



EPINews

Newsletter of the School of Public Health

March 2019

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to share with you issue 19 of EPINews. A very special thank you on behalf of [Emmy](#) and [I](#) to two transition year students, Ms Emillie Good and Ms Lauren McCourt who worked hard collating the initial draft of this 19th issue of the EPINews during their transition year placement in the School. We think they did a stellar job and are sure you will agree! Since the last issue, two of our outstanding PhD students, [Ms Gillian Maher](#) and [Ms Emmy Racine](#) won prizes for their research; [Gillian](#) won the Pfizer-SRI President's Presenter's Award at the Society for Reproductive Investigation 66th Annual Scientific Meeting and [Emmy](#) won the best poster prize at the 5th Annual SPHeRE (Structured Population and Health-services Research Education) Network Conference. Massive congratulations to you both! In this issue, we wish the [CHERISH](#) (Choosing Healthy Eating for Infant Health) study researchers well in the next phase of their research following the launch of their feasibility study at the Mallow Primary Healthcare Centre earlier this month, showcase the School's representation at the SPHeRE Network Conference which was on the topic of 'Getting Research Into Policy and Practice', update the Schools' preparations for the joint Society for Social Medicine & Population health and International Epidemiology Association Conference and much more!

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and as always, we encourage you to circulate EPINews among your colleagues and direct any queries or comments to Niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie or emmy.racine@ucc.ie.

Ms Niamh McGrath and Ms Emmy Racine

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SCHOOL NEWS

Next phase of CHERIsH study gets underway in Mallow

The [CHERIsH](#) (Choosing Healthy Eating for Infant Health) team are delighted to be commencing the next phase of their HRB-funded research on a pioneering intervention aimed at promoting healthy early infant feeding practices in primary care. This next phase seeks to explore the feasibility of the intervention, which will begin implementation at the state-of-the-art Mallow Primary Healthcare Centre (MHPC) – one of the leading centres for primary healthcare in Ireland.

To mark the beginning of this exciting new phase of research, a special launch event was organised by the [CHERIsH](#) team at its feasibility site in Mallow. The event, held on Tuesday 12th March, featured a 'launch lunch', which was attended by healthcare practitioners from the MPHPC and members of the [CHERIsH](#) research team. Launching the event was the School's [Professor Patricia Kearney](#), Principal Investigator for the study, and Dr Tony Heffernan, a GP at the MPHPC who is leading the study.



Pictured above: CHERIsH study researchers and Mallow Primary Healthcare Centre staff at the launch of the CHERIsH feasibility study trial. L-r: Dr Kate O'Neill, Jenny Madigan, Ruth Haugh, Dr Tony Heffernan, Professor Patricia Kearney, Ms Susan Calnan, Dr Elaine Toomey and Dr Caragh Flannery



Pictured above: Professor Patricia Kearney (CHERIsH study) and Dr Tony Heffernan (Mallow Primary Healthcare Centre) launching the CHERIsH study feasibility trial

The ground-breaking intervention was designed by a team of researchers from our own School of Public Health (UCC), the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) – in partnership with practitioners at the MPHPC, led by Dr Heffernan, the [HSE Nurture Programme](#), and parents and primary caregivers from the [CHERIsH](#) public and patient involvement group. The multi-component intervention seeks to improve early infant (aged 0–2 years) feeding practices, such as breastfeeding and the introduction of solid foods, to improve health outcomes and reduce the risk of overweight and obesity in childhood and later life.

Results from the study will help to determine the feasibility of the intervention, informing possible roll-out and scale-up of the intervention to other primary care sites in the future. The [School of Public Health](#) would like to wish the [CHERIsH](#) team the best of luck in this next phase of their study and looks forward to hearing more news about this pioneering intervention.

5th Annual SPHeRE Network Conference

The [SPHeRE](#) (Structured Population and Health-services Research Education) Network held their 5th Annual Conference in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin in January. The theme of this year's conference was 'Getting Research into Policy and Practice', a really relevant topic for public health and health services researchers!

Well done to [Ms Claire Collins](#), SPHeRE Programme Administrator for UCC and Assistant Director for Networks and Knowledge Translation for the SPHeRE Programme who organised her first (of many we're sure!) successful SPHeRE Conference!

Once again there was great representation from the [School of Public Health](#) with 4 oral presentations and 4 poster presentations. During the interventions session, [Ms Rebecca Dennehy](#) presented some of her PhD work titled 'Communication is the root issue: Informing the development of an intervention to address cyberbullying'. During the chronic illness session, [Ms Gillian Maher](#) presented findings from her PhD research 'Association between hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and autism spectrum disorder: a population based study'. Also during this session, [Dr Fiona Riordan](#) presented 'The role of physician and practice characteristics in the quality of diabetes management in primary care: systematic review and meta-analysis'. In the afternoon chronic illness session, [Dr Seán Millar](#) presented his work 'Predicting Type 2 Diabetes Development Among patients in General Practice – A Prospective Analysis Comparing HbA1c with Fasting Plasma Glucose.'



Pictured above: Ms Rebecca Dennehy discussing the use of participatory action research methods in intervention development aimed at addressing cyberbullying



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Caroline Heary (Chair) and presenters at the Chronic Illness session; Ms Daniela Rhode (RCSI), Dr Eithne Sexton (RCSI), Ms Kate Gajewska (RCSI), Dr Fiona Riordan (UCC) and Ms Gillian Maher (UCC)

[Ms Susan Calnan](#), [Dr Seán Millar](#), [Ms Niamh McGrath](#) and [Ms Emmy Racine](#) each presented posters on the day. [Susan](#) presented findings from the [REACT](#) (Responding to Excessive Alcohol Consumption in Third-level) programme; 'Hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption among college students in Ireland: A cross-sectional baseline study'. [Seán](#) presented two posters on the topic of predicting type 2 diabetes in primary care; 'Predicting Type 2 Diabetes Development Among Patients in General Practice – A Prospective Analysis Comparing Metabolic Syndrome Definitions and Components' and 'Predicting Type 2 Diabetes Development Among Patients in General Practice – A Prospective Analysis Comparing Diabetes Risk Scores and Components'. [Niamh](#) presented findings from work undertaken during her SPHeRE Programme national placement with the Health Information and Quality Authority. The poster was titled, 'Driving improvements in national health information in Ireland: a multi-method quality improvement approach.'

Emmy presented work from her PhD study, investigating the use of patient and public involvement in clinical trials. Emmy's poster was titled, 'Us and 'Them': Identifying the most suitable approach to involving patients and healthcare professionals in a consensus process to inform intervention development.' A special word of congratulations to Emmy who won Best Poster Prize on the day. Emmy is pictured below with Professor John Browne (Acting Head, School of Public Health, UCC and SPHeRE Programme Director). Congratulations and well done Emmy!



Ms Emmy Racine receiving the best poster prize from Professor John Browne (left) and pictured with the winning poster (above) at the 5th Annual SPHeRE Network Conference.

School marks International Women's Day 2019

On March 8th, staff and PhD students from the School of Public Health and the National Suicide Research Foundation participated in the International Women's Day (IWD) 2019 campaign #BalanceforBetter by striking the balance for better pose (pictured right). This year's IWD campaign theme is centred around building a gender-balanced world and events will continue through the year. See <https://www.internationalwomensday.com> for more information.



Pictured above: School of Public Health and National Suicide Research Foundation members striking the pose for International Women's Day 2019.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Influence of providing information to participants about development of trial outcomes on response rates and attitudes to questionnaire completion: Protocol for a study within a trial [version 1; referees: 1 approved]. Griffin C, Toomey E, Queally, M, Hayes C, Kearney PM and Matvienko-Sikar K. *HRB Open Research* 2019; 9:2

Addressing fidelity within complex health behaviour change interventions: A protocol of a scoping review of intervention fidelity frameworks and models. [version 1; referees: 2 approved]. McCleary N, Nathan N, Lorencatto F, Toomey E, Colquhoun H, Matvienko-Sikar K, Roy R and Byrne M. *HRB Open Research* 2018; 1:25

How suicide-bereaved family members experience the inquest process: a qualitative study using thematic analysis. Spillane A, Matvienko-Sikar K, Larkin C, Corcoran P, and Arensman E. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-being* 2019; 14:1

How do people experience a family member's high-risk self-harm? An interpretative phenomenological analysis. Spillane A, Matvienko-Sikar K, Larkin C, Arensman E. *Archives of Suicide Research.* 2019; 8:1-39



The influence of observational hand hygiene auditing on consultant doctors' hand hygiene behaviors: A qualitative study. Smiddy MP, Murphy O, Savage E, Browne J. *American Journal of Infection Control.* 2019; In press.

Choosing important health outcomes for comparative effectiveness research: 4th annual update to a systematic review of core outcome sets for research. Gargon E, Gorst SL, Harman NL, Smith V, Matvienko-Sikar K and Williamson PR. *Plos One* 2018; 13:12

Priority focus areas for a sub-national response to climate change and health: A South African provincial case study. Godsmark CN, Irlam J, van der Merwe F, New M and Rother HA. *Environment international* 2018.

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

Follow Us

Come join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter!  

Pfizer-SRI President's Presenter's Award for Gillian

Ms. Gillian Maher, 3rd year SPHeRE Programme PhD student, based in the School of Public Health and the INFANT Centre, UCC, was presented with a Pfizer-SRI President's Presenter's Award at the Society for Reproductive Investigation 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Paris, France on 14th March, in Paris, France. The Pfizer (formerly Wyeth) President's Presenter Award was established in 1996 to recognize the 25 most meritorious abstracts (either poster or oral presentation) submitted by individuals still in training, to the conference. Research fellows and those in both pre and post-doctoral training are eligible to receive the prestigious award.

Gillian's research, which she presented at the Scientific Meeting, titled: 'Association between Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Population-Based Study,' is co-authored by Dr. Gerard O'Keeffe, Prof. Christina Dalman, Prof. Patricia Kearney, Dr. Fergus McCarthy, Prof. Louise Kenny and Dr. Ali Khashan (primary supervisor). Congratulations to Gillian and all involved on a fantastic achievement!



Pictured above: Ms Gillian Maher after receiving a Pfizer-SRI Presenter's Award



College of Medicine and Health Winter Conferring

Congratulations are in order for a number of postgraduate students who graduated at the College of Medicine and Health's Conferring on Friday 22nd February 2019 and the NUI Galway Spring Research Conferring on Thursday 21st March 2019. Congratulations to; Dr Ailbhe Spillane (formally NSRF and SPHeRE Programme), Dr Kieran Walsh (formally School of Public Health and SPHeRE Programme), Dr Maura Smiddy (School of Public Health) and Dr Caragh Flannery (ESPRIT research group and SPHeRE Programme) who graduated with doctoral degrees. Ailbhe's thesis was titled 'The Impact of Suicidal Behaviour on Family Members in Ireland: A Mixed Methods Study' and was ably supervised by Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran and Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar. Ailbhe is currently a post-doctoral project coordinator with National Suicide Research Foundation, UCC and the HSE. Kieran's thesis was titled 'Rationalising antipsychotic prescribing in dementia: a mixed-methods investigation' and was supervised by Dr Suzanne Timmons, Dr Stephen Byrne, Prof John Browne and Dr Jenny McSharry. Kieran currently works as a health services researcher with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). Maura's thesis was titled 'An evaluation of the efficacy of observational hand hygiene auditing: a mixed methods approach' and her supervisory team included Prof John Browne, Dr Olive Murphy and Dr Eileen Savage. Maura holds a lecturing post in the School of Public Health. One week later, Dr Smiddy and Dr Aisling Jennings (Department of General Practice) also graduated with a Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in the School of Public Health. Dr Flannery's thesis was titled 'Developing a behaviour change intervention for physical activity during pregnancy' and was



Pictured above: Drs Ailbhe Spillane and Kieran Walsh (both SPHeRE Programme) who were conferred with PhDs in February

supervised by [Prof Molly Byrne](#), [Prof Patricia Kearney](#) and [Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe](#). Caragh is based in the School of Public Health where she holds a post-doctoral position on the [CHerISH](#) Study and as the [ESPRiT](#) Research Group Manager.

Congratulations also to the 2017/2018 Master of Public Health Programme campus based and online cohorts who graduated on the same day. Special congratulations to Ms Eunice Phillip, Ms Charlotte Griffin and Ms Deirdre Brennan, research assistants in the School of Public Health who graduated on the day.

We wish all our graduates the very best of luck in their future careers!

Pictured right: Dr Maura Smiddy and her PhD supervisors; Dr Eileen Savage and Prof John Browne at the CoMH Winter Conferring 2019



School welcomes refugees as part of Refugee Week 2019

The School of Public Health were delighted to welcome group of refugees from Kenmare Direct Provision on Wednesday the 23rd of January as part of Refugee Week (21 – 25th January). After welcome refreshments, presentations on courses within the School and personal experiences were shared. A guided tour of the Main Quadrangle preceded the Groups attendance at the Sanctuary Scholarship presentation. Thank you to Jennifer Russell and Maura Landers (Kenmare Direct Provision) for providing us with this opportunity to meet an amazing group of people.

Pictured left: Members of Kenmare Direct visiting UCC as part of Refugee Week 2019

Dr Zubair Kabir appointed to the new Health Research Consent Declaration Committee

[Dr Zubair Kabir](#), Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health, is among academics appointed by Minister for Health, Simon Harris, to the new Health Research Consent Declaration Committee. The Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC) was established as part of the Health Research Regulations made under the Data Protection Act, 2018. The purpose of the Health Research Regulations is to support health research and promote enhanced public confidence in such research. The Regulations make explicit consent of the data subject the default position for such processing. However, they also recognise that there may be circumstances where potentially very important health research might not be able to proceed because obtaining consent is not possible. For that reason, the Regulations provide for a statutory consent declaration process which allows researchers to apply for an exception to the consent requirement. Further information on the regulations and the HRCDC committee is available [here](#).

Success for Hannah at the 2019 BTYS

Our heartiest congratulations to Ms Hannah Walsh (13 years), from Colaiste Treasa, Kanturk, Co. Cork on her success at the BT Young Scientist and Technologist Exhibition (BTYS) on January 12th 2019. Hannah won first place in her category; Social & Behavioural Sciences, Junior Individual, and won a rosette for her display at the competition. Hannah's project was titled, '*Diabetes: Don't sugar coat it – Improving the general populations' understanding of type 2 diabetes to support prevention.*' Under the supervision of [Ms Niamh McGrath](#), SPHeRE PhD student in the School of Public Health, Hannah surveyed adults of all ages about their knowledge of diabetes and designed an information leaflet based on the survey findings. Professor Domhall O'Halloran, Endocrinologist and Ms Margaret Humphreys, Clinical Specialist Dietician for Diabetes, both Cork University Hospital also inputted into the project. Well done to Hannah and to all those involved in her well-conducted and important research study.



Pictured above: Ms Hannah Walsh at the BTYS Exhibition with her award winning poster and research project

The BTYS is a national competition open to all second level students in Ireland and is one of the longest running events of its kind. Participants carry out a piece of research in their area of interest; Biological & Ecological Sciences, Social & Behavioural Sciences, Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences and Technology. This year, the number of entries reached an all time high when over 2000 projects were submitted. For more information on the competition and the 2019 winners, [click here](#).

Transition Year Students Placement

The School was delighted to host Ms Emillie Good and Ms Lauren McCourt, Bandon Grammar School Cork, for their transition year work experience from the 11th – 14th March 2019. Emillie and Lauren participated in several activities throughout the week, giving them an insight into life as both a School of Public Health, and NSRF staff member and a UCC student. [Ms Collette Cunningham](#) oriented the students by giving them an introduction to Public Health talk before they met with 3rd Year BSc Public Health Sciences student, Mr Rhys Earls, to gain a student perspective on life as a BSc Public Health Sciences student. Over the course of the week, the students attended the second year BSc Public Health Research Report module and carried out data analysis and data processing with [Ms Rebecca Dennehy](#) (School of Public Health), [Mr Niall McTernan](#) and [Ms Emer McEvoy](#) (both NSRF; National Suicide Research Foundation) and developed new editing skills through their work collating the initial draft of the EPI News with [Ms Niamh McGrath](#). Emillie and Lauren said they were struck by the importance of being organised in research and about the potential adverse impacts of poor mental health on any individual. The highlight of their week was meeting with [Ms Michèle Power](#) from the 'Quercas Talented Students Programme', where they familiarised themselves with the Quercas Sports Scholarship, and requirements necessary to obtain it. Emillie and Lauren hope to return to UCC in the future as students, we hope they do too! A big thank you to everyone who made their week a success, particularly to [Ms Colette Cunningham](#) who organised their activities for the week.



Pictured above: Ms Lauren McCourt and Ms Emillie Good, transition year students on placement at the School of Public Health

Research and training updates

ESPRIT

Is your practice interested in improving patient attendance at diabetic retinopathy screening?

The IDEAS Study
Aim: to examine the feasibility of an approach to improve eye care for people with diabetes.

Why?
Screening is an essential part of diabetes management, yet uptake in Ireland is only 61%.

Is your practice eligible?

- Computerised record system
- Practice nurse

What would taking part involve?

- **Training session (1.5 hour)** for practice staff on intervention procedures and practice audit conducted by the research team.
- **Audit** by practice nurse or administrator at baseline and re-audit at 6 months to identify patients with diabetes who have not attended RetinaScreen and any changes in attendance.
- Nurse or administrator sets up **electronic alerts** on patient files to prompt GPs and nurses to remind patients.
- GPs and nurses **remind** patients who have not attended screening face-to-face and by phone.
- **Practices send a letter reminder with a key information leaflet.** These materials will be provided by the study team. The intervention will run for 6 months.

Benefits of taking part

1. Opportunity to improve care for patients with diabetes
2. Training: improve practice expertise in running searches and conducting audit
3. Audit can fulfill Medical Council obligations or be counted as internal CPD
4. Practice reimbursement: up to €1000 depending on the number of patients audited (standard fee €500 + €5 per patient)

If you are interested or want to know more please contact Fiona Riordan at 021 4205532 or fiona.riordan@ucc.ie. The closing date for expressions of interest is **Friday 19th April**.

Dr Sheena McHugh, Principal Investigator
School of Public Health, UCC

Dr Fiona Riordan, Post Doctoral Researcher
School of Public Health, UCC

ESPRIT welcomes new members

Since the new year, ESPRIT welcomed Dr Maura Smiddy, [Ms Rebecca Dennehy](#) and [Ms Susan Calnan](#) in a new role to the ESPRIT group. Rebecca will work with Research Fellow, [Dr Sheena McHugh](#) on her Applied Partnership Award aimed at enhancing the reach and sustainability of the Integrated Falls Prevention Pathway in Cork. The service aims to reduce the risk of falls by assessing individuals' risk factors and providing appropriate treatment if necessary. [Rebecca](#) and [Sheena](#) will work together with health professionals to establish an agreeable way to increase the service's capacity to prevent falls and to identify any gaps or delays in the provision of treatment. This information will be used to improve the current service and to plan new services to meet the needs of older people [Susan](#) joins the CHERISH team as the Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination researcher. ESPRIT welcomes Rebecca and Maura and wishes Rebecca and Susan the very best in their new roles!

Calling all GP practices!

[Ideas](#) (Improving Diabetes Eye-screening Attendance) study researchers in the School of Public Health are recruiting general practices across Ireland to take part in a pilot trial to improve uptake of eye screening for people with diabetes. Click the link <https://www.ucc.ie/en/esprit/takepart/> to find out more. Alternatively, please contact [Dr Fiona Riordan](#) at 021 4205532 or fiona.riordan@ucc.ie by the 19th of April.



Research dissemination at the Department of Health

In February, members of the Psychologists in Diabetes group, including [Ms Niamh McGrath](#), 2nd year SPHeRE PhD scholar in the School of Public Health, met with officials from the Department of Health to discuss the need for increased access to psychological care for people with diabetes in Ireland. The group is a mix of psychologists working clinically in the areas of paediatric and adult diabetes services and researchers working in the areas of health psychology and health services research. Niamh gave an oral presentation titled 'Diabetes Services: Gaps in Psychological Care' on behalf of the group and co-authored a policy brief with the same title. The group found the meeting supportive and constructive and are looking forward to continuing this work.

Pictured left: Psychologists in Diabetes Group members at the Department of Health (l-r): Ms Niamh McGrath, Ms Kate Gajweska, Dr Sharon O Sullivan, Ms Mary Morrissey, Ms Andrea Habenicht, Dr Claire Crowe, Ms Mairead Dempsey

FOOD CHOICE AT WORK

Well done to Food Choice at Work who were awarded a Certificate of Recognition at the 2019 Cork Food Policy Council Sustainability Awards in February. The aim of the award programme is to acknowledge the many people who go the extra mile in relation to sustainable food practice and to encourage other to follow suit. Food Choice were presented the award by Prof Colin Sage and Lord Mayor Mick Finn. Click [here](#) for more information on the awards. Food Choice are also delighted to share the news that their client company, Microsoft Ireland, won the 'Best in Class Nutrition Award' at IBEC's inaugural Keep Well Awards. [Dr Fiona Geaney](#), (FCW) and members of Microsoft Ireland are pictured to the left at the awards.

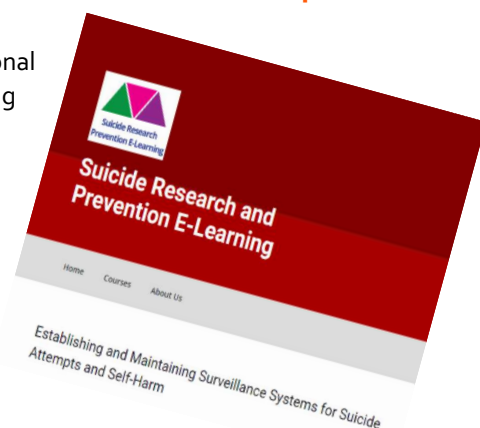


NATIONAL SUICIDE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Launch of E-learning Programme on Establishing a Surveillance System for Suicide Attempts and Self-Harm

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention at the National Suicide Research Foundation were delighted to launch an e-learning programme on establishing a surveillance system for suicide attempts and self-harm in March.

The E-Learning Programme, produced in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the World Health Organization (WHO), is based on the WHO Practice Manual for Establishing and Maintaining Surveillance Systems for Suicide Attempts and Self-Harm (WHO, 2016) and is comprised of six modules, including an extensive training in case ascertainment for staff involved in self-harm suicide attempt surveillance. The main objective of suicide attempt/self-harm surveillance systems is to inform prevention, intervention and treatment. The portal can be accessed [here](#).



Self-Harm Awareness Conference

[Prof Ella Arensman](#) and [Dr Eve Griffin](#) from the National Suicide Research Foundation presented at the annual St. Patrick's Mental Health Services and Pieta House Self-Harm Awareness Conference on Friday March 1st. [Prof Ella Arensman](#) presented on 'Self-harm and suicide in young people: Associated risk factors and evidence based interventions', while [Dr Eve Griffin](#) covered 'Priority groups and opportunities for intervention'. Slides can be accessed on www.nsf.ie/



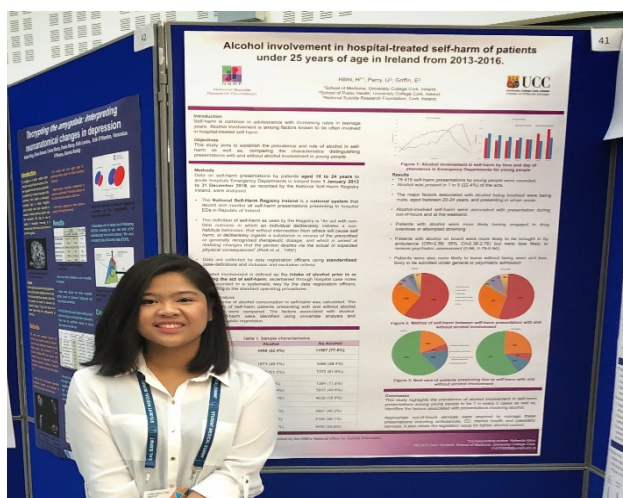
Pictured above: Attendees at the Self-Harm Awareness Conference, Dublin

UCC medical student Ms Haleeda Hilmi presented her work on 'Alcohol involvement in hospital-treated self-harm of patients under 25 years of age in Ireland from 2013-2016' at the Student Medical Summit in Dublin in February. Well done to Haleeda for highlighting this important issue, using data from the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland, operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation.

IASP Australian Research Workshop on Suicide and Self-Harm

In February [Prof Ella Arensman](#) delivered a presentation at the inaugural IASP (International Association for the study of Suicide Prevention) Australian Research Workshop on Suicide and Self-Harm in Brisbane, Australia.

Student Medical Summit



Pictured above: Ms Haleeda Hilmi presenting her work at the Student Medical Summit, Dublin



The title of **Prof Arensman's** presentation was '*Identifying subgroups of self-harm: Implications for assessment and treatment*'.

Pictured left: Attendees at the inaugural IASP Australian Research Workshop on Suicide and Self-Harm

SPHeRE PROGRAMME NEWS

Introducing the SPHeRE Online Diploma!

In Autumn 2019, SPHeRE are running a Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma in Population

Health and Health Services Research (online) for the first time. This innovative joint award of The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork brings together the best expertise in population health and health services research. It is designed for busy health care and health system professionals working across the sector who wish to develop and/or build on their existing expertise in population health and health services research. The Postgraduate Diploma is delivered using a blended format of online content with interactive webinars and discussion forums and allows you the flexibility to engage with coursework at a time and place suitable to you. See the diploma flyer and website [here](#) for more information



Recruitment open to the SPHeRE PhD Programme

The SPHeRE PhD Programme in Population Health and Health-services Research (PHHSR) is now accepting applications for the 2019/20 academic year from: Individual applicants and Supervisors/Principal Investigators with an alternative funded Scholar who wish to apply for inclusion of their candidate on the Programme. The SPHeRE PhD Programme in Population Health and Health-services Research (PHHSR) aspires to cultivate world-class researchers through a four-year structured PhD Programme. Please see <http://www.sphereprogramme.ie/apply/> for more information. The deadline for all applications is **Friday, 5th April 2019 at 5pm**.

Society for Social Medicine & Population health and International Epidemiology Association 2019 Spotlight!



Annual Scientific Meeting



Preparations are well and truly underway in the School of Public Health for the joint 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Social Medicine and the International Epidemiology Association which will be hosted by the School of Public Health from September 4th – 6th 2019. Abstract submissions for the joint SSM & IEA 2019 conference closed at the end of February with a record number of submissions! The review panel are currently busy reviewing the exciting array of applied research, methodological and workshop abstracts covering all areas of population health sciences and research methods. Conference registration opens at the beginning of May and early bird registration closes in August. Updates are live on the conference [webpage](#) and twitter accounts @SocSocMed @IEA_EPI @ECR_SSM.

Important dates

Abstract submission opens	February 2019
Free Place applications open	February 2019
Abstract submission deadline	Friday 1 March 2019
Abstract author letters issued	TBC
Conference registration opens	May 2019
Early Bird Registration Deadline	August 2019
Pre-Registration Deadline	August 2019
Pre-Conference Early Career Researcher Workshop	3 rd September 2019
Conference Dates	4-6 September 2019

Work is well underway organising the various social events, communication plans and general operations. This year our Cochrane Lecture will be delivered by [Margaret Whitehead](#) (Professor of Public Health, University of Liverpool) and our Pemberton Lecture by [Kenneth Rothman](#) (Distinguished Fellow from the Research Triangle Institute). In addition, the European Congress will host a keynote lecture from the renowned epidemiologist and former president [Valerie Beral](#) (Professor of Epidemiology, University of Oxford and co-director of the Cancer Epidemiology Unit). These sessions combined with this year's strong submissions of abstracts means the 4-6 of September 2019 should be firmly held in the diaries of many.

Another date for the diaries of SSM and IEA Early Career Researchers is the annual pre-conference **Early Career Researcher (ECR) Workshop**. The annual ECR workshop is organised by the SSM ECR subcommittee and local officers at the institute hosting the conference. This year, the workshop will focus on issues pertinent to ECRs and promises to be an unmissable event! For further information on the SSM ECR workshop, please contact [Dr Kate O'Neill](#) or [Ms Niamh McGrath](#) (Local Officers for the 2019 ASM on the SSM ECR subcommittee) at k.oneill@ucc.ie or Niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie.

NEW Family Care Bursary

The IEA and SSM are delighted to announce that a number of family care bursaries are being made available to support IEA* and SSM** members with caring responsibilities to attend the joint meeting of the European Congress of Epidemiology & SSM Annual Scientific Meeting in Cork this year. The bursaries may include childcare fees (at home or in Cork), travel costs for partner and children, or any other reasonable family care cost. Please note that it may not be possible to cover these costs in their entirety, although the higher costs of those travelling longer distances or from harder to reach places will be taken into account. Successful applicants may be asked to provide either a brief report on their reflections on the meeting (which may be summarised in the SSM and/or IEA Newsletter) or a blog (on any IEA/SSM-relevant topic) for the SSM and IEA website.

Applications should be made via the website link, deadline Friday the 5th of April 2019 (GMT 23:59). Enquiries should be sent to anna.pearce@glasgow.ac.uk (SSM members) or patricia.kearney@ucc.ie (IEA members)

*IEA Members: There is no duration of membership required for IEA members i.e. you can join and apply immediately.

**SSM Members: Any individual who was member of SSM as of 15th February 2019

MEET...

Dr Christie Godsmark



Dr Christie Godsmark

Christie is a Lecturer on the MSc Occupational Health programme within the School. Christie's research interest is how climate change impacts on human health and wellbeing, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups outdoor workers and those required to wear personal protective equipment. Before starting at UCC, Christie worked at the University of Cape Town, in the Division of Environmental Health. Christie's work in South Africa focused on research and capacity building for the health sector's climate change adaptation plans as well as with low-income communities' domestic use of hazardous chemicals for pest control. Christie's PhD is from the University of Portsmouth's Extreme Environments Laboratory where she focused on occupational heat stress in the military during chemical warfare. Christie also has a passion for developing health-focused risk communication materials for low-literate populations.

Did you know? Christie has spent most of her life in Africa, being born in Zimbabwe, growing up in Malawi and working in South Africa.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING

March 2019

[International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#), 27th – 29th March, Glasgow, Scotland

April 2019

[19th International Conference on Integrated Care](#), 1st-3rd April, San Sebastian, Spain

[Environment and Health Conference](#), 5th April, Dublin, Ireland

[5th Annual CBC \(Centre for Behaviour Change\) Conference](#), 8th – 10th April, London, England

[26th European Congress on Obesity](#), 28th April – 1st May, Glasgow, Scotland

May 2019

[Qualitative Methods Conference](#), 1st – 3rd May, Brisbane, Australia

[2019 TILDA Scientific Conference](#), 2nd – 3rd May, Mayo, Ireland

[88th European General Practice Research Network Meeting](#), 9th -12th May 2019, Tampere, Finland

[7th World Congress on Public Health, Nutrition and Epidemiology](#), 15th-16th

May, Singapore

[Occupational Healthcare](#), 27th – 28th May, Tokyo, Japan

June 2019

[International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity \(ISBNPA\)](#), 4th – 7th June, Prague, Czech Republic.

[2019 Annual Health Promotion Conference](#), 13th June, Galway, Ireland.

July 2019

[Society for Academic Primary Care](#), 3rd – 5th
July, University of Exeter, England

August 2019

[Global Conference on Addiction and Behavioural Health](#) 22nd – 24th August,
London, UK

[31st Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology](#),
25th – 28th August, Utrecht, The Netherlands

September 2019

[33rd Annual Conference of European Health Psychology Society](#) 3rd – 7th
September, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

[Society for Social Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting and European Congress of Epidemiology 2019](#), 4th -
6th September 2018, Cork, Ireland.

[6th UK Congress on Obesity](#), 12th-13th
September, Leeds England.

[55th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes](#) 16th
– 20th September, Barcelona, Spain.

[30th World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention](#). 17th-21st September, Derry,
Northern Ireland.

[International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#), 18th – 20th September,
Taipei, Republic of China.

[Euro-Global Conference on Paediatrics and Neonatology](#) 23rd – 25th September
London, UK.

October 2019

[EU Safety](#), 3rd – 4th October,
Luxemburg, Luxemburg

[25th Annual Qualitative Health Research \(QHR\) Conference](#), 25th – 29th
October, Vancouver, Canada

November 2019

[12th European Public Health Conference](#),
20th – 23rd November, Marseille, France

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