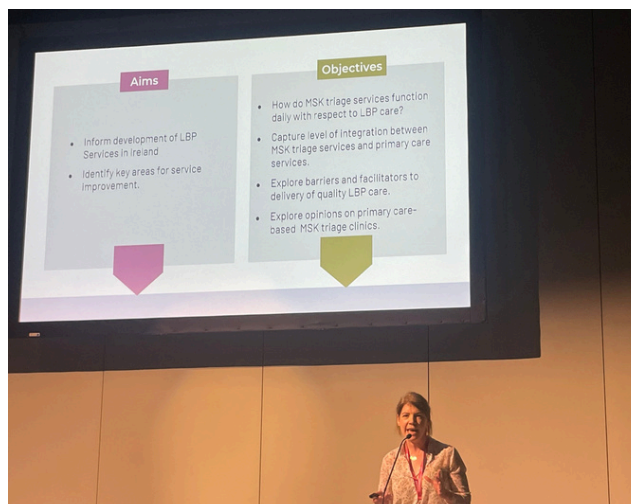
Dignity & Respect Workshop @SPHPSS

All incoming undergraduate and graduate students are offered a Dignity & Respect workshop as part of their orientation. This was previously (and this year) provided by the UCD Dignity and Respect team, but we now have our own SPHPSS D&R ambassadors. They will receive training after which they will deliver the future workshops.

Thank you to Ruth Charles, Ann O'Hanlon, Laura McMahon and Brian Spring for volunteering!



International Federation of Manual & Musculoskeletal Physiotherapists Conference



UCD PhD Candidate Caitriona Murphy presented her research at the International Federation of Manual & Musculoskeletal Physiotherapists Conference in Basel, Switzerland, July 2024.

IFOMPT 
2024 crossing
bridges 4–6 July
Basel

Pictured (left): Caitriona Murphy presenting

New Staff @ the Centre for Safety and Health at Work

Dr Derval Cumiskey is the new Teaching Fellow with the Centre for Safety and Health at Work. Derval completed her PhD in the Conway Institute and MSc with the Centre for Safety and Health at Work in UCD. Since then Derval has worked in industry keeping links with the Centre of Safety and Health at Work as a tutor on the certificate and a guest lecturer on the HDip and MSc programmes. Best of luck Derval in your new job!



Pictured: Dr Derval Cumiskey

New Assistant Professor in Evidence Synthesis



Pictured: Dr Dimuthu Rathnayake

Dr Dimuthu Rathnayake joined the SPHPSS in September as a Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Evidence Synthesis. She began her career as a Dental Surgeon before transitioning into hospital management after earning an MSc and MD in Medical Administration from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. With over eight years of experience managing large hospitals and public health organisations, she served as the Director of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Sri Lanka in 2018, playing a key role in managing dengue and infectious disease epidemics. After relocating to the UK, Dr Rathnayake completed her PhD in Medicine at Queen's University Belfast in 2021. Her research focused on post-COVID-19 health system challenges, including long waiting times for elective surgeries and vaccine hesitancy among healthcare staff. During the pandemic, she returned to Sri Lanka to manage a large tertiary care hospital with COVID-19 wards. Dimuthu is a member of the WHO Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management expert team and contributed as a co-author and reviewer to the WHO's "Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management."

Dr Rathnayake worked as a post-doctoral researcher on a collaborative project with UCD and the Health Service Executive, developing a National Quality and Patient Safety Competency Framework, which is scheduled for implementation in 2025. Currently, she is a co-researcher on a project evaluating and enhancing the Acute Virtual Ward Nursing Workforce Model in collaboration with St Vincent's University Hospital. This project aligns with the Irish government's strategic initiative, the Acute Virtual Ward Programme, aimed at transforming healthcare delivery in Irish hospitals.

Dr Rathnayake's extensive applied experience allows her to bridge theory and practice, with a focus on health system effectiveness, public health interventions, and global health improvements that directly inform healthcare policies and practices. We wish Dimuthu all the best in her new role!

Farewell to Mary O'Mahoney



Mary O' Mahoney (pictured 2nd from left) at a recent reception to mark her retirement from University College Dublin. Mary was with the School for 19 years as Regional Placement Facilitator for Physiotherapy students and also Module Co-ordinator for Neurology Modules, her specialised subject area on the BSc Physiotherapy Programme. Mary's colleagues and friends joined her to celebrate her career at UCD.

Pictured (left to right): Assoc Prof. Tara Cusack, Mary O'Mahoney, Prof. Catherine Blake, Assoc. Prof. Olive Lennon & Assoc Prof. James Matthews

New Student Orientation Days

We were delighted to welcome our newest undergraduate classes for orientation on 6th September. We look forward to getting to know you over the next few years!



You can find more graduation and orientation photos on our [X](#) and [Insta](#) channels!

Healthy UCD now part of the UCD Advantage Award



Healthy
UCD

Volunteering with Healthy UCD now counts towards the Advantage Award! The award involves engaging with a minimum of two co-curricular activities and demonstrating engagement with the awards under four themes: Personal and Professional Development, UCD and the Wider Community, Cultural Engagement and Health & Wellbeing.

The UCD Advantage Award appears on students' Diploma Supplement upon graduating, showcasing how they have developed outside their academic course. Healthy UCD is always looking for willing volunteers to help out with various initiatives during the year. For more information contact Healthy UCD at healthyucd@ucd.ie or UCD Careers Network at skillsaward@ucd.ie.



UCD
Advantage

Healthy UCD STI Awareness Campaign & SHAG Week

Healthy UCD collaborated with UCD Student Health, the HSE and the Healthy UCD working group on Sexual Health & Wellbeing to raise awareness of the rise in STIs and to signpost to the free STI tests available via www.sexualwellbeing.ie and to condom locations on campus.

The campaign is displayed on the hoarding at the north of the Science Building and has been in place since the start of term. In the month of September, an increase of over 40% has been observed in traffic to the Healthy UCD Sexual Health and Wellbeing webpage compared to the same period last year.

During Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance (SHAG) Week at the start of October, Healthy UCD conducted a short survey to assess students' knowledge of STIs. The survey revealed that 51% of respondents did not know how to arrange an STI test and only 29% were very confident about their knowledge of sexual health. These findings illustrate the need for further educational campaigns in this area and will help inform further work in this area.



Hoarding at the north of the Science Building



Healthy UCD HEAL Week

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) week will take place this year between the 11th and 14th November 2024. HEAL week is a collaboration between Healthy UCD and MSc Dietetics & MSc Physiotherapy students who are provided with an experiential learning opportunity to design, deliver and evaluate sustainable health promotion initiatives on campus. There will be lots of fun activities taking place on campus throughout the week which are aimed at supporting students and staff in making healthy lifestyle choices. Please come along and support!

New Staff Member in Dietetics: Laura Rice

Laura Rice is a Senior Research Scientist who started working with Professor Clare Corish in the SPHPSS in July 2024 on the HSE-funded STOP@Home project. The STOP@Home project is an evaluation of the effects of a supportive assistive technology intervention implemented by the HSE in a community-dwelling older adult population. The evaluation will assess how older adults can be supported to live in an assistive technology home environment, taking into consideration the impact of the supportive technology intervention on their quality of life, empowerment to care for their own health needs and nutrition and frailty status, with the overall aim of making recommendations for the future of such interventions for older adults.



The perspectives of the older person's 'circle of care' members' as to what matters to the older person and impacts of the intervention on the quality of life of the older person, taking consideration of personal health goals, safe mobility and function, cognition and mental health status will also be investigated, as will the impact of the intervention on health service usage based on a comparison of usage in the 12 months prior to and during the period of the intervention.

MPH / EPH+ Social Events



September: Past and future members of the MPH Programme enjoying refreshments to mark the start of the new academic year. The class also enjoyed a walk and swim at Seapoint!



October: MPH / EPH Class enjoying a walk to Poolbeg Lighthouse and proudly displaying the UCD colours!

The Human Biomonitoring (HBM) Stakeholder Forum in Ireland Held by The Exposure Science Research Team

The exposure science research team, led by Asst Prof. Alison Connolly, recently held the Human Biomonitoring (HBM) Stakeholder Forum in Ireland as part of the Human Biomonitoring for Ireland (HBM4IRE) project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland. The event was held in UCD University Club, on Friday, October 11th, 2024, which brought together a diverse group of policymakers, national and international researchers, and industry representatives to discuss the future of HBM in Ireland. The event began with a welcome note from Associate Professor James Matthews, Head of the School, and Associate Professor Conor Buggy, Director of the Centre for Health and Safety at Work. This was followed by insightful presentations: Assistant Professor Alison Connolly provided an overview of the progress in human biomonitoring in Ireland and Europe and Dr Richa Singh highlighted the key highlights of the HBM4IRE project.



Pictured: Associate Professor Matthews, Head of SPHPSS, Associate Professor Conor Buggy, Director of the Centre for Health and Safety at Work and Dr Richa Singh



Pictured: Assistant Professor Alison Connolly

The event was privileged to invite four world renowned international experts— Dr Marike Kolossa Gehring, Dr Holger Martin Koch, Dr Ovnair Sepai and Dr Lisbeth E. Knudsen.

Dr Marike Kolossa Gehring, Head, Toxicology, Health-related Environmental Monitoring, German Environment Agency (UBA), Germany, gave an overview of the EU wide initiatives that have been ongoing for human biomonitoring (i.e. HBM4EU, PARC) and gave examples of how HBM can be used to impact policy.



Pictured: Dr Marike Kolossa Gehring

HBM Stakeholder Forum Dublin

Dr Holger Martin Koch, Head of the Human Biomonitoring laboratory in the Institute of Prevention and Occupational Medicine, gave an insightful presentation on the laboratory requirements to measure biomarkers to ensure that they are specific, robust and sensitive. Dr Ovnair Sepai, Principal Toxicologist UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), gave an overview of the logistics of setting up national programmes and gave examples from Europe and the UK. The final presentation delivered by Prof Lisbeth Knudsen, Institute of Public Health University of Copenhagen Denmark was on the ethical considerations involved with studies involving human participants.



Pictured: Dr Holger Martin Koch



Pictured: Dr Ovnair Sepai



Pictured: Dr Lisbeth E. Knudsen

The first half of the day ended with a panel discussion, for the international experts to ask questions about human biomonitoring programmes. The second half of the day featured a dynamic World Café session, hosted by University College Dublin's Vice President for Research, Impact and Innovation, Prof. Kate Brown Robson. Key stakeholders from several Irish departments and agencies, participated in lively discussions. Topics ranged from the policy needs and gaps in HBM, the role of HBM data in addressing public health concerns, to funding mechanisms, departmental synergies, chemicals of concern, and communication strategies. This event marked an exciting milestone in shaping the future of HBM in Ireland, highlighting the importance of cross-sector collaboration to build a national HBM programme that will be instrumental in monitoring public health impacts from chemical exposure. A full workshop report will be available soon. Stay updated on our HBM research [here](#).

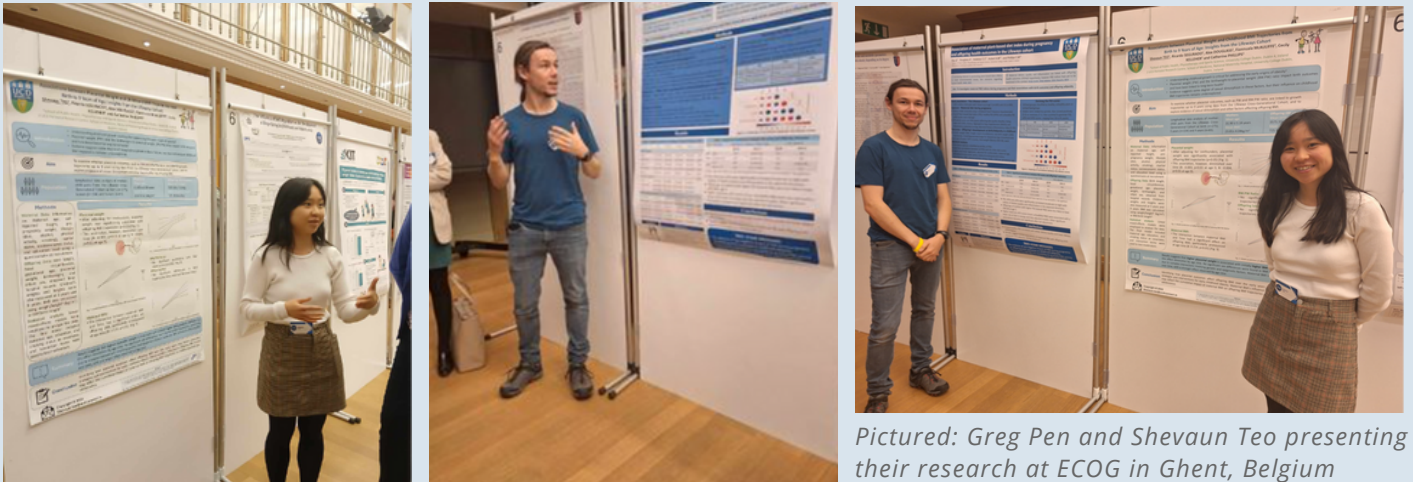
National Health Protection Conference



MPH and EPH+ students of Class of 2024-25 attended the 2nd Annual National Health Protection Conference at Dublin Castle where they were welcomed wholeheartedly by Dr Eamonn O'Moore, National Director of Health Protection, and Prof. Diarmuid O'Donovan, National Director of Health Improvement and former Public Health Extern Examiner at UCD. Eamonn and Diarmuid are pictured with Assoc. Prof Mary Codd, MPH and EPH+ Programme Director, and Class members.

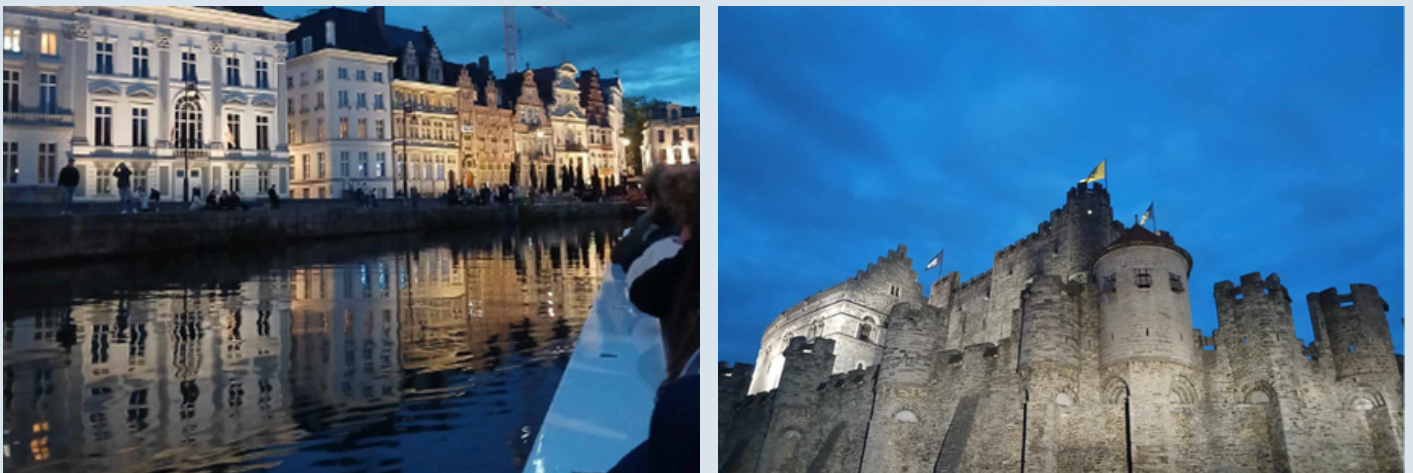
European Childhood Obesity Group (ECOG) Conference

The 33rd Annual ECOG Congress was hosted in the historic city of Ghent, Belgium during October 8-10th. Assistant Professor Catherine Phillips' research group was represented by PhD student Shevaun Teo and visiting Masters student Greg Pen.



Pictured: Greg Pen and Shevaun Teo presenting their research at ECOG in Ghent, Belgium

Shevaun presented a moderated poster based on her examination of the Lifeways cohort, entitled "Associations between Placental Weight and Childhood BMI Trajectories from Birth to 9 Years of Age: Insights from the Lifeways Cohort". Greg also presented a moderated poster entitled "Maternal Plant-based Dietary Indices and Offspring Outcomes: Preliminary Results from the Lifeways Cross-Generational Cohort", based on the research he conducted during his internship at the SPHPSS.

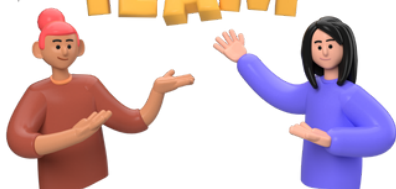


Ghent, Belgium by night - sights from the boat trip!

The social programme was just as interesting as the scientific one, including a boat trip, a sustainable food walking tour and a reception in the 16th Century Ghent Town Hall. Well done Shevaun and Greg!

SPHPSS Postgrad Research Committee is Currently Seeking New Members!

JOIN OUR TEAM



As more PhD students will be graduating soon, the committee is seeking to recruit new members.

If you are interested in joining, or if you have any questions, please drop an email to any of the current members:

- darragh.doherty@ucdconnect.ie
- doaa.amin@ucdconnect.ie
- garett.vanoirschot@ucdconnect.ie
- isobel.de-stanlaigh@ucdconnect.ie

Ciara Mageean Wins UCD Alumni Award in Sport 2024

The UCD Alumni Awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of our distinguished alumni and their far-reaching impact. Their accomplishments and successes are a source of immense pride to UCD, inspiring current and future generations of students, and recognising and showcasing the impact UCD alumni continue to have on our world. We are immensely proud of our BSc Physiotherapy alumna, Ciara Mageean, who won the UCD Alumni Award in Sport 2024 at the recent awards ceremony.



Ciara, an international middle-distance track athlete, is recognised as one of Ireland's finest athletes. She is a three-time Olympian having represented Ireland at the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024 Olympics. In June 2024 Ciara Mageean became the European 1,500m Champion in Rome, adding a gold medal to her silver in 2022 and bronze in 2016 at the European Athletics Championships. She also claimed a bronze medal at the 2019 European Indoor Championships and achieved a fourth place finish at the World Championships in 2023, setting a new Irish 1,500m record. Ciara improved that record a month later with a stunning 3.55.87 at the Brussels Diamond League. The Co. Down athlete now holds all Irish middle- distance records: 800m (1.58.51), 1,000m (2.31.06), 1,500m (3.55.87) and the Mile (4.14.58).

Ciara always wanted to represent Ireland at the highest level, the choice a toss-up between camogie and athletics. As her ultimate dream was to participate in the Olympics, athletics won the toss and a brilliant underage career, winning World Junior Silver and European Youth gold, was to set her on the path to success. Congratulations Ciara!

Advance Centre Webinar: Clinical Trials in Practice

Provided by

 University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

 Atlantic
Technological
University

 TU DUBLIN
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

Advance Centre webinar: Clinical trials in practice

Monday 11th November 2024 @1 pm



The SPHPSS in collaboration with the Advance Centre for Professional Education invites you to a webinar series on academia-industry collaborations in innovations in digital health and health data analytics. The webinar is supported by UCD Microcredentials.

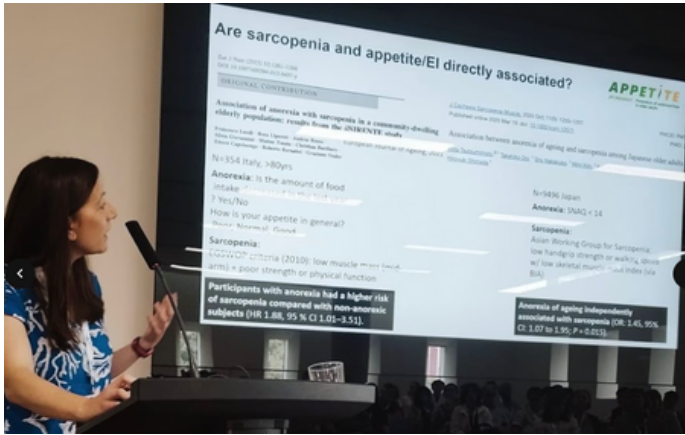
This webinar will present two leaders in clinical trials in UCD and is aimed for anyone with an interest in clinical trials and research in general. Find out more and register [here](#).

European Geriatric Medicine Society Conference 2024

Dr James Timmons and Dr Katy Horner attended and presented at the European Geriatric Medicine Society Conference in Valencia, Spain in September. James presented a poster titled 'Feasibility and Effectiveness of Exercise Snacking in Older Adults: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial'.

Katy delivered a presentation in the symposium on 'Poor appetite in older adults – its measurement and impact on nutritional status'. Other contributors to the symposium were Prof. Dorothee Volkert and Prof. Marjolein Visser, leading researchers in the study of nutrition and ageing in Europe.

Katy's presentation (in collaboration with SPHPSS PhD student Anna Quinn, Prof. Clare Corish and Prof. Helen Roche) was focused on the association between body composition and energy intake in older adults, exploring baseline data from the multi-centre APPETITE trial. The APPETITE trial is a European multi-centre nutrition and exercise intervention randomised controlled trial in older adults led by UCD.



Pictured: Asst Professor Katy Horner



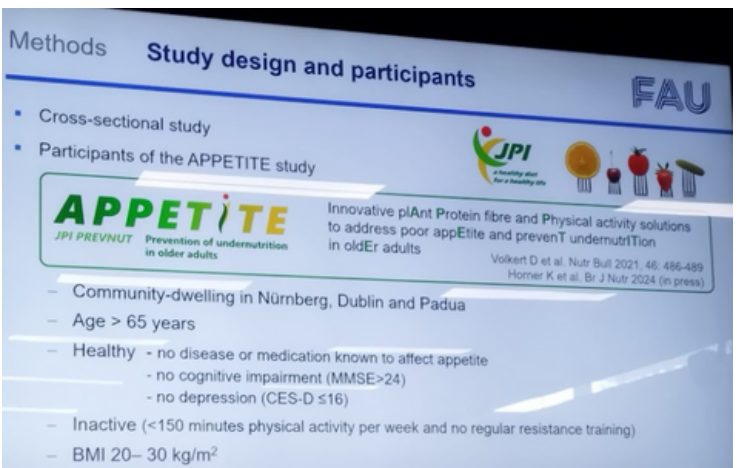
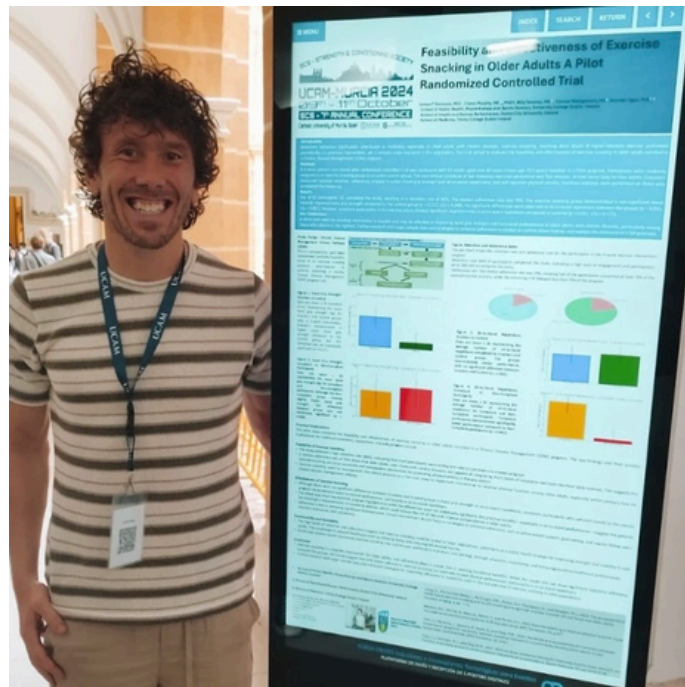
Pictured: Asst Professor Katy Horner and Dr James Timmons



Pictured: Professor Dorothee Volker



Pictured: Professor Marjolein Visser



Pictured: Dr James Timmons

Upskill and Reskill with UCD SPHPSS



Micro-credentials

Our micro-credentials offer flexible and industry-aligned ways to quickly upskill and boost your career prospects. We offer short courses in healthcare and amateur sports injuries via UCD Microcredentials, in addition to flexible online and blended courses in health data analytics via the Advance Centre. Many of our courses are eligible for the Micro-Credentials Learner Fee Subsidy under the Human Capital Initiative Pillar 3, where fees are heavily subsidised by the HEA.

Several of our micro-credentials are commencing in January 2025. Our courses have been developed by our world-class academic faculty. Apply now for courses starting in January 2025:

- [Sports Injuries: An Introduction for Amateur Sports, Online](#)
- [Advancing Healthcare: Exercise Prescription](#)
- [Advancing Healthcare: Behaviour Change Principles for Healthy Living](#)
- [Applied Infection Prevention and Control](#)
- [Patient Reported Outcomes](#)
- [Biostatistics 2](#)
- [Introduction to Genetic Epidemiology](#)
- [Clinical Trials](#)
- [Systematic Reviews and Meta Analysis](#)
- [Information Governance in Health](#)
- [Systems Implementation in Health](#)
- [Health Economic Analysis](#)

Find out more about our full range of micro-credentials at our [website](#).

EuroPubHealth Graduation, EHESP, Rennes, July 2024



Pictured: Members of the 2022-24 Cohort of EuroPubHealth students who spent Year 1 at UCD SPHPSS

European Master in Public Health Erasmus Mundus Funding Success



The European Master in Public Health (Europubhealth+) has obtained renewed funding from the Erasmus+ programme funded by the European Commission enabling an award of 60 full scholarships to worldwide high-level students for the next four academic intakes from 2025 to 2028.

Since 2006, this Erasmus Mundus Joint Master has been recognised as a programme of excellence in public health education through an academic collaboration among 8 renowned universities: EHESP School of Public Health (France), University of Sheffield, University of Granada-Andalusian School of Public Health (Spain), University College Dublin (Ireland), the University of Liège (Belgium), the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland), Maastricht University (The Netherlands) and Isped-Bordeaux (France) who are offering a new specialisation in Public Health Data Science.

Europubhealth is an innovative European Master in Public Health, designed to equip the future public health workforce with an interdisciplinary approach for global transitions affecting human health. To address emerging challenges, the programme has incorporated new content on digitalization, big data, climate change, and environmental transitions. The extended network of 16 associated partners includes international public health organisations and universities. This unique multilingual two-year Master of Public Health offers a comprehensive competency-based curriculum and awards a double degree. After a first year dedicated to the foundations of public health, students can choose one of the 7 specialisations covering essential public health functions. Its attractive mobility scheme allows students to study up to three languages in at least two different European countries.



Co-funded by
the European Union

The programme demonstrates an excellent student employability rate and career development prospects supported by the vibrant network of almost 480 alumni working worldwide.

Open to graduate students from any country in the world holding at least a university Bachelor degree (180 ECTS) from any academic disciplines with a demonstrated interest in public health. For further information on the programme and application process, see [Europubhealth+](https://europubhealth.com).

World Café on curriculum for Nursing Home Managers, RCSI

Based on recommendations in the Report of the COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel chaired by Prof. Cecily Kelleher (August 2020), a World Café on 30 September 2024 hosted by Professor Mary Rose Sweeney and Professor Tom O'Connell, RCSI, addressed the development of a new curriculum for the Skillsnet Ireland through the development of micro credentials for Nursing Home Managers.

The World Café was attended by ASPHER Fellow, Karl Conyard, who has previously published the first national study on the work of Healthcare Assistants and Carers in Ireland (relevance to Managers) and SPHPSS PhD student, Parnian Jalili, who is currently researching career satisfaction, employability and general wellbeing of healthcare assistants and carers.



2nd Safe and Sustainable by Design Boot Camp by PARC

Dr Richa Singh, a post-doctoral research scientist working at the Centre for Health and Safety at Work was invited to attend the 2nd Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) Boot Camp, which took place from October 22nd to 25th, 2024, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

This intensive program was organised by PARC (Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals) and offered participants a comprehensive understanding of the SSbD framework.



The boot camp focussed on real-life applications of the SSbD framework and the stage-gate innovation process, providing hands-on training using the PARC SSbD toolbox, various assessment methods, such as hazard and exposure assessments, environmental sustainability evaluations, and social and economic sustainability assessments, to better understand their roles in chemical and material development. Richa is honoured to have been part of this unique opportunity and enjoyed engaging with peers and experts in the field. The experience enhanced her work in environmental research, particularly in the context of sustainability and safe chemical design.

International Fragility Fracture Network Conference

UCD was well represented at the European meeting of the International Fragility Fracture Network Conference in Istanbul, October 11th and 12th 2024, with Assoc Prof. Caitriona Cunningham, Prof. Catherine Blake (Health Research Board post-doc mentor) and Dr Mary Walsh (Health Research Board post-doc) in attendance where they presented on their recent research work and led international symposia.

Catherine Fallon's (PhD student) work was also presented at this conference.

Pictured Right: Catherine Fallon's work being presented



Pictured: Assoc Prof. Caitriona Cunningham (left) and Dr Mary Walsh (right) presenting at FEN Conference

UCD Strengthens Partnership with Kilmacud Crokes

Following a successful inaugural year in 2023, UCD is excited to continue its partnership with Kilmacud Crokes. Asst Prof. James Timmons and Brian Spring are collaborating with Niall Corcoran and Sean Murphy (Kilmacud Crokes), to expand the initiative to encompass all four codes within the club.

This year, 20 UCD students have conducted performance testing with 150 boys and girls at the High Performance Gym at UCD. They are currently implementing an 8-week athletic development program.

This partnership provides UCD Health & Performance Science students with a valuable opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice, develop essential skills, and give back to the community. We look forward to another productive year of collaboration with Kilmacud Crokes, and for the continued expansion of the partnership in the years to come.



Kilmacud Crokes training in UCD High Performance Gym

Hot Topics in Exercise Physiology Symposium



Pictured: Craig Dowling accepting the poster presentation award

PhD student Craig Dowling attended a week-long Erasmus+ blended intensive program in exercise physiology run by the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The course had a particular focus on low energy availability (LEA) and relative energy deficiency in sport (REDs). In this course, participants studied the physiological and psychological impacts of LEA and learned strategies for prevention, detection, and management in athletes. The course equipped them with the skills to recognise and treat LEA in clinical and performance settings, enhancing health and performance outcomes.

Craig presented a poster at the “Hot Topics in Exercise Physiology” symposium at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, and won the poster presentation competition. Congratulations to him!

Para-Athletics Academy Launched

The inaugural Para-Athletics Academy commenced in Autumn 2024, along with PhD student Annmarie Carroll, who will be developing and evaluating the program that is being run out of the Institute of Sport and Health.

Seven para-athletes have been invited to take part in this new pathway program based on their summer season performances. This program aims to help these selected athletes become ‘carded athletes’ with Sport Ireland, with the vision of achieving success at future Paralympic games. This program showcases how NGBs and third level institutions can work together to enhance and improve athlete performance.



10th Annual International Ankle Symposium



Professor Eamonn Delahunt presented a practical workshop titled “Rehabilitation Oriented Assessment (ROAST) after LAS & CAI: Evaluating ankle muscle strength without my hands” and an invited lecture titled “Multi-approach treatment in Chronic Ankle Instability (CAI) (ROAST)” at the 10th Annual International Ankle Symposium in Strasbourg, France from 4th-5th October.



Professor Eamonn Delahunt pictured with Dr Michelle Smith (University of Queensland) and Professor Phillip Gribble (University of Kentucky)



Professor Eamonn Delahunt pictured with Dr Ryan McCann (Old Dominion University)

Sports Staff News

Professor Colin Boreham has retired from his position as the Director of the Institute for Sport and Health. We wish Professor Boreham all the best with his retirement!

Professor Kate Pumpa has been accepted into the Intertrade Ireland Evolve program, which is a technical start-up programme designed to support the development of spin-out ventures.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Max Ditroilo back to UCD in January 2025.



Professor Colin Boreham



Professor Kate Pumpa




Dr Max Ditroilo



Professor Eamonn Delahunt

We are proud to announce that Prof Eamonn Delahunt and Prof Colin Boreham were recognised among the top 1% & 2% respectively of scientists globally in the August 2024 "Updated Science-Wide Author Databases of Standardized Citation Indicators" (Ioannidis, 2024). Congratulations to them both!



Launch of the ASPHER Core Curriculum for Public Health



is pleased to announce the Official Launch of the ASPHER Core Curriculum for Public Health

Lisbon 2024 Announcement

LAUNCH!



1st Edition Nov 2024

Friday, 5 Nov 2024 **Workshop** Room 0.07 09:35-10:00

"Actioning the ASPHER Public Health Core Curriculum: Interprofessional Skills"

The ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme (CCP) for Public Health is an extensive overview of curricula for public health education and training led by SPHPSS Professor, Mary Codd, supported by ASPHER Fellow, Karl Conyard, on behalf of ASPHER and the ASPHER Executive Board. Dedicated to 'improving and protecting public health by strengthening education and training of public health professionals for practice and research', this current action on core curriculum is a continuation of ASPHER engagement in public health competency development during the past 20 years. The current production is the culmination of over two years of work, contributed to by more than 350 public health educators and practitioners from ASPHER-member schools and institutes in Europe and beyond. The contribution of UCD SPHPSS Faculty members: Prof. Clare Corish; Prof. Seamus Fanning; Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick; Dr. Celine Murrin; Dr Penpatra Sripaiboonkij; Prof. Akke Vellinga; Prof, Patrick Wall and Adj. Prof David Weakliam are recognised and acknowledged. Contributions for colleagues in CHAS schools, Dr Kate Frazer and Ms Nina Nipuna Thamanam (SNMHS); Dr Gerald Barry (SVM and UCD One Health Champion); and Barry McMahon (SAFS) are also acknowledged, as are the contributions of SPHPSS graduate students. The CCP will be officially launched on 15 November at the 17th European Public Health Conference in Lisbon.

International Association for the Study of Pain Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Special Interest Group Meeting

Asst Prof. Keith Smart presented findings from his ERA-NET NEURON-funded project, "Optimising clinical trial methods for complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) as a rare condition: a methodological framework (OptiMeth-CRPS)", at the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) CRPS Special Interest Group Satellite Meeting in Bath (UK) in August.



Urban Farming Workshop



Friday 27th September

9.00am - 1.00pm

Red Room, Student Centre, UCD

REGISTER NOW



UCD Institute of Food and Health

UCD Urban Farming Workshop

Under the guidance of Assistant Professor Guerrino Macori, and assisted by Katie Wall, Caoimhe Doyle, Nina Trubanová, Olateju Idowu and Himadri Yadav, the Urban Safe Project in collaboration with the Institute of Food & Health delivered an Urban Farming Workshop on September 27th. Speakers were invited to present and discuss urban farming and sustainability.

Irish Pain Society

Mairead O'Donoghue, Conor White & Keith Smart all presented their work at the Irish Pain Society.

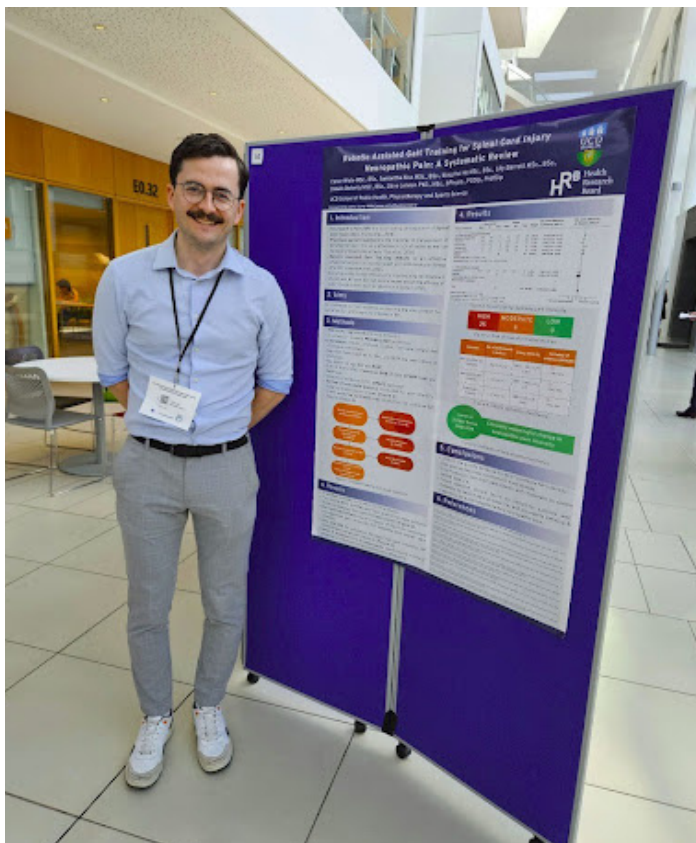
Mairead O'Donoghue, a postdoctoral researcher working with Brona Fullen on the Scale-Up4Rehab project, presented a poster on "Virtual Reality as an Educational Tool in the Treatment of Chronic Pain: Protocol for a Feasibility Study" and also chaired a specialist interest physiotherapy discussion.

Conor White, PhD student, presented a poster on his HRB funded work "Robotic-Assisted Gait Training for Spinal Cord Injury Neuropathic Pain: a Systematic Review".

Keith Smart presented the findings of his Neuron ERA Net-funded OptiMeth-CRPS titled, "Optimising trial methods in clinical trials in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) (OptiMeth-CRPS): Developing a Methodological framework".



Pictured: Mairead O'Donoghue presenting her poster



Pictured: Conor White presenting his poster



Pictured: Keith Smart presenting his poster

Graduate Programmes: Apply Now



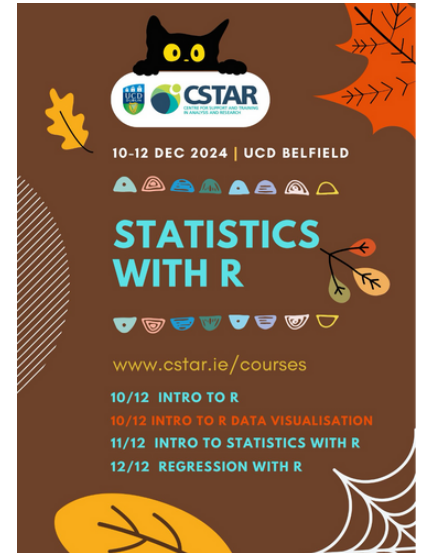
The UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science offers a wide range of graduate programmes across all of our disciplines and at various levels. Courses range from short-term Certificates to part-time Professional to two-year full-time Masters programmes. Full information, including application requirements and deadlines, are available [here](#). International students can find more information about studying at UCD [here](#).

Upcoming CSTAR Training: Statistics with R

The Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research (CSTAR) is running "Statistics with R" training from 10-12th December 2024.

- 10 December 2024 (9:30-13:00): Introduction to R
- 10 December 2024 (13:30-17:00): Introduction to Data Visualisation with R (Data Vis)
- 11 Dec 2024 (9:30-17:00): Statistics with R - Introduction to Data Analysis
- 12 Dec 2024 (9:30-17:00): Statistics with R - Linear Regression

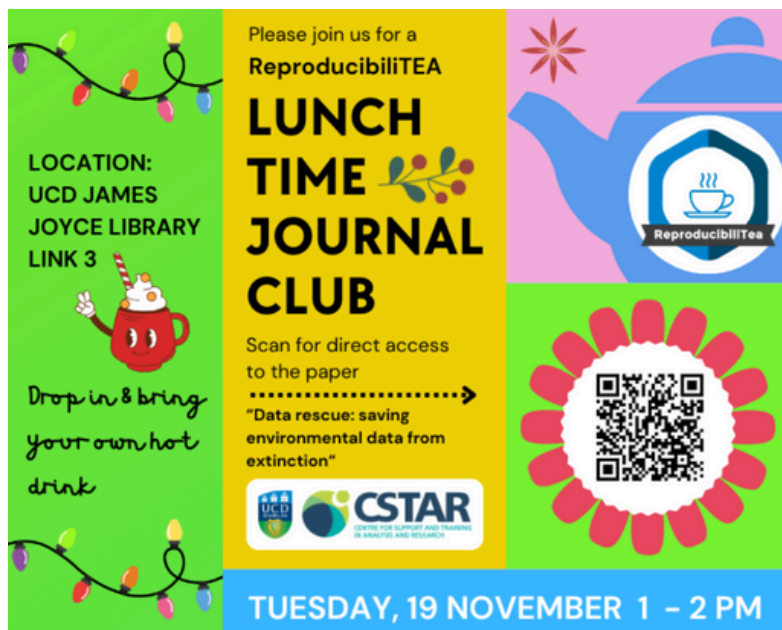
For more info and/ or to register, please, visit:
www.cstar.ie/courses.



Upcoming Event: Monthly ReproducibiliTEA Journal Club

Are you interested in Open Science/Open Research? If so, consider dropping by our informal, monthly **ReproducibiliTEA Journal Club** focused on meta-science, and reproducible research that will take place in-person over lunchtime in Link 3 of the UCD James Joyce Library.

All are welcome, especially Early Career Researchers. The next journal club will take place on Tuesday, 19 November 1-2pm. Please email cstar@ucd.ie if you'd like to be added to the Journal Club mailing list.



Associate Professor Ricardo Segurado and Assistant Professor Keith Smart at the inaugural Journal Club that took place in September

Farewell to Cliona O'Sullivan

A reception was recently held to thank Cliona for her contribution to Physiotherapy, the School and the University since she joined UCD as an Assistant Lecturer in Physiotherapy in 2007. Cliona is leaving UCD to take up a new role as Professor of Physiotherapy at DCU. Her colleagues joined to celebrate her time at UCD and also to wish her every success in her new role.

Pictured (left to right): Assoc. Prof. Cliona O'Sullivan & Assoc. Prof. Tara Cusack



Nutrition Society Congress 2024

The Nutrition Society Congress was held July 2nd-5th in Belfast, attracting a global audience. Highlighting the latest research in nutrition science, covering a wide range of topics from human health from the molecular level to public health, ingredient-level studies, diets, and sustainability in the global food system, and bringing together academics students, healthcare professionals, industry experts, freelancers and policy leaders, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge. A variety of symposia, workshops, and networking opportunities also provided a comprehensive overview of the current trends and future directions in nutritional science. Highlights included discussions on the complexity of data used in nutrition research and its implications for advancing the field.



Pictured: Catherine Fallon



Pictured: Dr Alex Douglass

Professor Clare Corish chaired a poster session. Third year PhD student, Catherine Fallon, presented an e-Poster based on her research supervised by Professor Clare Corish, Associate Professor Caitriona Cunningham and Assistant Professor Katy Horner, entitled "POWER Study: Functional characteristics and dietary intake of adults aged 70+ at risk of sarcopenia with supportive home care". The POWER Study aims to investigate the effectiveness of a 12-week programme combining an online resistance training programme delivered via Zoom with or without a whey protein oral nutritional supplement in community-dwelling older adults who are at risk of sarcopenia and receiving supportive home care.

Dr Alex Douglass presented two posters based on dissertations of two MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students. These studies mapped grandparental socioeconomic data from the 1948 National Nutrition Survey to the Lifeways Cross-Generation Cohort Study. The first study by Eva Molloy examined associations between socioeconomic status in childhood and cardiovascular disease risk in adulthood. The second study by Aoife Mullen examined socioeconomic status, demographic factors and dietary quality of Lifeways study grandparents mapped from the 1948 National Nutrition Survey to growth outcomes in their grandchildren at birth, 5 and 10 years to investigate intergenerational effects. Supervision was provided by Professor Clare Corish, Dr Alex Douglass and Professor Cecily Kelleher. Results show that mapping data from prior to more recent studies, based on socioeconomic status and demographic data, can provide valuable insights into health outcomes.

EPH+ Students volunteer at the Irish Global Health Network Conference



UCD EuroPubHealth students: Lila Neal, Elizabeth Muthuo; Chandanpreet Thind; Adrienne Davis; Ada Celiktin ; Julia Wloch volunteering at the Irish Global Health Network Conference, RCSI held on October 3rd.

Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics renews and strengthens placement links with UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO)

UCDVO is a registered charity, based within UCD Global and founded in 2003, which aims to inspire active global citizens through transformative education and responsible volunteer programmes. Since 2017, a total of 20 MSc. Clinical Nutrition and Dietetic Stage 2 students have participated in the various health and education programmes in Uganda, Tanzania and Cambodia.

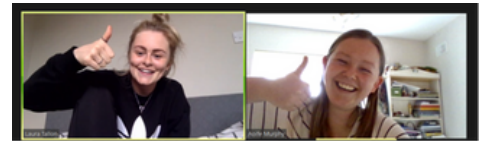
The UCDVO SPHPSS Global Week Event 'A Collaborative Learning Partnership for Global Health: The UCDVO - UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Sports Science Experience' was held on September 25th, with Associate Professor Cliona O'Sullivan co-ordinating the event on behalf of SPHPSS with Hilary Minch of UCDVO. Student and graduate UCDVO 2024 participants from Physiotherapy and Dietetics eloquently presented the highlights, challenges and learnings, and elaborated on what was involved in the UCDVO programme including the level of commitment, preparation, health, safety and fundraising. Also presented were the personal reflections on their experiences and how it has shaped them as health professionals and their learnings about responsible volunteering.



*Pictured: Niamh Arthurs
UCDVO Kisiizi Uganda*



Pictured L-R: Meabh Trench, Caoimhe O'Donovan, Andrew O'Leary, Holly Wolfe, Marie Williams and Anna Walsh currently Year 2 MSc. in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics at the UCDVO SPHPSS Recognition Evening, 4th October 2024



Pictured: Laura Tallon and Aoife Murphy (MSc. Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics class of 2022) at UCDVO Holy Union Sisters Tanzania 2021; completed online due to COVID 19 travel restrictions

Going forward, from 2025 and in conjunction with UCDVO staff, we hope to embed a 4 week elective UCDVO placement in Stage 1 of our programme as part of Module 40910 Practice Placement Year 1. Potential sites include:

Nurture Africa, Nansana, Wakiso District, Kampala, Tanzania

4-week rehabilitation camp for children with disabilities and their families includes physiotherapy, public health, and nutrition assessments and interventions.

Church of Uganda, Kisiizi Hospital, Kabale District, Uganda

A 285 bed, private, not-for-profit health care provider of Surgery, Maternity, Medical, Isolation, Paediatric, and Psychiatric wards as well as an outpatient department / A&E, a full rehabilitation department with an attached long-term patient rehabilitation ward. There are numerous other services at the hospital such as community-based outreach clinics, vaccination programmes, rehabilitation programmes, a HIV and antiretroviral treatment centre and a community health insurance project.

Holy Union Sisters, Mbagala, Dar es Salaam, Matumaini Rehab Programme, Tanzania

A three-week rehab camp for children with disabilities and their guardians. Activities will include carrying out assessments of children and developing rehabilitation plans with the Matumaini Centre staff.

AWARD SHORTLISTING

Two papers led by Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick and co-authored by two EPH MPH students were recently shortlisted for awards:

- "Provision of smoking cessation support for patients following a diagnosis of cancer in Ireland" (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36875512/>) was shortlisted for Best Paper in the Public Health Medicine/Epidemiology category of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Research Awards 2023.
- "The effect of HPV vaccination on the rate of high-grade cytology in 25-year-old women attending cervical screening in Ireland" was shortlisted for Best Research Paper in the Irish Healthcare Awards 2024.

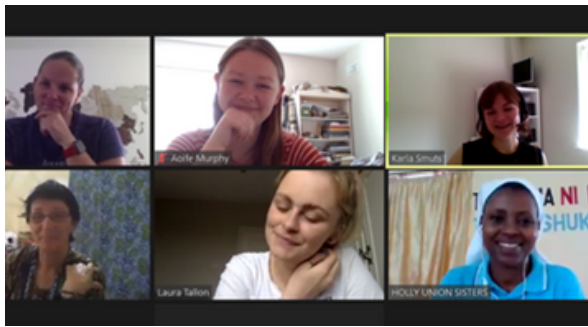


UCDVO Testimonials: Dietitian Placement 2021



Pictured: Aoife Murphy

"My name is Aoife Murphy (UCD MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate, 2022). I volunteered with UCDVO during their initial project with the Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, who help run a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families. We worked in partnership with the healthcare professionals and staff, to provide education sessions and resources on good nutrition for children, and provide disability awareness presentations for the staff to give to the parents. We had dietitians and physios working with us, and it was a great opportunity to meet other students from different courses. We completed our volunteering online as COVID-19 had put a halt to travel, however this didn't stop us from doing some very fun cultural exchanges and getting to know the staff and parents.



One of the first sessions meeting the staff.



Final session on Zoom with the Holy Union sisters.

I learned a huge amount from my time in UCDVO, and have so many fond memories. The one that sticks with me most is that the Sisters and Parents from the centre wrote us a song and sang and recorded it for us, as a thank you. It was so lovely to see the impact we had.

UCDVO really helped me improve a lot of skills, and prepared me for life after college. I still use a lot of what I learned in my day-to-day clinics as I'm working with families of all shapes and sizes and from many different backgrounds. I highly recommend taking part in UCDVO, as you will make friends for life and be able to share our privilege of education with others".



Example of the resources the team helped create!

SPHPSS MPH and PhD Alumnus Honoured



Professor Victor Mukonka, SPHPSS MPH and PhD Alumnus has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery for his work on Public Health. Also honoured in absentia was Prof. Diarmuid O'Donovan, National Director of Health Improvement and former Public Health Extern Examiner at UCD.

UCDVO Testimonials: Dietitian Placement 2019

"Although they say 'A picture tells a thousand words', I don't think it's possible to sum up my time in Uganda, Africa with the wonderful community in Kisiizi, the extraordinary people in Kisiizi hospital and the magnificent 13 other volunteers that I had the pleasure of going with; thanks to UCDVO. Although the UCDVO training days had prepared me a lot for project, answered a lot of my questions and provided me with an insight of what to expect, being over there was so far from what I had imagined. It was even more incredible. The vivid colours that surrounded us, the exotic sounds, the natural earthy scents and smells. It was stunning and felt so much like a dream. There were many heart-breaking moments, sad stories and shocking realisations that hit us hard. But there were also so many heart melting euphoric times that have made the most gratifying, uplifting and joyful memories that I will treasure forever.



Niamh Arthurs



Our adapted 'Healthy Eating Plate' with local foods

This experience has really developed my understanding and appreciation for building rapport and working alongside communities, local people and employees in organisations such as clinical and social settings in order to enable long lasting changes to occur. It would be similar if someone from another country came into Ireland and told us how to do things better. They may have a point or be trying to help from a place of greater knowledge or experience, BUT we would be reluctant to completely change our ways all at once. We would probably be more open to ideas and to listening to others if we felt our own voice was heard and understood".



"UCDVO are well known and appreciated in Kisiizi. These connections and established relationships really helped us in implementing change and encouraging developments a lot quicker. I cannot emphasize enough how much more I now value and try to instill trust in my own professional and personal life. We were advised before travelling to teach and do things that could be continued after we left, otherwise things would shortly return to the way they were before we arrived. No short term fixes. This also stimulated my thoughts on the value of short-term volunteering. Since returning home I have been asked if I would do it again. My reply is absolutely, I would spend the rest of the day packing resources and things that would be of use over there and fly there tomorrow IF AND only IF there were specific roles and work that I could contribute to of benefit to the people. That must be the main reason for going.

I feel very privileged to have had this opportunity with UCDVO. I have always been eager to volunteer and being out on project and speaking to other volunteers really drove home how brilliantly run and organised UCDVO is. "Life in all its fullness" is the motto of Kisiizi hospital. I certainly have a greater appreciation of how little we can live on and yet be so happy as the people in these communities are. I hope I don't ever forget this."

Niamh Arthurs- Senior Paediatric Dietitian and Researcher

ASPHER Delegation meets the WHO Regional Office for Europe



From left: Dr Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, Director of Division of Country Health Policies and Systems at WHO/Europe; Prof. Henrique Barros, ASPHER President; Dr Hans H. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe; Mr Robert Otok, ASPHER Director; Prof. Mary Codd, ASPHER Executive Board and ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme Lead; Prof. Carlo Signorelli, ASPHER Vice-President

WHO / EURO and ASPHER have a longstanding and ongoing collaboration on Public Health matters which was further enhanced by the signing of an MOU in March 2024.

In September a delegation from ASPHER met with leaders at WHO Europe to advance this agenda, with specific focus on:

(a) Capacity building in public health from local to European Region and global levels including adaptation of core curricula and competency frameworks for public health training and professionals with reference to the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce and The Core Curriculum Programme for Public Health.

(b) Advancing on Professionalisation of the Public Health Workforce in Europe.

(c) Enabling the next generation of Public Health Professionals to thrive in the public health field and make meaningful contributions; and

(d) Joint advocacy on issues of common interest, building capacity for sound public health advocacy.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ares, G., De Rosso, S., Mueller, C., Philippe, K., Pickard, A., Nicklaus, S., ... & Varela, P. (2024). The Intertwinement of the Physical and Digital Worlds in the Development of Food Literacy Competencies. *Nutrition Reviews*, nuae137. DOI: [10.193/nutrit/nuae137](https://doi.org/10.193/nutrit/nuae137)

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Callanan, S., Delahunt, A., Phillips, C. M., Wilson, Z., Foley, H., McNestry, C., . . . McAuliffe, F. M. (2024). Childhood Nutritional Factors and Cardiometabolic Outcomes at 9–11 y of Age: Findings from the ROLO Longitudinal Birth Cohort Study. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. DOI:[10.1016/j.ajcnut.2024.07.025](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajcnut.2024.07.025)

Davis, M. E., Cunningham, C., Blake, C., & O'Donoghue, G. (2024). Exploring the acceptability of three time-matched exercise interventions for increasing fitness in women living with obesity: A mixed-methods evaluation of the EXOFFIT study. *Obesity Science and Practice*, 10(4). DOI: [10.1002/osp4.70003](https://doi.org/10.1002/osp4.70003)

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Fallon, C. M., Corish, C. A., Horner, K., & Cunningham, C. (2024). Personalized approaches to the prescription of protein-based oral nutritional supplements in older adults: A scoping review. *Nutrition & Health*, 58, 80-103. DOI: [10.1016/j.nutos.2024.09.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nutos.2024.09.007)

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Somerville R, Fitzgerald C, Segurado R, Kapur K, George S, Bhardwaj N, Linnane B, O'Ceilleachair A, Staines A, Fitzpatrick P. Direct healthcare costs in the first 2 years of life: A comparison of screened and clinically diagnosed children with cystic fibrosis - The Irish comparative outcomes study of CF (ICOS). *J Cyst Fibros*. 2024 Jul 3;S1569-1993(24)00784-7. DOI: [10.1016/j.jcf.2024.06.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcf.2024.06.015). Epub ahead of print.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Walsh, M. E., Kristensen, P. K., Hjelholt, T. J., Hurson, C., Walsh, C., Ferris, H., Crozier-Shaw, G., Keohane, D., Geary, E., O'Halloran, A., Merriman, N. A., & Blake, C. (2024). Systematic review of multivariable prognostic models for outcomes at least 30 days after hip fracture finds 18 mortality models but no nonmortality models warranting validation. *Journal of clinical epidemiology*, 173, 111439. DOI: [10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111439](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111439)

White, C., Doherty, O., Smith, E., Blake, C., Finnerup, N. B., Kirwan, N., ... & Lennon, O. (2024). Exoskeleton Training for Spinal Cord Injury Neuropathic Pain (ExSCIP): Protocol for a Phase 2 Feasibility Randomised Trial [version 1; peer review: 1 approved with reservations]. *HRB Open Research*, 7, 55. DOI: [10.12688/hrbopenres.13949.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13949.1)

BOOKS/ BOOK CHAPTERS

Taiwah, A., Lewis, J., Desmeules, F., Cunningham, C., & Woodhouse, L. (2024). Advanced Practice in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy. In Grieve's Modern Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (pp. 415-420). USA: Elsevier.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Nutrition Society Congress 2024, Belfast, 2-5 July 2024,.

C. Fallon, I. Malinauskaite, C. Cunningham, K. Horner, C. Corish. POWER Study: Functional characteristics and dietary intake of adults aged 70+ at risk of sarcopenia with supportive home care. [Poster]

E. Molloy, C. Corish, A. Douglass and C. Kelleher. Associations between socio-economic status in childhood and cardiovascular disease risk in adulthood. [Poster]

A. Mullen, C. Corish, A. Douglass and C. Kelleher. Socioeconomic status, demographic factors and dietary quality of Lifeways study grandparents mapped from the 1948 National Nutrition Survey: associations with growth outcomes in their grandchildren at birth, 5, and 10 years. [Poster]

Society for Social Medicine & Population Health 68th Annual Scientific meeting, Glasgow, 4-6 September 2024,.

Philippe, K., O'Keeffe, L.M., O'Neill, K.N., Callanan, S., Delahunt, A., Douglass, A., McAuliffe, F.M., Phillips, C.M. Prenatal maternal lifestyle and offspring growth trajectories up to 11 years of age: secondary analyses of the ROLO birth cohort. [Oral presentation]

European Childhood Obesity Group 33rd Annual Congress, Ghent, Belgium, 8-10 October 2024.

Pen, G, Douglass, A., Kelleher, C.C, Aubert A.M, and Phillips, C.M. Maternal Plant-based Dietary Indices and Offspring Outcomes: Preliminary Results from the Lifeways Cross-Generational Cohort. [Moderated poster presentation]

Teo, S.M, Segurado, R. , Douglass, A., McAuliffe, F.M, Kelleher, C.C, and Phillips, C.M. Associations between Placental Weight and Childhood BMI Trajectories from Birth to 9 Years of Age: Insights from the Lifeways Cohort. [Moderated poster presentation]

29th WONCA Conference, Dublin, 25-28 October 2024.

Fitzgibbon S, White P, O'Connor M, Al-Kalbani S, Woods S, Comer R, Fitzpatrick P, Mooney T, Le Bonniec A, McLaughlin E, Russell NE, Mason Mohan C, Heavey L. HPV Self Sampling for Cervical Screening in Ireland: A Survey of Sampletakers' Attitudes towards HPV Self-Sampling. [Poster]

North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference. Boston, September 25-28 2024.

Bhatnagar R, Bhardwaj N, Masukume G, Linnane B, Herzig M, Ni Chroinin M, Mullane D, Cox D, McNally P, Javadpour S, Elnazir B, Greally P, Healy F, Williamson M, Slattery D, Kirwan L, Lancaster G, Glasscoe C, Segurado R, Southern K, W, Fitzpatrick P. Challenges faced by parents of children with Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland: The Irish Comparative Outcome Study of Cystic Fibrosis (ICOS). , Boston, USA. *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis* 2024; Vol 23; S2; S307 p558

European Meeting of International Fragility Fracture Network, Istanbul, 10-12 October 2024.

Fallon, C., Cunningham, C., Horner, K., & Corish, C. (2024). Nutritional and Functional Status of Older Adults Receiving Supportive Home Care: The POWER Study. [Poster].

Cunningham, C., Duffy, J., Heatley, E., Hogan, K., Kilkenny, F., Linehan, P., & Barker, K. (2024). Patient Education Post Vertebral Fragility Fracture: A Scoping Review. [Poster].

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

European Meeting of International Fragility Fracture Network, Istanbul, 10-12 October 2024.

Cunningham C: Global Survey Results of the FFN Global Consensus on the Holistic Management of VFF [Oral Presentation]

Walsh, M. E., Kristensen, P. K., Hjelholt, T. J., Hurson, C., Walsh, C., Ferris, H., Crozier-Shaw, G., Keohane, D., Geary, E., O'Halloran, A., Merriman, N. A., & Blake, C. (2024). Systematic review of multivariable prognostic models for outcomes at least 30 days after hip fracture finds 18 mortality models but no nonmortality models warranting validation. [Oral Presentation]

International Federation of Manual and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy. Basel, 4-6 July 2024.

Murphy, C., French, H., Mc Carthy, G., & Cunningham, C. (2024). Ten Years of Musculoskeletal Triage Services in Ireland : A Qualitative Analysis of Physiotherapists' Perspectives on Low Back Pain Care. [Poster/Oral Presentation].

Irish Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin, 19 October 2024.

White C, Klus S, Hai Ho W, Barrett L, Doherty O, Lennon O: Robotic Assisted Gait Training for Spinal Cord Injury Neuropathic Pain: A Systematic Review. [Poster].

O'Donoghue M, O'Riain E, Deegan O, Martin D, Smart K, McMahon S, O' Sullivan T, Blake C, Doody C, Ligerio M.M, O'Sullivan D, Hanrahan C, Murphy D, McVeigh J.G: Virtual Reality as an Educational Tool in the Treatment of Chronic Pain: Protocol for a Feasibility Study. [Poster].

McMahon S, McVeigh J.G, Wittink H, Mangina E, Yoshitani M, Tsaramirsis K, Alexopoulos M, Ouranis V, Agriopoulos G, Fullen B.M: Development of Virtual Reality Case Scenarios for Pain Science Clinical Reasoning Education: THE VR-Pain Study. [Poster].

Deegan O, O'Riain E, Martin D, Yoshitani M, O'Donoghue M, Smart K, McMahon S, O' Sullivan T, O'Sullivan D, Cole A, Hanrahan C, Blake C, Murphy D, Fullen B.M, McVeigh J.G: A Scoping Review of Frameworks Evaluating Digital Health Applications. [Poster].

Smart K, Abbott-Fleming V, Birklein F, Bruehl S, Corcoran E, Day S, Ferraro M, Grieve S, Hilgers R.D., Ingram C, Keene D.J., König F, McCabe C, Nikolakopoulos S, O'Connell N.E.: Optimising Trial Methods in Clinical Trials in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) (OPTIMETH-CRPS): Developing a Methodological Framework. [Poster].

O'Donoghue M: Virtual Reality (VR) as a pain education tool in the treatment of chronic pain. [Oral Presentation].

Environmental Dimension of Antimicrobial Resistance Conference (EDAR7), Montreal, 27-31 May 2024.

Wall K. Unearthing the dark side of glyphosate: boosting antibiotic resistance and virulence in Klebsiella species. [Poster].

All-Ireland Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference, Dublin, 10 October 2024.

Wall K: Herbicide-induced effects on the metabolome of Klebsiella species. [Poster]

Myoelectric Controls Symposium, New Brunswick, 12-15 August 2024.

Jarto F and Dupan S: Investigating the Speed-Accuracy Tradeoff in Electrotactile Stimuli [Poster]

Mehigan S and Dupan S: Limitations to the sense of agency over myoelectric controlled movements. [Poster]

European Geriatric Medicine Society Conference, Valencia, 18-20 September 2024.

Horner K: Association of body composition with appetite and energy intake in older adults [Oral Presentation]

International Ankle Symposium, Strasbourg, 4-5 October 2024.

Delahunt E, McCann R: Rehabilitation Oriented Assessment (ROAST) after LAS & CAI: Evaluating ankle muscle strength without my hands [Workshop]

Delahunt E, Smith M, Gribble P: Multi-approach treatment in CAI (ROAST) [Oral Presentation]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

47th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Glasgow, 5-8 June 2024.

Bhatnagar R, Bhardwaj N, Masukume G, Masalkhi M, Linnane B, Herzig M, Chroinin M. Ni, Mullane D, Cox D, McNally P, Javadpour S, Elnazir B, Grealley P, Healy F, Williamson M, Slattery D, Kirwan L, Lancaster G, Glasscoe C, Segurado R, Southern RW, Fitzpatrick P. The Irish Comparative Outcomes Study (ICOS) Journal of Cystic Fibrosis June 2024; 23: S5-S5 DOI: 10.1016/s1569-1993(24)00119-x

Bhatnagar R, Kirwan L, Segurado R, Bhardwaj N, Masukume G, Fitzpatrick P. Assessment of the impact of the newborn screening programme on lung function in children with cystic fibrosis in Ireland: The Irish Comparative Outcomes Study (ICOS) Journal of Cystic Fibrosis June 2024; 23: S123-S123 DOI: 10.1016/s1569-1993(24)00482-x

School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems 2nd International Conference, Dublin, 22-23 August 2024.

Fox P, Jalal R, Collins MB, Fitzpatrick P, Frazer K, Kavanagh L, Kennedy U, McCarthy C, McEnery M, Lyng A, Quirke B, O'Flynn A, Joye R. A co-designed research project in collaboration with the Traveller Community in Ireland with the aim of decreasing cancer related morbidity and mortality among Irish Traveller. School of Nursing, [Poster]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Invited publication in CF Research News September 2024

Comparing the money spent on healthcare up to age 2 years in children with CF who are screen detected and those who are diagnosed later due to sickness. <https://www.ecfs.eu/publications/cf-research-news/archive/2024-09>

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