

# Health Sciences Academy Newsletter

Bringing together research, innovation and clinical practice

Volume 4  
Q2 2021

 Ospidéal OL  
UL Hospitals  
Working together, caring for you

 UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

HSE Mid West  
Community Healthcare

## Junior Health Sciences Academy Early Careers Event

Transition Year and 5th Year students from across the Mid-West region attended the *Junior Health Sciences Academy, Virtual 'Early Careers' Event* on March 2nd and 3rd. This event was developed and supported by colleagues from UL, UL Hospitals and Mid-West Community Healthcare in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Schools Division and Limerick Education Centre.

The concept was developed to reach out to schools and students, particularly those students in Transition Year, who cannot visit hospitals or other clinical settings for work experience. It was designed to showcase healthcare as a possible career path.

Over 1,600 students attended over the two days, hearing from staff and students in the areas of nursing & midwifery, paramedic studies, medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy, human nutrition & dietetics and clinical psychology. They also heard from clinical staff working in UL Hospitals Group in the areas of podiatry, radiography, medical social work and laboratory science, as well as a community pharmacist.

The event was captured on the Academy's Twitter page [@HealthSciAcadLK](https://twitter.com/HealthSciAcadLK) and videos of all presentations, course information and Q&A are available on our website:

[www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie](http://www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie)



**Junior Health Sciences  
Academy**



147 Schools across  
7 counties



1698 students  
over 2 days

59% of students reported that their perception and understanding of study and career in healthcare changed



Increase of 14% in students interested in a career in health after the event

99% of students would **recommend** this event to their friends



[@HealthSciAcadLK](https://twitter.com/HealthSciAcadLK)

[www.healthsciencesacademy.ie](http://www.healthsciencesacademy.ie)

## CAO Developments

Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) act as a link between their hospital groups and universities – ensuring innovation, research and teaching remain at the forefront of Irish healthcare. As COVID-19 made itself known throughout Ireland in 2020 the CAO's began to harness their resources to focus on areas that needed urgent attention. The Chief Academic Officers of the 7 Hospital Groups began meeting weekly to discuss ongoing issues facing students and staff in their respective hospitals and universities.

The CAO group aim to continue their work into 2021 – focusing on:

- the firm establishment of a National Covid-19 Biobank with the HRB,
- progressing the National Simulation Strategy with the NDTP,
- utilising additional funds obtained for NDTP Simulation Training,
- advancing an Academic Health Science System for Ireland with Minister Donnelly's office in the Department of Health and working to further represent staff and students working in a variety of healthcare roles.

[www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie](http://www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie)



[@HealthSciAcadLK](https://twitter.com/HealthSciAcadLK)

## NATIONAL COVID-19 BIOBANK TIMELINE

### 2020

#### JUNE

- CAOs publish a joint letter in the Irish Times advising of urgent need for COVID-19 Biobank
- Prof Tim Lynch interviewed by Irish Independent about biobank

#### JULY

- CAOs reached out to Northern Ireland biobankers for advice

#### AUGUST

- CAOs engaged with HSE R&D Office and Dept. Health

#### SEPTEMBER

- CAOs drafted a biobank proposal for Dept. of Health
- National COVID-19 Biobank Implementation Meeting held with HSE
- CAOs met with HRB to discuss biobank proposal

#### OCTOBER

- CAOs advised Dept. of Health on proposed biobank structure and resources
- HRB now leading on biobank on behalf of Dept. of Health
- Hub and spoke model for biobank agreed by CAOs and HRB
- Prof Mark Lawler from Queens University Belfast presents to CAOs on NI biobanking
- CAOs meet with HRB

#### NOVEMBER

- Biobanking questionnaire developed by CAOs and sent to all biobankers in 7 universities/hospital groups

#### DECEMBER

- Biobank questionnaire responses submitted to the HRB for reference
- HRB and CAOs host National COVID-19 Biobank webinar
- CAOs agree two co-PIs from Trinity and UCD will lead biobank application

## HealthFusion Team Challenge 2021 #HFTCIRL2021

The 2021 National *Health Fusion Team Challenge* (HFTC) Final was hosted this year by Health Sciences Academy, home of the HFTC. The HFTC is an interdisciplinary case based learning opportunity for students from across healthcare disciplines. It supports the interprofessional working, skills in communication, teamwork, collaboration and problem solving. Under the leadership of the steering committee from UL and HSA, with support from student mentors in UL and colleagues from the other Universities involved, the final was a huge success with over 120 attendees.



This year, the Health Fusion Team Challenge case study focussed on a pregnant woman from Afghanistan with gestational diabetes. Internal heats in University of Limerick were held in early March, with the winning team going forward to represent UL in the national final. There were four teams competing in



the national final representing University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, NUI Galway and University College Cork. At the live event, the student teams presented their case management plans. Prof Sharleen O'Reilly, UCD, presented on her research 'Bump to Baby and Me', and Ekaterina Okonkwo, Migrant Advocate discussed cultural competence in healthcare. The judging panel, comprising experts from UL Hospitals, UL and Migrant Advocacy had a very difficult decision in choosing a winning team but agreed that the winners for 2021 were NUIG! You can view their winning presentation [HERE](#)

## Simulation-Based Education

Simulation allows healthcare providers to learn, rehearse, and practice safely, and the aim of simulation-based education is to improve the safety and effectiveness of healthcare delivery. Under the Chairmanship of Dr John McManus, a multidisciplinary committee has been established to advance simulation education in UHL. Plans are underway to support further education of identified staff to undertake the MSc/PDipSc (Healthcare Simulation and Patient Safety) in Galway. An upgrade of the simulation suite in CERC is planned this year, and the recent appointment of Marcus Grant, simulation technician, will further support this really exciting educational development.



## Upcoming Events and News...

Are you interest in getting a UL postgraduate qualification in Nursing and Midwifery? Full details of all programmes are available on the following web page:

[Education and Health Sciences taught programmes | UL - University of Limerick](#)

The programmes are offered as MSc programmes over a two year period but you can exit after one year with a graduate diploma.

Programmes are offered on a blended learning basis i.e. some face to face on campus days (6 Tuesdays per semester) & the remainder is focused on online activities and material for reading & study.

Closing date for applications is **July 21st 2021**.

# Upcoming Events and News Continued...

**Tuesday 11th May 13:00 - 14:00**

**2021 Kemmy Business School Spring Series Seminar**

**“Technical efficiency in Irish public hospitals: a multi-output distance function SFA approach”**

**[Click here to join the meeting](#)**

## UL HOSPITAL'S NCHD CONFERENCE

27-05-2021  
CERC, UHL

POSTER PRESENTATIONS  
SHOWCASE YOUR DEPARTMENT  
ALL ABSTRACTS WELCOME

DEADLINE FOR  
ABSTRACT  
SUBMISSIONS:  
23-04-2021

ABSTRACTS TO:  
LIMERICKNCHDCONFERENCE2021@HSE.IE

MEDALS AND VOUCHERS TO BE WON  
TOP PRIZE: €500 One4all GIFT CARD



School of  
Medicine



## Masters (MSc) in Health Professions Education(HPE)

The School of Medicine with the support of colleagues in the Schools of Allied Health, Education and Department of Nursing & Midwifery have developed a Masters in Health Professions Education which is designed to meet the educator training needs of busy health professionals both locally and internationally.

The programme is delivered part-time over 2 years. Apply now for September 2021.

For further information including course requirements see link below:

<https://www.ul.ie/medicine/msc-healthprofessionseducation>

Or contact [Laura.Howard@ul.ie](mailto:Laura.Howard@ul.ie)



*Key features of the  
programme include:*

- Options of blended and online/ distance learning
- Research led, practice based, inter-professional teaching
- Regular feedback and tutor interaction
- Innovative collaborative learning experiences with the aim of promoting a stimulating learning environment as outlined in the University of Limerick's "Engaged Learning" strategy.

The three partners share the primary aim through the Health Sciences Academy, of improving health and wellbeing for people in the Mid West. The Health Sciences Academy will achieve this by delivering transformative education and training and driving innovation in healthcare delivery and technologies through research, which addresses the needs of the health services.



HSE Mid West  
Community Healthcare

For latest news and updates on current projects, please visit our website: [www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie](http://www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie)

or contact Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager: 087 6362733

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