

Health Sciences Academy Newsletter

Bringing together research, innovation and clinical practice

Issue 7 | October 2023



WELCOME

Welcome to the October edition of the Health Sciences Academy newsletter. Each month, we will share updates in the key areas of education, research and innovation.

University of Limerick / UL Hospitals Launch Simulation Lab



The team that participated in the official launch of the CERC Simulation Lab included (from left): Dr Alan Watts, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, ULHG & Associate Professor, UL School of Medicine (SoM), Mary-Beth Brown (SoM Y2); Jasmine Blenkins-O'Callaghan (SoM Y3); Connor Pires (SoM Y2); Eoin Donellan (SoM Y3); Janai Puckett (SoM Y3), Dr Ammar Ahmed (CSTEM3); and Joel Abraham (SoM Y3)

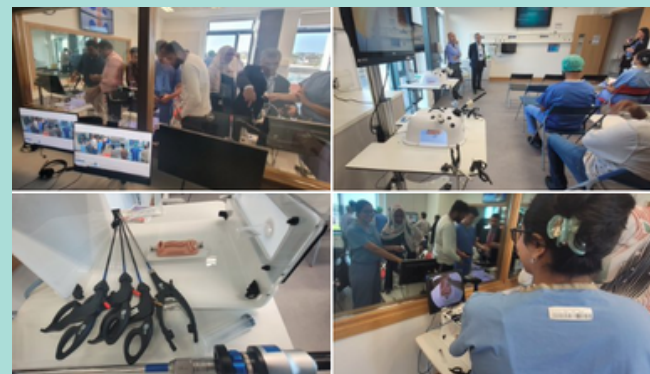
University of Limerick and UL Hospitals Group have officially launched a new simulation facility at University Hospital Limerick providing undergraduate and postgraduate doctors, nurses and allied health professionals with simulation training in a range of clinical procedures.

The Simulation Lab has a wide variety of equipment in its simulation-based education and training programmes, including full-body manikins and task trainers (adult, paediatric and maternity).

In addition to regular teaching, several other events have been hosted in the Simulation Lab since the summer of 2022, including advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), clinical induction training for Interns, Interprofessional education teaching with health sciences students, MRCPI examinations, organ donation education, basic ECHO training, and Adult Critical Care Transport training. [Click here for full details.](#)

Basic Laparoscopic Skills Course

The first 'Basic Laparoscopy Skills' course was held in Clinical Skills Room 1, Simulation Lab, CERC on 29th September 2023. This day-long, hands-on course was designed for doctors starting their training in laparoscopic surgery. Expert laparoscopic Consultants guided the trainees through the principles of ergonomics and practice in laparoscopic set-up. Through suturing practice, the trainees improved their instrument-handling and depth of perception skills. Each person performed a laparoscopic cholecystectomy and appendectomy using synthetic models. The event was kindly sponsored by the NDTP and lunch was sponsored by Medtronic.



If you have any queries about the UL/ULHG Simulation Lab please contact Dr Sarah Carroll, Senior Simulation Technician, Sarah.Carroll@ul.ie

EDUCATION

Nursing and Midwifery @ University of Limerick

There is a wide selection of post-graduate short courses in Nursing and Midwifery starting in January 2024. [Click here for all of the details.](#)



University of Limerick Postgraduate Virtual Open Day Event

This Virtual Open Day is taking place on 19th October 2023. [Click here for more event details.](#)

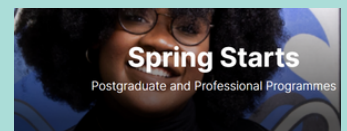
Postgraduate Opportunities at the University of Limerick School of Medicine

The following postgraduate courses are **OPEN TO ANYONE** who may be interested in:

Taught Masters Degrees M.Sc. Health Professions Education (2 year part-time, hybrid and online options)

MSc. Public Health (1 year full-time and 2-year part-time options, hybrid learning)

The School of Medicine also offers postgraduate degrees including Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) **Structured and traditional PhD options**



Springboard+ & Human Capital Initiative 2023/24

UL and the Government of Ireland, through the Higher Education Authority, collaborates closely to ensure that organisations and learners are fully supported in the quest for lifelong learning. Springboard+ and Human Capital Initiative (HCI) programmes are 100% funded for the unemployed and returners to employment, and 90% funded for employed. All level 6 courses are fully funded.

Applications for Springboard+ and other January starts are now open. Springboard+ courses which are 90% funded can be found [here](#) and the full list of professional programmes can be accessed [here](#)

NCHD Careers Evening

12 September 2023



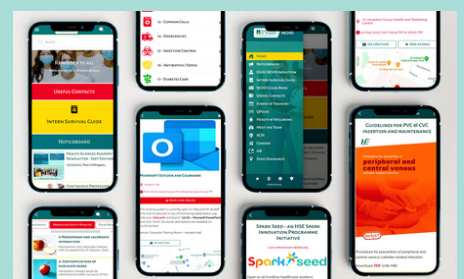
We would like to thank everyone that contributed to this years NCHD Careers Evening. 30 medical specialties and departments had representatives at the tables answering questions and providing hugely valuable insights enabling trainees to make important career decisions. Eight specialties provided speaker presentations given by a mix of Consultants & Specialist Registrars. Up to 80 people attended the event and the initial feedback provided via the app is hugely positive.

Thank you to Professor Paul Burke, Chief Academic Officer for opening this event & all of the Speakers who presented on the evening, Professor Colette Cowen, CEO UL Hospitals and the NDTP. Finally, thank you to the newly appointed Lead NCHDs for all of their work.

Any suggestions for the 2024 event can be shared with us at TrainingLeadULHospitals@hse.ie



NCHD APP Finalist in Health Service Excellence Awards



The UL Hospitals NCHD App has been shortlisted for a [Health Service Excellence Award](#) within the category of *Engaging a Digital Solution to Provide a Better Service*. Dr Niall Nagle, App Lead & the Training Lead team will present to the awards panel in October.

RESEARCH

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Zohreh Eshghimanesh, Biostatistician, HRI.

Zohreh is a dedicated statistician with a strong focus on addressing real-world challenges in the medical and industrial sectors. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the HRI team, holding both a BSc and MSc in Statistics. However, what truly sets her apart is her ability to apply her statistical expertise in practical, collaborative settings. Zohreh's main role is to support the academics and clinicians with their biostatistical needs. In her previous roles, Zohreh played integral roles in HRB-funded projects, including the APA initiative that brought together the University of Limerick (UL) and University Hospital Limerick (UHL). She has also established partnerships with industry giants, such as Johnson & Johnson, in collaboration with MACSI. Zohreh's experience extends beyond theory, as she has actively contributed to diverse projects within UL's science learning centre. Outside of her professional life, Zohreh finds joy in the simple pleasures of life, often spending her free time cycling through scenic trails and delighting with her delectable cake creations.

Contact Zohreh via hri@ul.ie or crsu@ul.ie



INNOVATION

Student Immersion to Support Innovation



Students from the MSc Design for Health and Wellbeing in the School of Design at UL in 2022 worked with the Patient Experience Committee in University Hospital Limerick to develop creative solutions to improve communication with patients.

This October, we are delighted that the students are returning to support staff in Paediatric Outpatients and UMHL. They will be on site during October to meet with staff, observe work flows and identify opportunities to improve both patient and staff experience. Applying their creativity and design skills, they will identify innovative solutions to current challenges. We look forward to sharing their designs with you as the academic year progresses.

If you would like to register your interest for 2024, please contact Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager.



New 3D Printed Physical Models to Mirror the Individual Steps of Correct Handwashing Technique

Following a recent innovation day in the Rapid Innovation Unit (RIU), all attendees on the day were invited to apply for one of two €1000 bursaries provided by HSE SPARK Innovation, to develop their problem/need/idea with the RIU. Claire McNamara, University Teacher, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Limerick was one of the two successful applicants. Claire's idea was to develop 3D printed hand models to illustrate correct handwashing technique. Claire shared that "In the clinical skills labs, one of the first skills that we undertake with student Nurses is that of hand hygiene. Usually we practice the skill while playing the video produced by the HSE. After reflecting on previous teaching, I noticed that students would sometimes forget the hand hygiene sequence steps. Since introducing the 3D printed hand models, the students can see a visual representation showing the steps of hand hygiene with the additional feature of each step linked by a QR code to the video. The feedback from the students has been extremely positive and makes us think, as a department, what other innovative solutions we could provide to assist in the learning journey. Huge thanks to Dr Aidan O'Sullivan and Siobhan Meany, Clinical Lead, RIU for making my thought become a reality." Next month we look forward to showcasing the second successful applicant.



Claire Mc Namara, DNM, Mairead Hussey Clinical Skills Laboratory Coordinator, Siobhan Meany Clinical Lead & Dr Aidan O Sullivan RIU.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Health Sciences Academy will have a stand at the UL Open Days on 19th & 20th October. As part of the programme, health services staff from ULHG and MWCH will join academic staff to meet prospective students. They will share insights into their career journeys and 'A Day in their Life.' [Click here for further information](#)

Your gateway to innovation!!
Join us for the launch during Public Service Transformation Week
23rd - 27th Oct 2023

- 1 Online Session: Interviews with Innovators - 26th Oct 2023
- 2 Access to Spark Connect Toolkit: Unlock the Potential for Innovation

Register now! Link below

Participate and be in with a chance to win an Innovation goodie bag for your team!

Change Management: Embracing Cultural Inclusivity
Equality and Inclusion Conference 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday
8th November 2023

1.30pm - 4.15pm
Join us for lunch from 1pm.

Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC), University Hospital Limerick

~ All Staff Welcome ~

This year's Equality and Inclusion Conference will focus on change, inclusivity and staff support against the backdrop of the HSE organisational reform and the development of Regional Health Areas.

This conference has been developed by the HSA Equality and Inclusion Steering Committee

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Events at Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC), UHL

13th October	Grand Rounds	Mr John Caird, Paediatric Neurosurgeon, Beaumont	1pm - 2pm
20th October	Grand Rounds	Professor Dimitris Papamargaritis, Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant in Diabetes & Endocrinology, University of Leicester/ University Hospitals Northamptonshire, NHS Group	1.15pm - 4.30pm
27th October	Grand Rounds	Mr Bernard Gloster, CEO, HSE	1pm - 2pm
8th November	Equality & Inclusion Conference	Change Management: Embracing Cultural Inclusivity	1pm - 4.15pm
8th December	Mid West Academic Health Science System Conference	Check out next month's newsletter for the programme & registration link	9.30 - 4pm