



FEBRUARY 2023, ISSUE 8

SPHPSS IN FOCUS

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



WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of the year of SPHPSS in Focus. As always it has been a busy time in the SPHPSS, with lots of news about our staff, students and alumni to report on. We hope you all enjoyed the first St Brigids's Day bank holiday weekend and have returned feeling refreshed.

Since our last newsletter we welcome new staff members Professor Kate Pumpa, Assistant Professor Alison Connolly and postdoctoral researchers Dr Desire Naigaga and Dr Adrien Aubert. We bid farewell and best wishes to Dr Kristina Vingrys and Sarah O'Mahony, Clinical Tutor for Physiotherapy,

Congratulations to the Institute of Sport and Health on their impressive world rankings, to Associate Professor Conor Buggy and the UCD Dignity and Respect Support Colleagues Team who received a UCD Values in Action Award and to Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue on her UCD Teaching Excellence Award. In addition, Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Associate Professor Mary Codd and Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue were selected for UCD CHAS Teaching Excellence Awards and Dr Sinéad McMahon received a CHAS award for Exceptional Contribution. Well done to Dr Jedd Pratt who graduated with his PhD, and to all of our recent graduates. Our alumni continue to do us proud; Josh van der Flier was named Player of the Year at the World Rugby Awards and Ciara Mageean was named the Irish Times Sport Ireland Sportswoman of the Year. Well done everybody on these fantastic achievements!

We encourage you to read on to find out about the latest research, teaching, activities and achievements in the SPHPSS.

Dr 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 Health and Performance 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 \(International Health\)](#)
- [MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics](#)
- [MSc Occupational Safety and Health](#)
- [Prof Master of Physiotherapy](#)
- [MSc Coaching Science in Sport](#)
- [MSc Sports Management](#)

UCD and CHAS Teaching and Learning Awards



Several SPHPSS academic and teaching staff won awards for teaching and learning in recent months. These awards recognise their commitment to providing the highest standard of education for our students.

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue, who won a *UCD Teaching Excellence Award 2021-2022* for sustained commitment to teaching excellence and student learning, based on nominations from students, faculty and staff.

In addition, Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue, alongside Associate Professor Mary Codd and Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick won *UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) Awards for Teaching Excellence* and Dr Sinéad McMahon won a *UCD CHAS Award for Exceptional Contribution*. Congratulations to all - very well deserved!



UCD SPHPSS Institute for Sport & Health ranked #1 in Ireland and #25 in World

We are delighted to announce that UCD SPHPSS Institute for Sport & Health has again been ranked #1 in Ireland in the Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments. We are now #25 in the world, an increase from #34 in 2021. These rankings reflect the School's commitments to continually improving and enhancing our world-class sports science education and facilities for our students and producing internationally recognised research in the sports science area.

UCD SPHPSS Institute for Sport & Health ranked #25 in Global Ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments 2022



Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the Institute for Sport & Health said: "We are delighted that for the 4th year running, UCD Sports Science has been placed in the world top 50 by Shanghai Ranking, achieving our best result so far of 25th in 2022. This is a tribute to all the hard work from colleagues across disciplines who come together to solve research questions in fields spanning exercise and health across the lifespan, sports injury prevention, advanced sensor technology, sports management and performance sport. This new ranking cements UCD's place in the global hierarchy of Sports Science providers and gives us a consistent platform to deliver world class research into the future."

Healthy UCD Steering Committee



After chairing the Healthy UCD Steering Committee since its inception in 2016, Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick stepped down as Chair in January. The new Chair is Assistant Professor Celine Murrin, SPHPSS. Congratulations Patricia on your successful tenure. Many thanks to you both for your work and leadership on this initiative. Best wishes Celine in your new role.

Healthy UCD aims to create a culture supportive of healthy choices for students and staff at UCD and to raise awareness of individuals' capacity to improve their own health status. Visit us @ <https://www.ucd.ie/healthyucd/>

UCD SPHPSS Alumni Spotlight

We are very proud of all of our alumni who demonstrate excellence and make valuable contributions to people's lives on a daily basis. In the last quarter, several of our alumni have been recognised on both national and international stages for their incredible achievements in sport, two of whom recently received prestigious awards acknowledging these achievements.



Pictured: Josh van der Flier receiving his Player of the Year Award at the World Rugby Awards

Josh van der Flier

BSc Sport and Exercise Management 2017 alumnus and international Ireland rugby player was named Player of the Year at the World Rugby Awards in November 2022. He is the third Irish player to get his hands on the prestigious award, after Johnny Sexton in 2018 and Keith Wood in 2001. This follows on from a very successful year; in May 2022 van der Flier was named the first Irish winner in 10 years of the EPCR European Player of the Year award, one of the most prized individual accolades in rugby. He was honoured in 2022 as the Rugby Players Ireland Players' Player of the Year and Leinster Rugby Players' Player of the Year. In July 2022, Josh was a member of the Ireland rugby team that secured a historic first win over the All Blacks on New Zealand soil.

Ciara Mageean

Following on from being named the Irish Times / Sport Ireland Sportswoman of the Year awardee for August 2022, UCD BSc Physiotherapy alumnus and superstar athlete, Ciara Mageean, received the Track and Field Athlete of the Year Award at the 123.ie National Athletics Awards in November 2022.



Pictured: Ciara Mageean receiving her Irish Times Sport Ireland Award (left) and Field Athlete of the Year Award (right)



PhD awarded to Dr Jedd Pratt

Congratulations to Dr Jedd Pratt (BSc Health and Performance Science 2017, MSc Coaching Science in Sport 2018), who graduated in December with his PhD entitled 'An investigation into the physiological and genetic determinants of sarcopenia and the enhancing of current strategies for skeletal muscle screening'. Jedd's doctoral work was supported by an IRC Employment Based Programme award in collaboration with Genuity Science and was co-supervised by Professors Colin Boreham and Giuseppe De Vito. His doctoral studies have yielded six first author publications focused on interplay between genes regulating neuromuscular junction health, physiological indicators of neuromuscular junction stability and the clinical manifestation of sarcopenia. Jedd is currently based in Padua, Italy working on 'APPETITE', a trans-European project aiming to prevent undernutrition in older adults by enhancing appetite through nutritional and physical activity interventions. In March, he will take up a Post-Doctoral position in Musculoskeletal and Exercise Physiology at Manchester Metropolitan University. We wish Jedd continued success in his academic career.



Global Public Health and Sports Studies Summer School 2023

We are delighted to announce that the UCD SPHPSS is running a Global Public Health and Sports Studies Summer School from 19th to 30th June 2023 at the Belfield campus, UCD.

We are welcoming applications now from undergraduate students interested in global public health and/or sports and health-related areas. Applicants may currently be enrolled in programmes such as health sciences, public health, athletic therapy, sports studies, physical therapy, sports psychology, kinesiology, medicine or nutrition.



Students will be guided through the most recent research and teachings from a global health and sports and performance perspective, via a series of lectures, innovative practical workshops and interactive group learning activities, delivered by a team of world-class researchers, teachers and clinical experts.

In addition to learning activities, students will be given the opportunity to try out Gaelic games, take a stadium tour of Croke Park (Ireland's largest sporting arena) and browse in the Gaelic Athletics Association (GAA) museum. Students will learn about sustainable food practices at Airfield Estate, Dublin's only urban working farm and gardens, and will visit Glendalough, the beautiful 'valley of the two lakes' and home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. All the details can be found [here](#).

Graduate Programmes Webinar Series 2023

On 1st February, we held the first of our Graduate Programmes webinars for 2023. Programme Directors Dr Gráinne O'Donoghue and Professor Clare Corish plus a panel of students and alumni spoke about the Professional Master of Physiotherapy and MSc in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics programmes and answered questions from the audience. The webinar was chaired by Associate Dean of Global Engagement, Dr Cliona O'Sullivan. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

UCD DUBLIN
UCD School of Public Health,
Physiotherapy and Sports Science

Graduate Programmes Webinar Series 2023

PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF PHYSIOTHERAPY AND MSC IN CLINICAL NUTRITION & DIETETICS

DR GRÁINNE O'DONOGHUE
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR,
PROF MASTER PHYSIOTHERAPY

PROFESSOR CLARE CORISH
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR,
MSC IN CLINICAL NUTRITION & DIETETICS

DR CLIONA O'SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATE DEAN,
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Available on demand

MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Year 1

The MSc programme team would like to welcome the 24 incoming students who undertook Orientation on January 10th and began their studies in UCD this month. We also wish to thank all those who contributed to the Orientation, particularly David O'Dwyer, Diarmuid Stokes from the Library, Anna Scully, Student Advisor and Patricia Brady from the Student Health Service as well as Archita Choudhury who supported us all during the day. We also want to thank Aoife Courtney, RD and previous MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics student, now back undertaking a PhD in UCD who took the students on a tour of the campus and answered all their questions.



Pictured: Incoming MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics class

MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Year 2

We welcome back the 24 incoming MSc Year 2 students who all successfully completed their 14-week practice placements in December 2022.

A big thank you to all the dietitians in practice and to the UCD practice tutors for their teaching, mentoring and support for these students over the Autumn trimester. Well done to all!



Pictured: Current 2nd Year MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics class

Outgoing MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics



Pictured: Outgoing MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics class and dissertation supervisors

Finally, we would like to congratulate the Year 2 MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics on their successful completion of the MSc programme and their excellent MSc Dissertation presentations on December 14th.

Thanks to all the hard-working dissertation supervisors for their efforts, as one student said, in 'getting them over the line'. We look forward to the student graduations in June and will be delighted to work with them as CORU-registered dietitians on student training and other dietetic initiatives and developments over the coming years.

“Twenty Years a-Growing” The Lifeways 20th Anniversary Event

In 2001 Professor Cecily Kelleher, Professor of Public Health Medicine & Epidemiology and College Principal, UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences established the **Lifeways cross-generation cohort study** with funding from the HRB and over a 15-month period aimed to recruit a thousand expectant mothers at two maternity hospitals in Dublin and Galway. Of 1124 initial families, 1082 mothers and 1094 offspring were followed up for an average 20-year period, including if available, their partner and up to 4 grandparents. Sweeps were undertaken at 0, 1, 3, 5, 9 years-old with linkage to hospital, immunisation, GP and mortality records and another is planned for 2023, with index infants now young adults. On the 3rd February 2023 the last of the Lifeways offspring turned 20. A half day event to mark the establishment of Lifeways, was held in UCD, with support from Dawn Slattery which ensured the smooth running of the event online and in person.



Lifeways



Pictured: Asst. Prof Celine Murrin, Prof. Kelleher, Prof McAuliffe, Asst. Prof. Catherine Phillips, Dr Mairead O'Driscoll, Prof Lorraine Brennan and Dr Alex Douglass

Professor Orla Feely, UCD VPRII, gave a welcome address and in the 1st session chaired by Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, UCD Perinatal Research Centre, School of Medicine, Professor Kelleher presented on the *“Influence of Maternal and Cross-Generation factors on Young People’s growth and development in the HRB funded Lifeways Cohort of a Thousand Families in the Republic of Ireland”*; providing an overview of the Lifeways cohort, key outcomes (birth measures, BMI at 5 and 9 years and cumulative asthma incidence) and exposures (maternal dietary quality and dietary inflammatory potential) studied and how they are each consistently influential and socially graduated. The maternal grandmothers BMI exerts significant direct and mediated effects on children’s growth trajectories and the cohort is novel in having paternal line data.

Professor Kelleher highlighted the relevance of these data for maternal and child health policy and that the planned future follow-up into adulthood will help to deconstruct environmental, epigenetic and familial influences on long term health. Professor Lorraine Brennan, CHAS VPRII, chaired the 2nd session with invited keynote speakers including Professor McAuliffe who presented on *“The Early Life Impact during Pregnancy on Obesity and other long term outcomes”*, highlighting results from the ROLO and PEARs studies, Assistant Professor Celine Murrin, SPHPSS who spoke about *“Interventions and the evaluations in early life for healthy lifestyle”* and Assistant Professor Catherine Phillips, SPHPSS who presented on *“ALPHABET: Experience of International Collaborations”*, highlighting findings from pooled international cohort analyses including Lifeways.



Prof. Kelleher and some of the Lifeways team in 2021

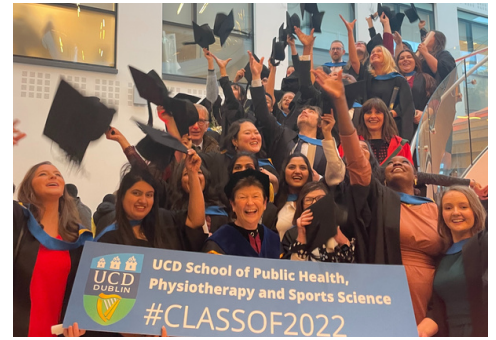
After another lively round of Q&A Dr Mairead O'Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer of the HRB, chaired the 3rd and final session, a panel discussion on *“What is the Future for Cohort Studies in Ireland?”* The panel provided insightful viewpoints and had an interesting discussion regarding the value of cohort studies, required resources for cohort maintenance and follow-up, highlighting other important transition periods over the life course and knowledge gaps that cohort studies can address. It was timely that the event coincided with the St Brigid’s Day bank holiday weekend; with its origins in the Celtic festival of Imbolc, Professor Kelleher noted that St Brigid’s Day was a festival of fertility, new life, growth and hope, being associated with the beginning of spring in Ireland. The title of the event *“Twenty Years A-Growing”* was inspired by a book of the same name written by Maurice O’Sullivan. The book title in turn was inspired by a sentence said by the author’s grandfather about phases of human life: *“Did you never hear how the life of a man is divided? Twenty years a-growing, twenty years in blossom, twenty years a-stooping, and twenty years declining.”* After 20 years of Lifeways growing, here’s looking forward to the next phase.

Graduation time!

In December, our Public Health, Occupational Safety & Health, Physiotherapy, Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics and Sports & Performance Class of 2022 students graduated from their postgraduate programmes. A great day was had by all and we wish our graduates the very best of luck in their careers!



Pictured: Masters in Public Health Class of 2022



Pictured: MSc Coaching Science in Sport Class of 2022



Pictured: MSc in Sport Management Class of 2022



Pictured: Graduates of MSc in Occupational Safety and Health, HDip Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work and MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Class of 2022

Research Dissemination in the Media

For the October edition of the Hospital Professional News Ireland Magazine (an online publication for healthcare professionals in Ireland) Associate Professor Cairtriona Cunningham contributed a piece on 'Exercise for Bone Health in Women' which explored Osteoporosis and Fracture Risk, Bone Health across the Lifespan and optimal and safe Exercise for Bone Health.



CHAS Long Service Awards

Colleagues across the college were presented with Ten Year Long Service Awards by College Principal, Professor Cecily Kelleher, at an event in the Kevin Barry Gallery, UCD Charles Institute in mid December. Long Service Awards were initiated by UCD in 2018 for employees who reach 10, 25 and 40 years of service to UCD. Ten Year Awards are presented to recipients at a local college event, and 25 and 40 year awards are presented at an event hosted by the President.

There were 37 CHAS employees who received the 10 year long service award; six of these were from the SPHPSS including Associate Professor James Mathews, Assistant Professor Seamus Kelly, Assistant Professor Denise McGrath, Assistant Professor Catherine Phillips, Dr Aoibheann Bird and David Singleton. Congratulations to all colleagues receiving long service awards this year.



Pictured: Prof Cecily Kelleher presenting a 10 Year Award to Asst Prof Denise McGrath

UCD Values in Action Award



Pictured: UCD Dignity and Respect Support Colleagues Team receiving their award from Acting UCD President Prof Mark Rodgers

Congratulations to Associate Professor Conor Buggy, SPHPSS and the UCD Dignity and Respect (D&R) Support Colleagues Team who received a UCD Values in Action Award in recognition of their role in promoting awareness of D&R issues across the University, for the personal support they provide to employees and for embodying the six values underpinning the university community.

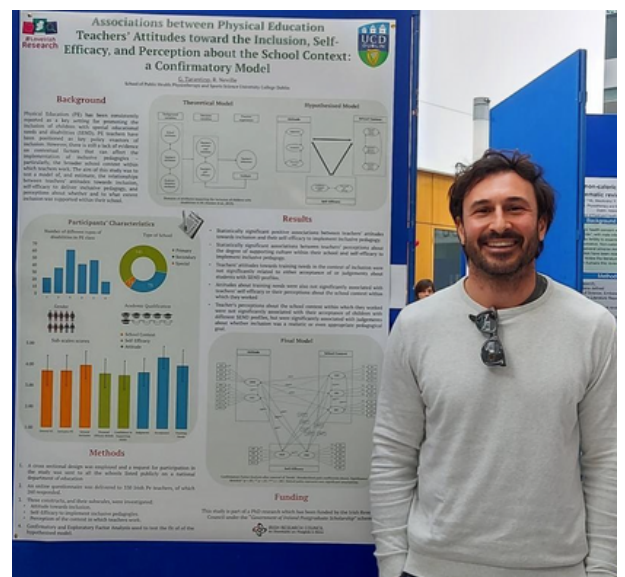
The panel includes academic, professional and technical employees who volunteer for the role in addition to their regular workload. Appointed by the UCD President they undertake training to ensure they are equipped to support employees impacted by issues of bullying, harassment or sexual misconduct.

International Day of People with Disabilities

At the UCD SPHPSS we have an extensive background in conducting research into supporting people with disabilities. To mark International Day of People with Disabilities, we spoke to Dr Giampiero Tarantino, who under the guidance of Dr Ross Neville, recently completed his PhD at the School and published his research into the inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities in physical education in Educational Research Review, the leading educational journal in Europe.

The findings of Giampiero's research revealed that despite teachers having positive and favourable attitudes toward inclusion, there are environment-related factors that can negatively influence their attitudes and the inclusion of children with disabilities and special educational needs within physical education classes, and more generally, school.

These findings align with previous research which has shown that exposure to different types of disabilities and special needs can foster an inclusive environment and promote a valuable experience for children with and without disabilities. Read about the research [here](#).



Pictured: Dr Giampiero Tarantino

New Microcredential Programmes

We recently launched two new microcredential programmes, 'Advancing Healthcare: Exercise Prescription' and 'Advancing Healthcare: Optimising Nutrition'. These 10-week courses are starting in March 2023 and applications are now welcome. Find out more [here](#).



UCD DUBLIN MICRO CREDITS

UCD MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Advancing Healthcare: Exercise Prescription

5 ECTS MAR 2023 10 WEEKS



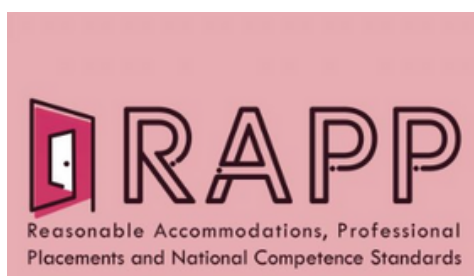
UCD DUBLIN MICRO CREDITS

UCD MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Advancing Healthcare: Optimising Nutrition

5 ECTS MAR 2023 10 WEEKS

Reasonable Accommodations and Professional Placements Project



UCD and placement sites have statutory obligations, under the relevant legislation, towards people with disabilities. Any student who wishes to request a reasonable accommodation for Practice Placement on the basis of a disability will be registered with UCD Access & Lifelong Learning who undertake a needs assessment in conjunction with the student to identify what Reasonable Accommodations the student may require to reduce the impact of their disability as they work to achieve the core competencies of their profession.

Reasonable Accommodations are designed to assist students to overcome a difficulty experienced as a result of their disability and not to advantage the student in any way or impact on the integrity of the learning outcomes or required competencies. In 2021, the Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD) in association with the Disability Advisors Working Network and supported by the HEA undertook research; the Reasonable Accommodations and Professional Placements (RAPP) project, on the experiences of disabled students on professional placements.

Ruth Charles, Clinical Tutor representing the Practice Education Team from the MSc. Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics programme participated in phase 2: research with staff and workshops. We have had several students with reasonable accommodations successfully complete the programme since its inception in 2016 and were happy to be able to recruit UCD students to phase 1: engaging with students with disabilities. A case example of good practice from the MSc programme was published in the guidance document under theme 3: "*Placement challenges and good practice*". Assistive Technology and good communication enabled a successful practice placement experience for a student who had poor hand mobility which made handwriting patient notes and records in paper systems difficult/impossible. Sincere thanks are due to the student and to Nicola Dervan, Practice Tutor, for writing up this example of good practice. A guidance document was launched on 14th December 2022 and can be accessed here: <https://www.ahead.ie/rapp-launch>. We welcome the meaningful and practical recommendations that have the potential to enhance the work placement experience for students with disabilities and to support diversity in higher education for students with disabilities to enter the profession of Dietetics while supporting workplaces to become more inclusive and representative of the diversity of society.

Faculty of Public Health Medicine Winter Scientific Meeting

The 2022 Winter Scientific Meeting Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland saw remarkable representation by recent UCD MPH graduates and current MPH students. Of 22 presentations of their work in oral and poster form, 14 were based on MPH dissertations in the past two years. The remainder are based on work they have since undertaken in the course of their training programme and positions. The group is pictured along with Prof. Cecily Kelleher, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and Principal of the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, Assoc. Prof. Mary Codd, MPH Programme Director and Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick, Head of Subject for Public Health.



Pictured: MPH presenters with Prof Cecily Kelleher, Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick and Assoc. Prof Mary Codd

Irish Research Council Research Ally Awards 2022



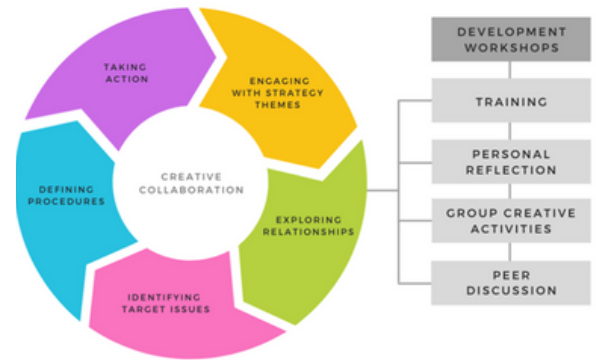
Congratulations to Professor Eamonn Delahunt and Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue who each were awarded Irish Research Council Research Ally Awards, which recognise the crucial role played by higher education personnel in supporting the academic research community across all career levels. Postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, academic and research-active staff were invited to nominate the mentors and supervisors who have supported their work and careers during the last year.

Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue said "It is a great honour for me to receive the IRC Research Ally Prize for a second time, and I am humbly thankful to my students who nominated me for this award. It motivates me to continue having the highest level of dedication in both supervising and mentoring all my postgraduate students and I am confident both they and their research will have national and international impact in the foreseeable future".

Professor Eamonn Delahunt was also thrilled to receive the award saying "I am delighted to receive an IRC Research Ally Award. As a supervisor of graduate research students I have always tried to cultivate an environment which encourages and promotes knowledge-exchange. This is a two-way reciprocal process - I have also learned new knowledge, skills, and perspectives from my students. These experiences have unquestionably benefited my professional and academic career, and will assist me in continuing to provide exceptional supervision and mentorship to future early career researchers".

UCD "THRIVE - Leadership in Research" Programme 2023

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Clare Reynolds and Associate Professor Olive Lennon on their acceptance to the 2023 THRIVE leadership programme. The SPHPSS are the only school in UCD to have two applicants this year. The "THRIVE - Leadership in Research" 2023 Programme is a joint initiative between UCD People and Organisation Development and UCD Research in consultation with their training partner 64 Million Artists. This important programme will contribute to the development of UCD Faculty members at Lecturer/Assistant Professor and Associate Professor level and supports the delivery of UCD's strategic plans. The programme will equip participants with the skills, knowledge, behaviours and confidence needed to realise their ambitions in UCD. Utilising a holistic approach, it provides a significant opportunity for Assistant Professors/Lecturers and Associate Professors across all disciplines to develop leadership and innovation skills in a group environment with peer-to-peer collaboration and networking.



THRIVE will engage participants in a leadership and personal development programme with access to a strengths-based feedback process, experiential learning workshops, and one-to-one coaching. The programme is built around personal engagement with the strategic aims of UCD's "Rising to the Future 2020-2024" and "Shaping the Future" strategies. The target audience are early- to mid-career members of UCD Faculty from across all disciplines, with a total of 15 places available. For more information please visit: <https://www.ucd.ie/peopledevelopment/ourservices/leadership/thrive/>

New Postdoctoral Researcher



Dr Adrien Aubert joined the School in January to work on parental and infant healthy lifestyle factors and the prevention of childhood obesity as part of the EndObesity project, under the supervision of Assistant Professor Catherine Phillips.

Adrien's academic background includes Masters degrees in Physical Activity (MSc) and Human Nutrition and Public Health (MPH), after which he worked as a statistician and data manager at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) for two years before embarking on a PhD in epidemiology at Université Paris Cité, France. The topic of his doctoral research was motor difficulties among 5-year-old children born extremely preterm (<28 weeks of gestation). Using a European multi-country birth cohort (<https://www.epiceproject.eu/en/>) he investigated risk factors for movement difficulties and cerebral palsy, healthcare support received by those children, and consequences of these difficulties for quality of life.

Microbiology Society 2023

Dr Guerrino Macori, Centre for Food Safety, is a co-organiser with Prof Nicky Boyle (University College Cork) and Dr Heather Allison (University of Liverpool) of the Infection Forums that will take place Monday 17th of April in Birmingham, during the 2023 annual Microbiology Society conference.



Papers (and associated posters) will be presented in areas related to clinical, veterinary and plant infections caused by prokaryote and eukaryote pathogens. This will include detection and diagnosis, identification, typing and epidemiology, pathogenesis, virulence, host response and immunity, treatment and prevention, antimicrobial agents and resistance, transmission and models of infection.

CanScreen-ECIS Project and Irish Cancer Society Award Shortlist

International Agency
Research on Cancer



Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick has recently been invited as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the [CanScreen-ECIS Project](#). This research project is funded by the European Union (EU) to strengthen cancer screening data collection across Europe and is co-ordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The project aims to update the existing European Cancer Information System (ECIS) and improve the quality and coverage of cancer screening programmes in Europe.



**Irish
Cancer
Society**

Additionally, Professor Fitzpatrick has been recently shortlisted as one of the two finalists for the Irish Cancer Society Senior Researcher of the Year for 2023. Congratulations on being selected as a finalist!

Universal Design for Learning

The Universal Design is a core component of the University For All initiative in UCD. Universal Design was created to provide an inclusive educational environment to all students. Congratulations to the four SPHPSS staff, Dr Sinead Mc Mahon, Assistant Professor Max Ditrolio, Assistant Professor Penpatra Sripaiboonkij and Dr Guerrino Macori who will receive their Digital Badge in Universal Design for Learning on the 9th of February, 2023. All staff are encouraged to register for the next programme.

For more information visit: <https://www.ucd.ie/universityforall/resourcehub/universaldesign/>



Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective

Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective
ASPHER: The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region | UCD DUBLIN: The School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin

Introduction
The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) is the key independent European organisation dedicated to improving and protecting public health by strengthening education and training of public health professionals for best practice and research (concord, 2022).

Methods
As part of the process of updating core competencies for public health professionals published by ASPHER in 2020, a scoping exercise of subject areas relevant to academic public health was carried out. A survey developed and distributed to ASPHER member Schools and Institutes of Public Health in Europe aimed to establish special expertise in public health programmes, with specific emphasis on 32 topic areas which included areas relevant to planetary health. Based on responses received, respondents were invited to share indicative content of their curricula in these areas. Curricular concept maps were created from this information as part of ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme (CCP).

Results
From a total of 30 replies at the time of writing, 23 (77%) noted expertise in aspects of planetary health.

Fig 1: Country of Origin of Respondents
Bar chart showing the number of respondents from various countries: UK (4), Ireland (3), France (2), Germany (2), Spain (2), Italy (2), Portugal (2), Netherlands (2), Belgium (2), Switzerland (2), Austria (2), Sweden (2), Denmark (2), Norway (2), Finland (2), Greece (2), Turkey (2), Canada (2), USA (2), Australia (2), New Zealand (2), South Africa (2), India (2), China (2), Japan (2), Korea (2), Singapore (2), Malaysia (2), Philippines (2), Indonesia (2), Thailand (2), Vietnam (2), Cambodia (2), Laos (2), Myanmar (2), Brunei (2), Brunei (2), Brunei (2).

Fig 2: Areas of Planetary Health Covered
These included environmental science (13/23, 57.6%); climate change (10/23, 43.5%); the built environment (2/23, 8.7%); physical, radiological, chemical and biological exposures (3/23, 13.0%); one health (8/23, 34.8%); and combinations of same.

Fig 3: Level of Environmental Science Courses
Respondents were invited to share indicative curricular elements from their programmes for inclusion for updating the CCP.

Conclusion
Planetary health in all its domains is inextricably linked with human activity and health. It is an increasingly vital component of public health education. Recognising that not all schools may be in a position to offer teaching in planetary health, consideration could be given to curating existing training materials and tools and sharing information and expertise through online platforms so that planetary health education can be integrated into all public health curricula.

ASPHER CCP - We are always looking for additional expertise - Please scan the QR code to get in touch! 6th Edition, 2023

ASPHER Fellow Karl Conyard, SPHPSS, UCD presented the poster 'Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective; The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region' at two recent conferences. The poster is based on the ongoing update to ASPHER Core Curriculum under the direction of ASPHER Executive Board Member, Associate Professor Mary Codd.

The poster was presented at the **Joint Public Health Conference on Planetary Health "Healthy People, Healthy Planet"** Institute for Public Health, Ireland in November 2022 (<https://healthyplanetconference.org/>).

The conference brought together public health and climate experts from across Ireland and the United Kingdom to share their experiences of what has worked and what has not in including planetary health in curricula.

There followed a presentation at the **Winter Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine** at RCPI in December, with considerable interest from public health medicine consultants across the country.

Conyard KF, Orhan R, Chen T, Middleton J, Otok R, Wall P, Codd MB. (2022), "Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective; The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region."

JPI HDHL Policy Evaluation Network

As part of the Joint Programming Initiative on a Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL), 28 research institutes from seven European countries and New Zealand combined their expertise to form the Policy Evaluation Network (PEN). The network's vision is to provide Europe with tools to identify, evaluate and benchmark policies designed to directly or indirectly address physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and sedentary behaviour while accounting for existing health inequities. Until now, systematic research of this field across Europe was sparse.

The existing body of evidence on the topic has substantially changed with [PEN's special issue of the European Journal of Public Health](#). The journal supplement comprises thirteen manuscripts that are output from the PEN project, which UCD Assistant Professor, Dr Celine Murrin has been involved in.

Topics examined include new theoretical models to advance our understanding of the policy process and its evaluation. It provides an overview of priority public policies and policy areas most likely to sustainably reduce physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and sedentary behaviour. It explores the first steps in a bespoke policy monitoring and health surveillance system for Europe, and a refinement of our knowledge of appropriate research designs and methods for the quantification of policy impact. PEN scientists illustrate how best to evaluate the implementation and impact of policy in order to yield the best results for a healthy life of European citizens. Importantly, PEN has provided recommendations on equity and diversity to ensure that policy actions are inclusive as opposed to exclusive.



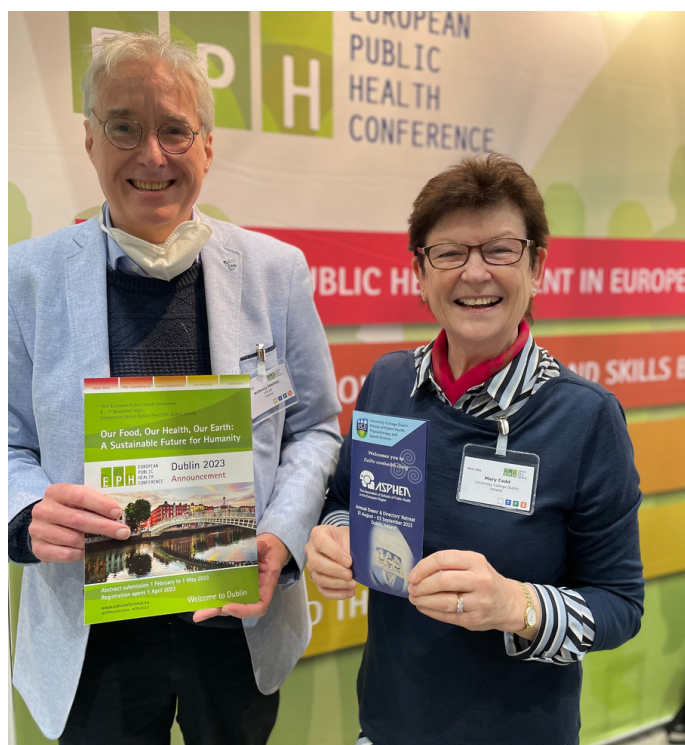
Promoting Dublin at EPH Conference, Berlin, November 2022



Professor Anthony Staines, Dublin City University and Associate Professor Mary Codd, University College Dublin attending the European Public Health Conference in Berlin in November 2022, both promoting Public Health conferences in Dublin in 2023.

The Annual ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) Deans' and Directors' Retreat will take place at UCD from 31 August to 04 September, combined with a celebration of 40 years of the UCD Master of Public Health Programme.

The Annual European Public Health Conference will take place at the Convention Centre, Dublin from 08-11 November. For further details visit <https://ephconference.eu/Dublin-2023-333>



Pictured: Prof. Anthony Staines and Assoc. Prof. Mary Codd

The ECDC Competency Framework and Self-Assessment Toolkit for Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology



In 2008 the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published 'Core competencies for Public Health Epidemiologists working in Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response' (2008). There followed 'Core Competencies for Infection Control and Hospital Hygiene Professionals' (2013); 'Core Competencies for Vaccine-preventable diseases and Immunization' (2017); and 'Core Competencies on Public Health Preparedness' (2017). The COVID-19 pandemic was the catalyst for ECDC to update these core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology to capture important developments in diagnostic methods, transmission dynamics, genomic analysis, disease modelling and vaccine development.

A steering group comprising ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) Executive Board and COVID-19 Task Force members, ECDC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and selected experts undertook the updating processes. Agreed updated competencies were published in April 2022 and has been translated into all European languages.

The framework consists of 157 competencies organised in 23 domains, mapped to 6 subject areas (A-F) as follows: A: Essential methods for applied infectious disease epidemiology (4 domains; 28 competencies); B: Preparedness, surveillance and response to infectious disease outbreaks (3 domains; 29 competencies); C: Communication and advocacy (4 domains; 25 competencies); D: Practice of infectious disease epidemiology (5 domains; 34 competencies); Contextual influences on infectious disease management (4 domains; 21 competencies; and F: Leadership and Management (3 domains; 20 competencies). To facilitate use of the competency framework a self-assessment tool (S-AT) developed by ECDC permits individuals to analyse their proficiency level in each domain and to access training resources, if desired.

At the Winter Scientific Meeting of the faculty of Public Health Medicine the Project Scientific Lead, Associate Professor Mary Codd, presented preliminary results of a pilot project of its application which highlighted the strengths and limitations of the tool and proposed an adaptation to allow capture of proficiency levels of respondents before and after delivery of educational programmes. Completion of the S-AT at key points in public health education programmes can identify areas in which programmes perform well and areas for which curricular content could be enhanced. It is hoped that more detailed findings will be presented at the World Congress of Public Health (WCPH) in Rome in May 2023.



Royal College of Physicians of Ireland - Representative Role



Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick has recently been appointed as a Faculty of Public Health Medicine representative on the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Collegiate Membership and Engagement Steering Group, established to review, promote and engage with the membership of the associated Faculties and Institutes of RCPI.

New Postdoctoral Researcher

Dr Desire Naigaga has recently joined the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science as a Postdoctoral Researcher on the Adolescent Health Literacy Project under the supervision of Assistant Professor Celine Murrin. The project, which uses a co-design approach, aims to develop a targeted measure of health literacy for Irish adolescents, and presents a unique opportunity for adolescents to contribute to the growing field of health literacy.

Desire brings with her experience developing and validating measures of health literacy and nutrition literacy on adolescent samples in both Africa and Europe. For her MSc research, she developed the first-of-its-kind Maternal Health Literacy (MaHeLi) scale for adolescents in Uganda. Her PhD research focused on advancing measurement of Critical Nutrition Literacy of adolescents in Norway. Desire is committed to impactful research and hopes to see a translation of research findings into policy actions that recognize and address the unique health literacy needs of adolescents.

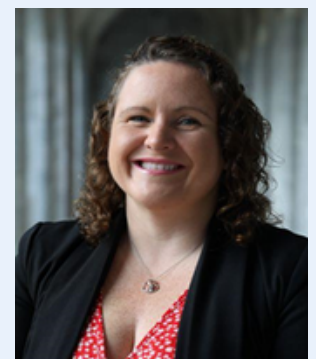


Graduate Programmes: Apply now!

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 part-time Professional Certificates to two-year full-time Masters programmes. Full information, including application requirements and deadlines, are available on our website at [UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science | Graduate Programmes](#). International students can find more information about studying at UCD at [UCD Global | International Students University in Dublin](#).

New Assistant Professor in the Centre for Safety and Health at Work

Dr Alison Connolly has recently joined UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science as an Assistant Professor in the Centre for Safety and Health at Work. Alison is the Programme Director of the UCD Higher Diploma of the Safety, Health and Well-Being at Work. Alison has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Health and Safety and a PhD in Exposure Science. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a Science Foundation Ireland Pathway Programme project that aims to address scientific knowledge gaps that exist in relation to characterising human exposure, and the main exposure pathways, to a class of pesticides called neonicotinoid insecticides.



Dr Connolly's research is motivated by the protection of human health by evaluating and understanding exposures from new and emerging pollutants. Alison conducts exposure assessment studies to investigate human exposures to pollutants for both environmental and occupational exposures. She predominantly utilises a human biomonitoring sampling strategy, which measures pollutants in biological matrices (e.g. blood, urine) to determine internal body burden. Alison is happy to join the team and would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome.

JPI AMR European funded-project: COMBAT

On January 16th-17th the partners of the Joint Programming Initiative AMR funded project COMBAT (COMplex Biofilms and AMR Transmission) met at Kingston University (UK) for the review of the results and network opportunity for future collaborations. The project will identify interventions that can actually control complex biofilms in three different environments, thereby decreasing the threat of antimicrobial resistance spreading. COMBAT's approach is based on solid novel laboratory-based biofilm study but also on the application of interventions in the domestic, healthcare and animal environments, providing a direct application to control the real "One Health" antibiotic resistance problem.

Project partners include Professor Seamus Fanning, University College Dublin, Ireland, Jean-Yves Maillard, Cardiff University, UK (Coordinator), Dirk Bockmühl, Rhein-Waal-University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Mark Fielder, Kingston University London, UK, Noora Perkola, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, Finland and Veljo Kisand, University of Tartu, Estonia. Katie Wall (PhD candidate at the UCD SPHPSS Centre for Food Safety) presented her preliminary study on the detection of AMR pathogens using a metagenomic approach that will be used also for monitoring the spread of resistant genes in domestic and clinical drains of sinks. She did a first trial comparing the AMR genes present in samples collected from the hospital ICU and in the domestic kitchen revealing the wide distribution of this potential risk. Antibiotic resistance is recognised as a critical threat in both human and animal medicine. Addressing this threat can be challenging when bacteria exist in complicated communities called biofilms. Biofilms form naturally and allow bacteria to survive and persist in diverse environments. Surviving bacteria facilitate the spread of antibiotic-resistant genes contributing to the spread of antimicrobial resistance.



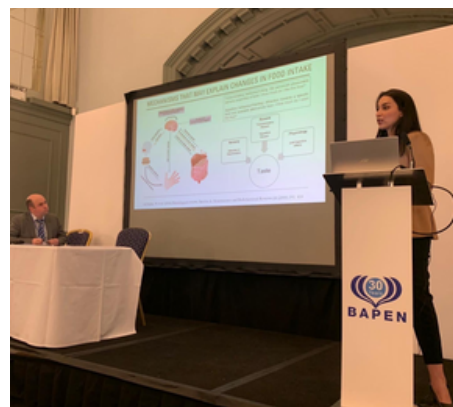
COMplex Biofilms and AMR Transmission (COMBAT)

Eating Behaviour after Bariatric Surgery: Symposium

Werd Al-Najim, a Student Dietitian in the MSc Nutrition & Dietetics Programme was invited by The Irish Society for Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (IRSPEN) to participate in a symposium on "Eating Behaviour after Bariatric Surgery". The symposium was presented at the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) in Brighton in Nov 2022. The symposium, chaired by Dr David Sawbridge (Consultant Gastroenterologist), consisted of three speaker sessions and covered the following topics:

- 1- Using direct measures of behaviour to understand food intake behaviour - Dr Ruth Price
- 2- Using mechanistic studies in humans to understand food intake - Dr Werd Al-Najim
- 3- Using animal studies to make sense of human food intake behaviour - Dr Caroline Cawthon.

The symposium was attended by a number of healthcare professionals with different backgrounds including Dietitians, Nurses, and Physicians. There was a great discussion during the Q&A session on the importance of monitoring changes in food preference in patients after bariatric surgery due to its impact on food intake and food choices and the health consequences that might arise due to these changes.



Pictured: Werd Al-Najim presenting at the BAPEN symposium Nov 2022

International Association for Food Protection European Symposium

The Centre for Food Safety has been successful in the application to organise a roundtable during the 2023 European Symposium on Food Safety (Aberdeen, Scotland 3-5 May 2023), which is the conference in Europe of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) <https://www.foodprotection.org/europeansymposium/>.

The topic of the session is "**Food Safety and Microbial Dark Matter - Decrypting the Genomes of Microbiomes**". The roundtable will provide a forum for discussing the impact of metagenomics and Whole Genome Sequencing in Food Safety, bringing together experts and researchers interested in exploring the vast uncultured majority of microorganisms in the hope of stimulating a lively culture-dependent Vs. culture-independent debate.

At the roundtable session proposed by Dr Guerrino Macori and Prof. Séamus Fanning, experts from the **Quadram Institute** (UK - centre for food and health research) **Prof Alison Mather**, **Dr Maria Diaz-Garcia** and from the **University of Turin** (Italy) **Prof Francesco Chiesa** and **Dr Ilario Ferrocino** will discuss the challenges for the future for revealing the Microbial Dark Matter. This term has become a popular term to describe the vast uncultured majority of microorganisms that populate most environments, foods included, and that is currently only known through the use of culture-independent techniques such as sequencing and metagenomics approaches. Even though molecular methods may reveal the presence of a pathogen in a sample through the detection of specific virulence gene(s) associated with pathogenic microorganisms, often, the isolation of the strain is not possible. The roundtable will provide a forum for discussion of the impact of the metagenome-assembled genomes, the contributions technologies are making toward more readily achieving complete microbial genome sequence assemblies and how they should be incorporated into public databases.



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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists Conference, Online, October 2022

Murphy C, French H, McCarthy G, Cunningham C. Clinical pathways for the management of low back pain from primary to specialised care: a systematic review. [Oral presentation]

Irish Association of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting, Cavan, Ireland, October 2022

Gilligan P, Fitzpatrick P, Owens E, Winder S, Codd M. The Six Hour Target and Total Daily Attendances (6HrTDA) Cohort Study. [Oral Presentation]

Gilligan P, Fitzpatrick P, Owens E, Winder S, Codd M. The Tests and Time study: A cohort study on the impact of requiring investigations on achieving timely care in the Emergency Department. [Oral Presentation]

International Association of Cancer Annual Conference, Online, November 2022

Mason Mohan C, Gleeson G, Fitzpatrick P, Mooney T, Russell NE. Managing a screening programme in a pandemic and beyond: the experience of Ireland's CervicalCheck Programme. [Oral presentation]

UK Public Health Science Conference, Glasgow, Wales, November 2022

Frazer K, Bhardwaj N, Fox P, Niranjana V, Stokes D, Quinn S, Kelleher CC, Fitzpatrick P. A systematic review of smoking cessation interventions for smokers diagnosed with cancer.

Niranjana V, Fitzpatrick P, Morrogh R, O'Hagan K. Evaluation of community outreach feasibility programme on improving cancer related preventive health behaviour.

Royal Academy of Medicine Section of Epidemiology Jacqueline Horgan Bronze Medal Meeting, Online, November 2022

Power C, Fitzpatrick P. Child and adolescent patterns of commuting to school in Ireland. [oral presentation]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Conference, Berlin, Germany, November 2022

Bhatnagar R, Linnane B, Herzig M, Ni Chroinin M, Cox D, Elnazir B, Segurado R, Kirwan L, Southern KW, Fitzpatrick P. Challenges faced by parents of screen-detected children with Cystic Fibrosis: The ICOS study. [oral presentation]

Cosgrave E, Fitzpatrick P. Breastfeeding and allergic disease at age nine in Ireland: An Irish prospective cohort study [oral presentation].

Frazer K, Bhardwaj N, Fox P, Niranjana V, Quinn S, Kelleher C, Fitzpatrick P. Rapid systematic review of smoking cessation interventions for people who smoke and have cancer. [oral presentation]

Fitzpatrick P, Bhardwaj N, Syed S, Fox P, Frazer K, Niranjana V, Lyons A, McCann A, Brennan S, Guerin S. Smoking cessation for cancer patients through the lens of cancer specialists: challenges & solutions. [oral presentation]

Niranjana V, Fitzpatrick P, Morrogh R, O'Hagan K. Impact of community outreach programme on improving cancer related preventive health behaviour. [oral presentation]

22nd International Union of Nutritional Sciences-International Congress of Nutrition, Tokyo, Japan, December, 2022.

Corish CA. Development and evaluation of a multidisciplinary education intervention to support the management of malnutrition and oral nutritional supplement prescribing by Irish general practitioners. [oral presentation]

Faculty of Public Health Medicine Scientific Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, December 2022.

E-Bikes: Data from Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. Atueyi, Ginikanwa (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick

Public Health Education In Planetary Health. Conyard, Karl (ASPHER Fellow, 2022-23). Supervisor: A. Prof. Mary Codd

COVID-19 outbreaks in cruise ships attending Dun Laoghaire port in the 2022 season. Corridan, Katie (MPH, 2023). Supervisor: Prof. Patrick Wall

A national survey of public attitudes towards financial incentives as a smoking cessation intervention. Cosgrave, Ellen (MPH, 2021). Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick

A large outbreak of intestinal disease linked to a public water supply in Ireland: echoes from the past and lessons for the future. Gilroy, James (MPH, 2022) Supervisor: Prof. Patrick Wall

Social interaction and wellbeing in Irish older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gogarty, Martina (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: A Prof. Mary Codd

The Impact of COVID-19 in Irish Nursing Homes: An assessment of variables associated with performance during the first wave of the pandemic: Spread of infection. Loughrey, John (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: Prof. Patrick Wall

An association between micronutrient deficiencies and COVID-19 severity and outcomes. Jalili, Parnian (MPH, 2021). Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Phillips

An evaluation of the women's health service (WHS) and anti-human trafficking team (AHTT). McGlacken, Therese (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: A. Prof. Mary Codd

Comparison, by country, of the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination by health care workers in the EU/EEA, January-June 2021. McGlacken, Therese (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: A. Prof. Mary Codd

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Faculty of Public Health Medicine Scientific Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, December 2022.

"Quaranteens" - life after lockdown: The overall health and wellbeing of 12/13 year olds in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic. McGuire, Fiona (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: Dr. Clare Reynolds

Smoking as a risk factor for increased use of medication, healthcare utilisation and hospitalisation: TILDA Waves 3-4. Pisharody, Anand (MPH, 2021). Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick

Child and adolescent patterns of commuting to school in Ireland. Power, Claire (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick

Prevalence of urinary incontinence in older adults in a community setting. Varghese, Amruta (MPH, 2022). Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick

Review of COVID-19 and small area deprivation across four pandemic waves in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. Mc Donnell, Kathleen (MPH, 2019)

Factors associated with obesity in young adults in Ireland. McNicholas, Triona (MPH, 2020).

The development of Ireland's first Health Service Executive health protection strategy 2022-2027: Approach and lessons learnt. Kelly, Ciara (MPH, 2019)

E-scooters: last mile solution or threat to life and limb? Kelly, Caitriona (MPH, 2021)

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