

Health Sciences Academy Newsletter

Bringing together research, innovation and clinical practice

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DIGITAL CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE AT UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TO ‘TRANSFORM CANCER CARE’



Prof Ruth Clifford, Consultant Haematologist, UHL and Aedin Culhane, Professor of Cancer Genomics at School of Medicine, UL

On 23rd September, the Limerick Digital Cancer Research Centre (LDCRC) was officially launched by Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The LDCRC is a collaboration between UL and the UL Hospitals Group that has an entirely different approach to cancer treatment at its heart. The LDCRC at the University of Limerick is using personalised digital medicine to transform cancer care and improve outcomes for patients. It brings together the University's excellence in technology, software, engineering, maths and health along with the University Hospital Limerick's clinical expertise in haematology and oncology and patient involvement. The plan is to combine it with the industry knowledge of several multinationals, including Dell Technologies and Becton Dickinson. The Centre will use and develop technologies that are revolutionising health care and have vast potential to improve our ability to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Clinical Practice Integration – Type 2 Diabetes

The Health Sciences Academy was officially launched on 9th December 2019. At the launch, Dr Eoin Noctor, Consultant Endocrinologist ULHG, spoke about the importance of diabetes prevention and care in the Mid-West, and this has the focus of the Clinical Practice Integration work stream since.

There are three collaborative research projects underway in this area bringing research, education and innovation closer to clinical practice.

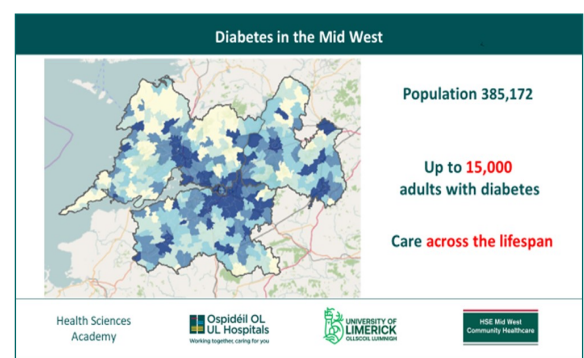
These projects all involve collaboration between clinical staff from ULHG & MWCH, research staff from UL and health sciences students.

1. Building on the World Café held in Nov 2020, the following projects focussing on **Structured Education Programmes for Type 2 Diabetes**, are being carried out by MSc Human Nutrition & Dietetics students:

- Data collection has been completed for the project entitled: “Attitudes & values research among health care providers – Structured education programmes” under the supervision of Dr Anne Griffin, School of Allied Health
- Data collection is also complete for the project “patient experience and effectiveness of virtual structured education as delivered by Diabetes Ireland” under supervision of Dr Audrey Tierney, School of Allied Health

2. Gestational Diabetes: A research project entitled “Determining uptake of postpartum glucose testing after gestational diabetes mellitus and identify barriers and facilitators to the uptake of diabetes screening in UL Hospitals Group” has commenced under the leadership of Dr Eoin Noctor. We are delighted to welcome two students studying the Masters in Public Health to join Dr Alexandra Cremona, School of Medicine and Yvonne Moloney RAMP UMHL in undertaking the qualitative aspect of this research. Medical students are also joining Mr. Antonio RecheMartinez, Consultant Biochemist UHL, to undertake retrospective data analysis. Expert input from Dr Ray O'Connor, GP, and Sheila Bowers, Dietetic Manager UHL, is critical too in supporting the project and its aims.

www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie



Advancing Innovation in the Mid-West

We have had an exciting number of weeks promoting innovation in healthcare in the Mid-West. On Friday 12th Nov, the Health Sciences Academy hosted the 'Story of Innovation' in the Mid-West, part of National Innovation Week. Organised with Dr Rachel McNamara, this year's National Innovation Fellow and Anna Marie Kiernan, CNSp Pain Management ULHG & Alumni Lead for PGDip Healthcare innovation Class 2020/2021, there was great interest across the region in the virtual event. Speakers shared their innovation stories and experience, from product design and process redesign to 3D printing and education.



Speakers: L-R: Dr Louise Kiernan & Neil DeLoughry, UL; Kevin J O'Sullivan RIU, Mr Hugh Flood, Urologist, Prof Paul Burke, CAO and Laura Byrne, Breast CNS

MSc in Design for Health & Wellbeing

Three MSc students spent three days in the Emergency Department and Acute Medical Unit in University Hospital Limerick as part of their immersion. Here, they spent time with staff and in the clinical areas, observing work flows and processes with the aim of identifying opportunities for redesign and improvement. Sincere thanks to the Medicine Directorate and ED/AMU team who facilitated this immersion.



JUNIOR HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

MY:SCI- Mental Health in Youth through Science

Led by Dr Jennifer McMahon, Department of Psychology, this pilot project aims to develop young people's leadership in youth mental health promotion. Dr McMahon, Director of the School, Child & Youth (SCY) Wellbeing lab, is heading this exciting collaboration with Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy, Director of LCETB schools, Donncha O' Treasaigh, MWCH (Midwest Health Promotion & Improvement Officer Mairead Kelly), ULHG (Siobhan Egan), Jigsaw (Project Manager, Gerry Linnane) and members of Jigsaw Youth panel, School of Allied Health (Dr Roisin Cahalan, Dr James Green) as well as teacher and youth representatives from six secondary schools in the Mid-West, to support the development and implementation of a research and mental health literacy science programme for transition year students.



Primary Schools: Health Promotion and Leadership Six primary schools in the Mid-West are joining this project group to participate in a First Aid series. Following consultation with teachers and pupils from 3rd and 4th class in these pilot schools, we are developing a series of educational and practical sessions on First Aid. Topics will include how to make an emergency call and the management of cuts and wounds, sprains and fractures and minor head injuries. Clinical experts Dr Alan Watts, ED Consultant, Ms Sinead Killeen, Physiotherapy MWCH and Ms Mary O'Neill Paramedic Studies in UL, are creating the content with the project team and teachers. Both projects have been awarded funding from the 2020 Q Exchange Award and are really exciting developments in the Mid-West for our students, bringing education and clinical practice closer together.

Who knows, the next generation of healthcare professionals may be in these classes!



Healthcare Simulation & Patient Safety at NUIG Galway: Postgrad Diploma of Science - Masters of Science

Healthcare Simulation is the experiential learning every healthcare professional needs, but cannot always engage in during real-life patient care. Simulation-based learning and training is a safe learning environment where we can learn from mistakes and improve performance through deliberate practice.

The programme in Healthcare Simulation bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-life clinical experience delivered through distance learning. ULHG have approved funding for 9 staff members to complete this Diploma in 2021/2022 and have offered funding to 12 staff members for the 2022/2023 programme.

I am doing this course to increase my knowledge and exposure to the role of simulation in medical education. I am hoping to improve our use of simulation based teaching for all in the department of paediatrics going forward, Dr Orla O Leary

I have always recognised the merit in simulation based training both for learning new skills, and also for minimising skill decay. I wish to get formal training in running simulation sessions, Dr Patrick Kennelly.



Practice-Based Interprofessional Education

On the 7th October, the Health Sciences Academy hosted an interprofessional education (IPE) workshop in CERC with colleagues from UL and UHL who are involved in student education.

Representatives from nursing, dietetics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy and medicine were in attendance. Dr Noreen O'Leary from School of Allied Health and Jimmy Burke, IPE Tutor, shared their experience of IPE. A local team is working on a developing a pilot practical interprofessional learning experience for the health sciences students on concurrent placement in UHL. The plan is that it will be held in 2022, and will be accompanied by an evaluation element.



Jimmy Burke sharing some experiences of practice-based IPE, including from ICF.

RCPI Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS)

The RCPI & Training Lead Office in ULHG, in partnership with Professor Mike Watts, Dr Catherine Nix & colleagues, organised the first regional RCPI PoCUS one-day workshop for General Internal Medicine Specialist Registrar trainees. This technology has the potential to reduce the time to diagnosis for patients and improves patient flow. It is best delivered to learners in small groups in a structured programme. with an

emphasis on scope of practice & quality assurance.



New Team Member: Sarah Hurley

Sarah joined in May 2021 to support the NCHD Training programme with Dr John McManus, Training Lead, and also the Health Sciences Academy. Sarah has a Masters of Business Studies in Management and Marketing from University College Cork and worked as the Lead Coordinator for the Graduate Entry Medicine programme at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. While working full time she was awarded a full scholarship through the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland to undertake the Master of Science in Healthcare Management, with the Institute of Leadership. She subsequently worked in the Rotunda and Crumlin Hospitals in human resources. Sarah is now delighted to be back in her native Limerick, and is very welcome to the team!



Recent & Upcoming Events

NCHD Careers Evenings 2021/2022

The Postgraduate Office and NCHD leads held the first careers evening on the 12th October. There were representatives from all disciplines in attendance on the evening to answer any questions. The University Maternity Hospital also held a careers evening on the 26th October 2021 entitled, 'How I Became a Consultant'. The evening was for those interested in a career path in Paediatrics/Neonates and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.



NCHD Conference 2022

Clinical Education and Research Centre,
University Hospital Limerick
24th February 2022

Call for Abstracts!

Opening:

1st December 2021

Submission Deadline:

14th January 2022

Top Prize: €1000

One4All Gift Card

Showcase Your Department
Upload Abstracts to NCHD App
– use QR to download App



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MRCPI Clinical Exams in Medicine



We were delighted to host the MRCPI (Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland) Clinical Exams in Medicine for the first time. The exams took place in the Clinical Education and Research Centre building at University Hospital Limerick on Thursday 21st October. Congratulations to all involved.

WONCA World Rural Health Conference, 2022

"Rural healthcare is at the heart of this conference but it is clear that themes about educating our future healthcare leaders, the environment, the role of the Irish practice nurse, pre-hospital care, Indigenous, migrant and refugee healthcare, and the role of universities will resonate with most of us whether you live or work in a city, large or small town," said Dr Jerry Cowley, chairman of the Rural, Island and Dispensing Doctors of Ireland.

- Email academicWRHC2022@ul.ie
- Registration registrationWRHC2022@ul.ie
- Link to access Conference website:
<https://www.woncarhc2022.com/>

"The 2022 World Rural Health Conference will provide a unique crossroads for a diverse community of GPs, Practice nurses, students, researchers, policy makers, health managers, creators and educators which we hope will translate into positive and resilient change for the health of communities," said Dr Diarmuid Quinlan, Medical Director of the Irish College of General Practitioners.



WONCA World Rural Health
Conference 2022



Limerick, Ireland 17th - 20th June

For latest news and updates on current projects, please visit our website: www.HealthSciencesAcademy.ie
or contact Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager: 087 636 2733

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