



BMBS alumna **Dr Bisola Salaja** selected to join the Healthcare Leadership Academy as **Scholar**

An alumna from University of Limerick School of Medicine has been selected to join the Healthcare Leadership Academy (HLA) Scholars programme - a prestigious scholarship set up to develop and nurture healthcare leaders of the future.

After completing a rigorous selection process, Dr. Bisola Salaja has joined the academy's cohort for the 2021/22 academic year. The Health Leadership Academy (HLA) scholarship recognises healthcare students and professionals with proven leadership ability and gives them the opportunity to take their leadership skills to the next level.

Dr. Bisola Salaja, a graduate of BMBS Class of 2021" is currently an intern in National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh and will be working in Beaumont Hospital for the rest of the intern year. Passionate

about creating a diverse, caring and understanding work environment, she intends to work on a project related to these pursuits. Speaking about the opportunity, Dr Salaja said:

"I'm thrilled and honored to have been selected for the 2021/2022 Healthcare Leadership Academy Scholarship program. Congratulations to everyone else who has been accepted into the cohort this year. I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead & doing our bit to help change the world of healthcare in a positive light!"

The HLA was formed in response to demand from young clinicians and medical students to learn about leadership. The aim of the programme is to inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals and develop their understanding of leadership.



Speaking about this year's cohort, Johann Malawana, Director of the HLA, said: "After a rigorous and competitive application process, with over 1,800 people starting the application process, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Bisola Salaja to our 2021-2022 scholars".

As part of their role, Scholars are expected to develop a community project over the course of the one-year programme, with previous projects having reached national prominence, winning prizes, publications and presentations at national events.

School of Medicine student, **Fareha Khalil**, wins the **National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition**



The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition is an annual competition open to all medical students in the UK and Ireland. It first started in 2013 and has since run annually at the University of Southampton, and now attracts over 150 students. The competition consists of a 70-station spotter exam and a clinical MCQ paper. Ms Fareha Khalil, a current Year 3 BMBS student was, the overall winner. This event took place on 10th July 2021.

Fareha said after winning the competition "I have always been fascinated by the brain ever since reading the book *Phantoms in the Brain*. My long-term goal is to become a neurosurgeon."

Fareha did not have an anatomy or neurology background prior to attending the School of Medicine and she explained that: "studying neuroanatomy over the last two years in the hope of winning has been a challenging yet personal journey, and I have enjoyed every second of it. It will be a period of my life that I will look back at fondly. I am very proud of myself for achieving this. I am the first student from an Irish medical school to win." She also had inspiring words for other medical students: "the brain is medicine's final frontier. I am not intimidated by the many dark corners in this field, and I am excited to continue

learning about this majestic organ. To any student planning to take part in the future: you can do it."

Professor Kieran McDermott, Professor of Anatomy, added: "Fareha, in winning this international competition, is a great credit to herself and to the School of Medicine in the University of Limerick. The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition, which is organised by the University of Southampton and sponsored in part by the Anatomical Society (www.anatsoc.org.uk), attracts the best students from these islands, who, like Fareha, are keenly interested in and fascinated by the nervous system. Previous students from the school have also excelled in the competition but Fareha is the first to win. I encourage all students who are interested in this field to consider entering the competition.

School of Medicine Faculty and Staff Awards 2020-2021



L to R: School of Medicine Technical Staff: Miranda Kiernan, Kieran O'Mahony and Hilda Fogarty

On Thursday 25th of November during a virtual ceremony, the School of Medicine presented their annual faculty and staff awards. There were two categories, the Bill Shannon Excellence in Medical Education Award and the Excellence in Education / Research / Student Support Award.

Professor Bill Shannon attended the virtual event and was delighted to present Dr Elaine Kolshus, Clinical Skills Tutor for the BMBS programme with the "Bill Shannon Excellence in Medical Education" award. The Panel decision for this award was unanimous and they commended her excellent application, reflecting her commitment to student welfare, student engagement & student learning. Also highlighted were her continuous improvements & innovative approaches to medical education (incl. flipped classroom approach, use of pre-session quizzes and seeking peer observation feedback on your own teaching). Her dedication & enthusiasm for medical education is reflected in excellent student feedback.

Prof Shannon also presented the "Excellence in Education / Research / Student Support Award". This year the awarding panel decision was unanimous, and they were strongly of the opinion that the CAL and Technical team applications were both outstanding, and that the award should be shared. Panel members highlighted that without the dedicated commitment, teamwork, service, forward planning & crisis management by both teams, the essential work of the school would have been severely impacted & curtailed in AY 20/21.

The Panel highlighted the CAL Team's continuous improvements & the critical organisation provided across key areas, including student learning, clinical placements & assessment. Much of this work required exceptional organisation and dedication, with rapid responses needed especially over the last 18 months. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 CAL team, Róisín Monaghan, Mary B O'Connell, Kevin O'Connor, Davida McCoy, Michelle Ahern, Karen Lyons, Ciara Joyce, Neasa O'Donovan, Gillian Madigan, Terri Culligan, Ann McAuliffe,

Laura O'Sullivan and Margie Sheehan.

Also highlighted are the Technical Team's continuous improvements & critical supports provided across key areas including learning, research & assessment. Much of this work is completed "behind the scenes" and over the last 18 months team members performed an essential role as worker representatives, adapted to hybrid work practices, and, when needed, responded to several crisis situations. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 technical team, Margaret Toomey, Elizabeth Guihen, Jeffery Lennon, Kieran O'Mahony, Hilda Fogarty and Miranda Kiernan.

Prof Deirdre McGrath, Head of School, also presented the 2020-2021 Teaching Excellence awards to Professor Dermot Hehir (Year 3&4 Teaching Award), Dr Nazima Abid Hussaini (Year1&2 Teaching Award) and Dr Lorcán Ó'Maoileannaigh (NCHD Teaching Award). These awards are selected by the students, congratulations to all three recipients.



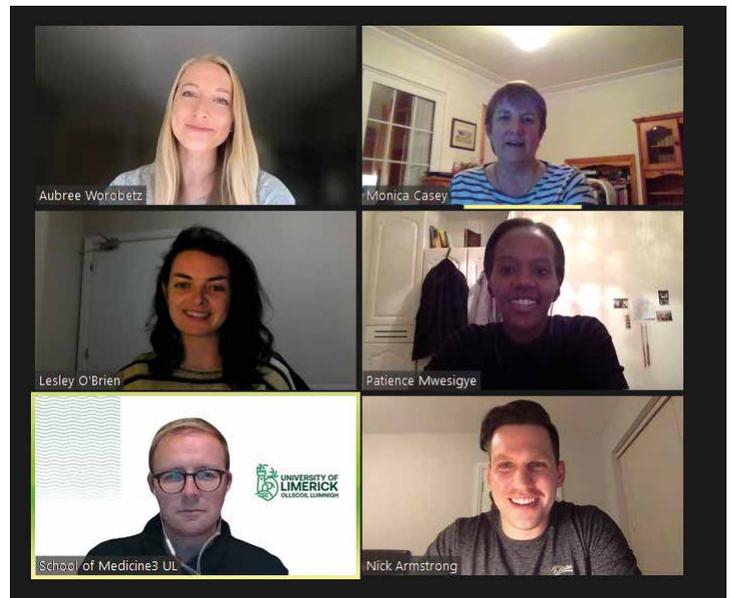
Dr Elaine Kolshus with the Bill Shannon award



Dr Lorcán Ó'Maoileannaigh with the NCHD award

GP & Primary Care Research Evening

An information meeting for BMBS Year 3 students interested in general practice or primary care research was facilitated on Oct 18th by Dr Patrick O'Donnell & Monica Casey. More than 60 students attended & heard presentations from Lesley O'Brien (Y3 BMBS), Aubree Worobetz (Y4 BMBS), Dr Patience Mwesigye (Intern, formerly of UL School of Medicine and Dr Nick Armstrong (Intern, formerly of UL School of Medicine). These were followed by an interactive questions and answers session. The next steps will be to match the Y3 students who applied with research projects and supervisors across the School and beyond. This event is the start of the process of including interested students in high quality GP and primary care research, and has led to peer-reviewed publications and international conference presentations by our students in the past.



Biomedical Science Students Final Year Project Presentation Day



Harry Gleeson, Eimear Mahon and Ciarán Courtney-O'Toole

As part of the Biomedical Science degree, students are undertaking a final year research project. The main purpose of this module is to develop the skills of independent academic research and academic writing, data handling and self-expression communication and dissemination of health-based research.

On the 18th of November the students showcased their research at a presentation day, held in the School of Medicine. This event was sponsored by the Limerick based company Serosep and the team were delighted to have Dermot Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer and David Clancy, Chief Technology Officer present at the event.

The recipient of the gold medal was Eimear Mahon for her project on 'exploring the role of HDAC6 in non-small cell lung cancer' under the supervision of Dr. Catriona Dowling. The silver medal recipient was Harry Gleeson for his project on 'NR2A1-3 nuclear receptor control of innate cell function and inflammatory responses in rheumatic disease' under the supervision of Dr. Evelyn Murphy. The bronze medal winner was Ciarán Courtney O'Toole with his project on 'machine learning techniques in diabetes research' under the supervision of Prof. Ailish Hannigan.

Dr Dowling, Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences, said: "We would like to thank all the faculty members for their support and dedication in supervising the students. We would also like to give a special thanks to Serosep for sponsoring the event and giving of their time to judge the prizes on the day. And finally, we would like to congratulate all the students for their presentations. The quality and dissemination of their research was excellent and they should be very proud of themselves."

University Ethnic Diversity Forum



The University recently established the Ethnic Diversity Forum (EDF). Dr Yoga Nathan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Medicine, and Mamobo Ogoru, PhD student, will chair and co-chair the Forum. The EDF is a sub-group of the Human Rights – EDI Steering Committee and will lead UL's ongoing efforts to advance inclusion on campus. The purpose of the Forum is to understand and advocate for a positive campus climate in relation to ethnicity, equality, diversity and inclusion, and to make recommendations and progress actions that aim to make UL an equitable, safe and respectful work and study environment for all.

University of Limerick study reveals link between Crohn's disease and fatty tissue in the gut



Prof Colum Dunne,
Director of Research

The study, carried out by researchers at UL along with a team from University Hospital Limerick, is suggesting for the first time that Crohn's disease, which is an inflammatory bowel condition, may in fact be a fatty intestine condition.

The research, published in leading journal *Scientific Reports*, has been described as "an exciting starting point" for the further exploration of Crohn's disease, which affects thousands of people every year in Ireland and internationally.

The study involved body composition analysis of patients with Crohn's disease using equipment hosted on the UL campus, with the UL team collaborating with gastroenterology and surgical specialists in UHL.

"In our study, it was evident that, in the abdominal areas where the intestines are located, Crohn's related ulcers or lesions and inflammation are

associated with higher depositions of fat. More simply, in that part of their body that has relatively less overall fat, disease shows up as linked with fatty tissue surrounding the gut," explained Professor Dunne, Director of Research, School of Medicine, who led the study along with Professor Phil Jakeman, Physical Education and Sport Sciences UL and Professor Calvin Coffey, School of Medicine and Dr Maeve Skelly, UHL.

The latest research follows previous studies of mesenteric microbiology and detection of blood-borne biomarkers that Professor Dunne's group have published in recent years.

It also builds on work done by Professor Calvin Coffey, Foundation Chair of Surgery at UL School of Medicine, whose groundbreaking research led to the reclassification of a part of the human digestive system known as the mesentery as a new organ.

WONCA World Rural Health Conference, 2022

Preparation for the **WONCA World Rural Health conference** which will be hosted at the University of Limerick on **June 17th-20th, 2022** continues apace by the School of Medicine. Dr Peter Hayes and his team have secured a fantastic line up of keynote speakers from around the world including **Professor Dame Clare Gerada**, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners; **Dr Anna Stavdal**, President-elect of WONCA, the World Organisation of Family Doctors; **Dr Mike Ryan**, Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme; **Professor John Gillies**, Honorary Professor of General Practice, University of Edinburgh and Co-director, University of Edinburgh Global Compassion Initiative, Global Health Academy; **Professor Roger Strasser**, Professor of Rural Health, University of Waikato, New Zealand Professor of Rural Health and Founding Dean Emeritus Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), Canada; **Professor Sir Andy Haines**, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, Centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; **Professor Shelley Nowlan**, Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner, Australian Government and Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Queensland Health; **Dr Yuan Gu**, Professor, Family Medicine, Capital Medical University (CMU), Beijing and President, General Practice Branch, Chinese Non-government Medical Institutions Association.

"The resilience shown by rural and remote communities has been a testament to their inherent engagement, cohesiveness and flexibility. The COVID-19 pandemic has generated renewed vigour in re-imagining life on the periphery as a very attractive place for people and businesses to come, work and live" said Professor Liam Glynn, chair of the organising committee for the WONCA World Rural Health conference which is coming to Ireland for the first time.

The proposed theme of the conference is "Improving Health, Empowering Communities".

The abstract process is open at www.woncarhc2022.com with five methods of submissions: oral presentations, moderated poster sessions, workshops, RED (Rural TED) talks and short videos.

You can follow on Twitter '@WoncaRural2022' and Facebook 'WONCA World Rural Health Conference - Limerick 2022'.

Dr Hayes added: "We hope that many of our current staff and students as well as alumni from around the world will be able to join us from June 17-20th 2022 for what we hope will be a fantastic event for the School of Medicine, the University and the wider community."

Fellowship of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine Award



On December 8th 2021 during a virtual ceremony, Prof Liam Glynn was awarded the Fellowship of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (FSEM), Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). This is in recognition to his commitment to the concept of Exercise as Medicine in education and research throughout his career to date. He led the research team that carried out the first randomised controlled trial demonstrating the effectiveness of smartphone applications in increasing physical activity in primary care, the SMART MOVE project. He also developed the MED-WELL programme at the School of Medicine, an exercise intervention to educate, and promote health and well-being, among medical students. In his spare time he also is medical doctor to the Clare Senior Hurling team.

Liam is a member of the Executive Advisory Board for the Exercise is Medicine® (EIM) Ireland National Centre hosted at UL, launched by UL and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in February 2020. The goal of Exercise is Medicine®, a global health initiative by the ACSM, is for physical activity assessment and promotion to be part of clinical care, linking healthcare with evidence-based physical activity resources for people everywhere and demonstrating the truth of that famous phrase of Hippocrates, 'Walking is man's best medicine'.

Annual meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)



in migrant health in Ireland: toward a participatory arts-based paradigm for academic primary care". Dr Frances Garry presented a paper on "The use of music as an arts-based method in migrant health research: a scoping review".

Elena Koskinas, a Year 2 BMBS student at UL, presented the poster "Exploring how patients and members of the public are recruited to boards, groups & panels in patient-engaged health research", co-authored by Meghan Gilfoyle, PhD student and Dr. Jon Salsberg. Recording available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-SGhF0Ps2g>

The Public and Patient Involvement - Research Unit had a very strong presence at this year's virtual **Annual Meeting** of the NAPCRG, 19th - 23rd November.

Prof. Anne MacFarlane co-facilitated a pre-conference workshop named "Methods and Approaches to Equity in Primary Care

Research". Dr Jon Salsberg co-facilitated "Patient and Clinician Engagement: Co-Production of Meaningful Evidence for Patients, Clinicians and Researchers".

Prof. Helen Phelan, Professor of Arts Practice, Irish World Academy, presented a paper on "Research prioritization

The workshop "Arts-based Methods and Meaningful Partnerships for Primary Care Research with Underserved Communities in Ireland and the USA", was co-facilitated by Prof. Anne MacFarlane, Prof. Ailish Hannigan, Dr Jon Salsberg, and Prof. Helen Phelan.

Annual University of Limerick Education and Research Network of General Practitioners (ULEARN-GP) Tutor Conference

The annual University of Limerick Education and Research Network of General Practitioners (ULEARN-GP) Tutor Conference was held on Saturday Oct 16th, 2021. The Conference opened by Prof. Deirdre McGrath and Prof. Liam Glynn, and coordinated by Dr Patrick O'Donnell.

The theme of this year's conference was *'Embracing Change and Self-Care in the Post-Covid-19 Era'*. Our keynotes included:

Clinical assessment in the post Covid-19 era chaired by our own Professor Pat O'Dwyer and delivered by Dr Tony Foley, Lecturer in the Department of General Practice in UCC and Convener of the MICGP clinical skills examination.

Learning outcomes and teaching strategies for your students on placement led by Dr Peter Hayes, Senior Lecturer at the School of Medicine, UL.

Preventing Burnout: Self-care during challenging times – led by Dr Andrée Rochfort of the ICGP and Dr Pat Harrold, GP, CME Tutor and Irish Times Columnist.

Professor Pat O'Dwyer said: *"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our GP tutors again for the high-quality teaching and mentorship experiences they have provided for our medical students during this most challenging of times."*

Next year's University of Limerick Education and Research Network of General Practitioners (ULEARN-GP) Tutor Conference will be held in conjunction with the WONCA World Rural Health Conference on the University of Limerick campus from 17-20th June 2022.

Professor Anne MacFarlane presents at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Webinar



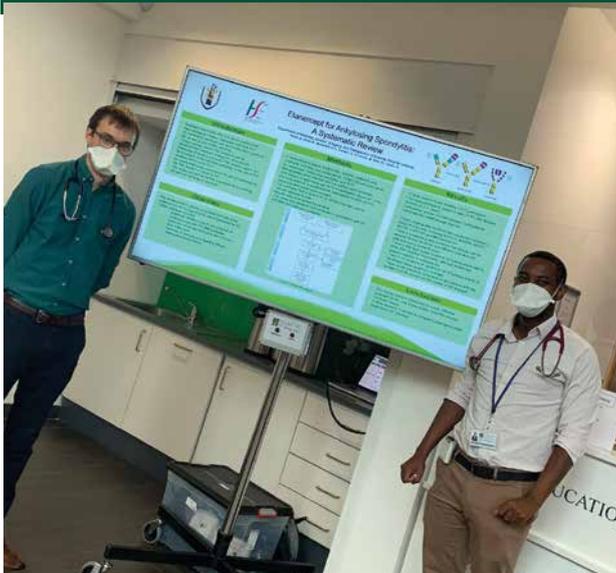
The WHO/Europe organised the first WHO Collaborating Centres Regional Meeting with the overall purpose of recognising the work of the WHO collaborating centres (WHO CCs), strengthening their cooperation with WHO, and ensuring that their full potential is fulfilled. This event occurred online on 2-3 November 2021.

Professor of Primary Healthcare Anne MacFarlane was invited by the WHO to present at "WHO Collaborating Centres: Good practices, added value and implementation challenges: what's working and what's not".

She is Director of the Public and Patient Involvement - Research Unit (PPI-RU) in the School of Medicine, which is an active WHO Collaborating Centre since 2019 with a remit to produce:

- 1) Guidance on the use of participatory health research to support the meaningful involvement of migrants in health research partnerships with academic and health sector stakeholders;
- 2) A training programme and manual for involving migrants in health research to be piloted in Ireland.

IAP Conference



Pictured with their poster L to R;
Dr Aidan Walsh, Intern, UHL and BMBS Graduate and Dr Abdirahman Sheikh Mohamed, Geriatric Medicine Registrar, UHL

In November, the School of Medicine hosted the 21st annual meeting of the Irish Association of Pharmacologists (IAP); it was very well attended, both in person and virtually.

The IAP was established in late 1990s by the late Professor John Feely who made diverse and lasting contributions to the development of pharmacology and therapeutics, both nationally and internationally. Its aims include:

- Promotion of basic and clinical pharmacology research on the island of Ireland.
- Provision of a forum for scientists to collaborate and share ideas in pharmacology and therapeutics, with allied disciplines in both research and industrial settings.
- Strengthening membership of international associations (IUPHAR, EACPT) to foster development of collaborative links for members in areas of common research interest.

Submissions on a wide range of topics were received, and these were displayed electronically as posters for attendees. In addition, two sessions of oral presentations allowed contributors to showcase their research and presentation skills.

Keynote speakers included Prof Dermot Cox (RCSI), who comprehensively presented the pharmacology of Covid-19 treatments and Dr Cormac Kennedy (St. James' Hospital Dublin & TCD), whose presentation on the role of clinical pharmacologists also formed ULHG's Grand Rounds presentation and thus reached a wider audience.

Expressions of appreciation to Anne Harnett (Senior Lecturer Clinical Pharmacology) and Mary O'Connell (Clinical Liaison Placement Officer) for their efforts in bringing about this successful meeting. Anne and Mary in turn thanked all those who contributed to the success of this meeting.

IAP members look forward to reconvening in TCD at the 2022 meeting.

Adolescent Medicine Study Day



The Paediatric team at University Hospital Limerick hosted an Adolescent Medicine Study Day on 22nd October, which was attended by over 70 people. The event was open to all healthcare professionals and students in the hospital group, with options for in-person and virtual attendance, and was opened by University of Limerick Hospitals Group CEO, Professor Colette Cowan.

Speakers on the day included: Dr Ngozi Oketah, Consultant Paediatrician with Special Interest in Adolescent Medicine and Mental Health, who presented on 'Communicating with Adolescents'; Professor Elizabeth Barrett, Consultant in Child and Adolescent Liaison Psychiatry, who presented on 'Adolescent Mental Health in the Context of Covid-19'. Ms Norma O'Keeffe, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Children's Pain, who presented on 'Chronic Pain and Chronic Fatigue'. Dr Órla Walsh, Consultant in General Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, who presented on 'The Teenage Brain and Chronic Illness in Adolescence'.

Breakout rooms were facilitated by Dr Ngozi Oketah, Ms Norma O'Keeffe and Dr Órla Walsh for those attending in person, followed by closing comments from Professor Clodagh O'Gorman.

Adolescent Medicine Study Day

Fri. 22nd October 2021

11.00am – 4.00pm

CERC building, University Hospital Limerick (UHL)

[Click here to view full agenda](#)



SPEAKERS

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DR ÓRLA WALSH
Adolescent Medicine and General Paediatrician, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street. Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, RCSI Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Assistant Clinical Professor in Women's and Children's Health, LICD School of Medicine.

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NORMA O'KEEFFE
Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Children's Pain, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street. Registered General Nurse (RGN), Registered Children's Nurse (RCN), Registered Nurse Prescriber (RNP).

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DR NGOZI OKETAH
MBBS, DCH, Dip-HSM, MRCP, MRCPCH, MPH, FPAED. Consultant paediatrician with SI in Adolescent Medicine and Mental Health (Iocum), The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC).

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PROFESSOR ELIZABETH BARRETT
Associate Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University College Dublin, Consultant in Child and Adolescent Liaison Psychiatry, Children's University Hospital, Temple Street.



MSc Public Health: A Commitment to Sustainability



Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf



Dr Nuha Ibrahim



Dr Steve MacDonald



Dr Niamh Cummins

Following a successful inaugural year, the MSc Public Health Programme welcomed its second batch of 47 students this semester, around 70% of whom are international students. The programme was designed from the ground up to drive sustainability in public health education and produce market-ready graduates who are sensitive to the critical issues affecting sustainable development.

"We are responsible for graduating future sustainability leaders and change agents. Now, more than ever, we have a historic opportunity to make transformational changes in higher education to contribute to a sustainable world. Let's do it. Let us change the culture within universities, adopt curricula based on sustainability principles and open our arms

to students from developing countries. Let us stand together for the well-being and future of our planet." Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf, (Senior Lecturer in Public Health; Director, UL MSc Public Health Programme; Chair, Board of Directors of the Irish Global Health Network).

The MSc Public Health focuses on a novel and scalable "3+1+2" structure for core modules, combining three weeks of self-paced lessons and exams with a one-week intensive workshop, then two weeks of individual assignments. A sustainability focus is integrated throughout the student journey, represented in the study topics and central activities which challenge the students to find sustainable, solutions-focused ways of supporting and protecting public health.

"Our core module content was developed by international experts across multiple fields in public health. This gives ALL students, regardless of background, the solid theoretical foundations for building their practical skills and competencies. We combine this with live cooperative and collaborative learning to fully prepare our students for the job market." Dr Steve Macdonald (Lecturer in Public Health; Coordinator, UL MSc Public Health Programme).

Following the core modules, the MSc Public Health Practicum helps students to translate learning into practice, by undertaking 8 weeks of full-time projects within public health focused organisations locally, nationally, and internationally.

"The Practicum offers our

students the opportunity to contribute to sustainability in the real-world setting through work with partner organisations in the community. Our progress together is carefully mapped and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals." Dr Niamh Cummins (Lecturer in Public Health).

Finally, students undertake a 12-week supervisor-led research project, creating a peer review submission-ready manuscript, moving away from traditional thesis-based assessment.

"Our research projects create impacts twice – firstly for the communities and populations who the research projects benefit, and secondly for our students who are trained to become competent and independent researchers." Dr Nuha Ibrahim, Lecturer in Public Health.

Simulation Training in the School of Medicine



The School of Medicine uses one of the most advanced labour and delivery patient simulators in the world - Victoria S2200, specifically designed for simulation-based education and training.

From early pregnancy complications, high risk deliveries and postpartum emergencies, Victoria simulates a full range of obstetrical events to facilitate teamwork and deepen critical thinking skills. Pictured we can see one of our final year BMBS students receiving full guidance in delivering a baby by Dr. Camelia Tiuitu & Dr. Jawaria Khan during his 6 week rotation in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

The use of simulation based medical teaching and training within the rotation of OBGYN, gives our students the opportunity to experience labour and delivery in a risk free environment without compromising the safety of patients and assists to improve students' competence and confidence.

Irish Association for Emergency Medicine Award



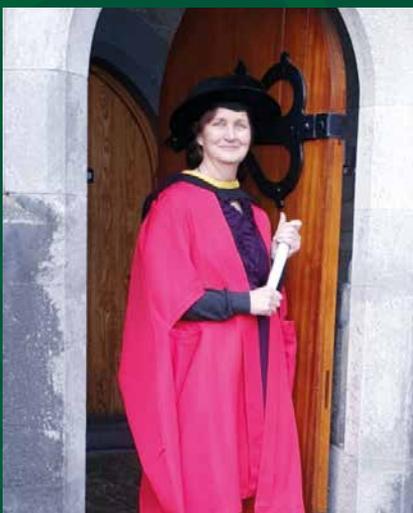
Dr Damien Ryan, Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor in Medicine and Dr Niamh Cummins, Lecturer in Public Health with their IAEM award

Dr. Niamh Cummins (Lecturer in Public Health) was recently awarded a national prize for her research by the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM).

The study was presented at the IAEM Annual Scientific Meeting (Oct 14-15th) and was titled *‘The Impact of COVID-19 on the Emergency Department (ED) at University Hospital Limerick: Unlocking the Factors influencing Decision to Attend the ED in a Repeated Measure, Cross-sectional Study’*. Co-authors of the research include; Prof. Rose Galvin (Ageing Research Centre; ARC and School of Allied Health), as well as Dr. Fergal Cummins and Dr. Damien Ryan, who are Adjunct Faculty with the School of Medicine and co-lead the Limerick Emergency Medicine Research and Training (ALERT) unit in the ED at UHL.

Speaking about the research findings, Dr. Niamh Cummins concluded: “Sustainable system-wide solutions are required to tackle ED crowding and the findings of this study highlight the importance of addressing capacity and flow throughout the hospital and within community services”. Research is ongoing locally and at national level with the “Better Data, Better Planning” (BDBP) Study.

Postgraduate Research graduations August 2021



Two School of Medicine PhD students graduated in August this year. Dr Maria Kelly was awarded a PhD with her thesis title *‘Using administrative health data for palliative and end of life care research in Ireland’*. Her supervisors were Prof Ailish Hannigan and Dr Katie O’Brien, HIQA. Maria continues to work in IT at the National Cancer Registry Ireland.



Dr Joanne Nolan also graduated with a PhD. Her thesis was entitled *‘The Extracellular Matrix: A Target in Breast Cancer Treatment and Prognosis’*. Her supervisors were Prof Pat Kiely and Prof Colum Dunne. Joanne is now working as a postdoctoral researcher at Queen Mary University of London. Congratulations to both!

Paramedic Studies Continual Professional Development Day



The current Year 4 BSc Paramedic Studies students held a virtual Continual Professional Development day on December 8th.

The session was well attended with students, faculty, EMTs, paramedics, nurses and doctors presented to on ‘Hot Topics in Trauma’ including; intranasal fentanyl for pain management, paediatric trauma, geriatric trauma and antibiotic prophylaxis for open fractures.