ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

20–22 October

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS







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ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

20–22 October

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

PUBLIC MEETING

Living Well: A Public Conversation on Health, Wellbeing and Obesity

Healthy tips for everyone

No. 6 Kildare St
20 October 2026
18:00 – 19:30

2 CPD Credits

HERITAGE DAY

Medicine, Art & Society in Georgian Dublin

No. 6 Kildare St
21 October 2026
09:30 – 13:00

2 CPD Credits

ST. LUKE'S SYMPOSIUM

Innovation, Prevention and Policy: Shaping Tomorrow's Health

No 6 Kildare Street
22 October 2026
09:00 – 16:30

UP TO 6 CPD Credits

This annual conference programme was reviewed and awarded 10 credits by RCPI in accordance with the Irish Medical Council accreditation criteria. RCPI is an accredited national provider and accreditor of postgraduate medical education in Ireland, recognized by the Irish Medical Council.

PUBLIC MEETING

Living Well: A Public Conversation on Health, Wellbeing and Obesity
Healthy tips for everyone

TUE 20 OCT

2 CPD Credits

Time	Title	Speaker
17:30 – 18:00	Registration	
18:00 – 18:05	Welcome Address	Prof Anthony O'Regan, President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
18:05 – 19:30	Panel Discussion	Chair: Alison O'Connor with Prof Donal O'Shea, Dr Ximena Ramos Salas, Orla Walsh RD., Mike Murphy and Susie Birney

SPEAKERS



Chair: Alison O'Connor

Alison O'Connor is a journalist, broadcaster and author. She writes a weekly column for The Sunday Times. As a current affairs commentator she appears regularly on radio and television. She has worked previously as a political correspondent for The Irish Times and Irish Independent, as well as a columnist for The Irish Examiner and Business Post.



Professor Donal O'Shea

Donal qualified from University College Dublin in 1989 and then moved to Hammersmith Hospital in London. He completed research with Professor Sir Stephen Bloom on how the brain controls appetite. He moved to his current position establishing the first hospital-based multidisciplinary treatment unit for the management of adult obesity in the country. Donal is a member of the Department of Health policy group on obesity established in 2011 and chaired a group carrying out a health impact assessment on the potential benefits and harms of a tax on sugar sweetened drinks. He has presented to the EU Ministers for Health and the Director General of the WHO on the importance of prevention of childhood obesity. His specific research interests are in gender issues as well as obesity and has published over 200 research papers. He was previously National Lead for Management of Obesity with the HSE.



Dr Ximena Ramos Salas

Ximena Ramos Salas is an Affiliated Researcher in the Department of Psychology at Lund University in Lund, Sweden, and the Chair of Bias 180, a global non-profit organization based in Canada with a mandate to address chronic disease stigma. She holds a PhD in Public Health with a specialization in Health Promotion and Socio-Behavioural Sciences from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and is a global expert on obesity and weight stigma. She has published scientific articles and lectured widely on obesity prevention and management, weight bias and stigma, health inequalities, and person-centred healthcare and policies. She has also contributed to many government reports, action plans, and policy briefs on weight bias and obesity stigma, including the report entitled Weight Bias and Obesity Stigma: Considerations for the WHO European Region. Ximena coordinated the process that created the 2020 Canadian clinical practice guidelines for the management of obesity in adults (which included recommendations to reduce weight stigma in healthcare), the international adaptation of the Canadian clinical practice guidelines in Chile and Ireland, and supported the development of the clinical practice guidelines for adult obesity in Mexico and the pharmacotherapy guidance for adult obesity in the US. Born in Chile, Ximena is a Canadian citizen currently living in Sweden.



Orla Walsh

Orla Walsh is a Registered Dietitian and Physiologist, and the founder of Orla Walsh Nutrition, Ireland's leading dietetic and nutrition clinic. Having initially graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a BA in Physiology, Orla subsequently continued to quench her thirst for knowledge by following that up with a PgDip in Dietetics, an MSc in Clinical Nutrition, a PgDip in Sports & Exercise Nutrition and an MA in Physiology. Orla is the former Head Performance Dietitian with Athletics Ireland and consultant to the Irish Institute of Sport where she worked with many athletes in the build up to the Rio Olympics. She has written for the Irish Independent since 2016 and is a regular contributor to other national media outlets across print, TV and radio. Orla also runs a number of active social media accounts across multiple platforms, while also running her healthy living blog and providing countless recipes for people to learn from. Orla is passionate about anything related to health, science, food, exercise and everything to do with the great outdoors.



Susie Birney

Susie Birney is an obesity patient advocate from Dublin, Ireland. Living with obesity and other NCD's with the support of a multi-disciplinary team and treatment, she has seen a vast improvement in her quality of life. Nationally, Susie is the Executive Director of the Irish Coalition for People Living with Obesity (ICPO) and sits as a patient representative with the Association for the studies of Obesity Ireland (ASOI). Susie is involved in European patient advocacy through her role within the European Coalition for People Living with Obesity (ECPO). She represents the patient perspective at conferences, with policymakers, clinicians, researchers, and partner organisations across Europe. Susie is recognised for her commitment to amplifying the voices of people living with obesity and for challenging stigma. Susie co-founded and leads the stigma education training for healthcare students. This training has developed and been presented to undergraduate/post graduate students, the Department of Health, the National Maternity Hospital and other National health organisations. Susie is a passionate advocate for recognising obesity as a chronic, relapsing disease and speaks with emphasis on people-first language, respect, and dignity in both healthcare settings and public discourse and for reducing stigma for people living with obesity. With experience in both patient advocacy and peer support, Susie brings her lived experience to policy, education, and public engagement. Representing the lived experience at the European Parliament, Susie has not hesitated to ensure patient and public Involvement is truly embedded and valued at all stages in these discussions.



Mike Murphy

Mike Murphy is the Head Physiotherapist at RAPID and the Founder of Masters Program Ireland. He earned his B.Sc. in Physiotherapy from Trinity College Dublin before completing his M.Sc. in Sports and Exercise Medicine from Trinity also. Mike founded RAPID in 2020 and has been growing the clinic ever since. RAPID now has 5 full time physiotherapists, over 450 5 star reviews and has helped 1000's of patients to find their problem, fix their pain and improve their performance. Mike founded the physiotherapist-led Masters Program in 2021 which has grown significantly over the past few years. The Masters Program is a strength and rehabilitation class for older adults, keeping them strong, active, healthy and pain free as they age. Many Master's Program members join the Program to maintain and gain muscle mass and bone mineral density, getting Fitter, and not Frailer, as they age. The Masters Program has over 50 classes per week and is attended by over 350 members. The slogan for the class is 'Use It Or Lose It' which is embodied by so many of their incredible members.

HERITAGE DAY

Medicine, Art & Society in Georgian Dublin

WED 21 OCT

2 CPD Credits

Time	Title	Speaker
09.00 – 09.30	Registration	
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome Address	Prof Anthony O'Regan, President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Session 1		
Chair: Dr Eoghan Mooney, Dun's Librarian		
09:35 – 10:05	The Apothecaries' Hall Lucas Lecture: Charles Lucas and the cultures of medicine in eighteenth-century Ireland	Prof James Kelly School of History & Geography, DCU
10:05 – 10:35	Dr Henry Quin and James Tassie 'Cameo fever', an Enlightenment affliction	Liz Louis, Curator of Portraiture (1700 – 1800) National Galleries of Scotland
10:35 – 11:05	Dr John Gilborne's The Medical Review	Harriet Wheelock RCPI Keeper of Collections
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break	
Session 2		
12:00 – 13:00	Musical Performance: Irish Baroque Orchestra Young Artists	

SPEAKERS



Professor James Kelly MRIA

School of History & Geography, DCU

James Kelly is Professor of History at Dublin City University.His publications include Food rioting in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Four Courts Press, 2017).

He is editor (with Fiona Clark) of Ireland and medicine in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Ashgate: Aldershot, 2010), volume 3 of the Cambridge history of Ireland: Ireland, 1730-1880 (Cambridge, 2018), and (with Tomás Ó Carragáin) of Climate and Society in Ireland: from prehistory to the present (Royal Irish Academy, 2021).

He is currently investigating the graphic satire tradition in Ireland in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



Liz Louise

Curator of Portraiture (1700 – 1800)
National Galleries of Scotland

Liz currently works for the National Galleries of Scotland, where she specialises in Scottish 18th-century portraiture. Her remit ranges from early Jacobite portraits to the works of Sir Henry Raeburn, Scotland's foremost Enlightenment portraitist. She joined the National Galleries of Scotland in 2018 and her research interests include female Scottish 18th-century artists, Scots abroad, and the work of James and William Tassie.

Since 2024, she has been leading on an ambitious, cross-departmental project to catalogue the organisation's collection of these artists' works, the largest holding of Tassie material in the world. At the same time, she collaborated on research about Tassie and his Irish mentor Dr Henry Quin with Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth at the University of Edinburgh. Liz and Caroline were invited to survey the Quin Tassie collection at the RCPI in August 2025, thanks to a project co-funded by The Heritage Council.



Harriet Wheelock

RCPI, Keeper of Collections

Harriet Wheelock is Keeper of Collections in Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, with responsibility for the management and development of RCPI's Heritage Centre. This comprises the unique library, archive and historic items relating to the history of RCPI, and the history of medicine in Ireland. In 2018 the Heritage Centre received Full Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland, becoming Ireland's first accredited medical museum.

Harriet is currently a PhD student in the TU Dublin School of Creative Arts, where her research focuses on the development and historiography of RCPI's heritage collections. She is the co-author with Dr Mary McAuliffe (UCD) of The Diaries of Kathleen Lynn. A life revealed through personal writing (UCD Press, 2023).

ST. LUKE'S SYMPOSIUM

Innovation, Prevention and Policy: Shaping Tomorrow's Health

THU 22 OCT

UP TO 6 CPD Credits

Time	Title	Speaker
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Address	Prof Anthony O'Regan, President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Session 1		
Opportunities in Training, Medicine and my Career Chair: Prof Emer Kelly, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, UCD Associate Clinical Professor, UCD School of Medicine, St Vincent's University Hospital		
09:05 – 09:15	Leadership through Ownership: Opportunities to shape a Health System	Dr Bearach Reynolds, Infectious Diseases Specialist Registrar in St. Vincent's University Hospital
09:15 – 09:25	China, Food Industry, Medicine and Me	Dr Paul O Brien, Registrar in Oncology, Cork University Hospital
09:25 – 09:35	What Stays the Same: Finding a Career in Public Health Medicine	Dr Rachel McNamara, Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine
09:35 – 09:45	Physician Wellbeing: Where are we now?	Dr Mary T. O'Neill, Aspire Fellow in Occupational Medicine
9:45-10:15	Keynote: Data Science, AI and Innovation in Cardiovascular Health and Medicine: What's Old Is New	Dr Robert Harrington Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
Session 2		
Digital Health, AI and Innovation Chair: Prof Sean Hynes, Consultant Histopathologist and Professor in Pathology at the University of Galway and University Hospital Galway		
10:45 – 10.50	Trust, AI and the Clinician	Prof Cathy Quinlan, Director, Research, Partnerships and Impact, Children's Health Ireland
10:50-11:15	Digital Health – Plans for our Future	Mr. Derek Tierney, General Secretary, Department of Health
11:15 – 11:30	Digital Health – Where are we now?	Mr. Damien McCallion, HSE Chief Technology and Transformation Officer, and Deputy CEO
11:30 – 11:45	Panel Discussion	Panel will be joined by Angela Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, HIQA and Dr Ronan Glynn, EY Ireland Partner and Health Sector Leader
Session 3		
The Future of Healthcare in Ireland - Reshaping Healthcare Delivery and Training Chair: Prof Trevor Duffy, RCPI Director of Healthcare Leadership and Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE		
11:45– 12:30	Panel Discussion	Dr Eamon Dolan, Regional Clinical Director Sara Long, Regional Executive Officer Dr Pat Nash, Regional Director, Clinical Tony Canavan, Regional Executive Officer
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
Session 4		
Commercial & Social Determinants of Health: Prevention is better than Cure Chair: Prof Ellen Crushell, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Prof Anthony O'Regan, President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland		
13:30 – 13:45	Commercial Determinates of Health	Dr Norah Campbell, Associate Professor of Business in Trinity Business School
13:45- 14:00	Addressing Population Levels of Physical Inactivity - The Importance of Policy	Prof Catherine B. Woods, Chair, Physical Activity for Health, Chair, Healthy UL
14:00-14:15	Can a Commercial Determinants of Health Approach Help End Tobacco Harm in Ireland?	Dr Paul Kavanagh, Consultant in Public Health Medicine
14:15-14:30	Reducing Alcohol Harms in Europe: Can we Improve Implementation of Evidence-based Policies?	Prof Frank Murray, Chair of European Health Alliance on Alcohol
14:30-14:45	Panel Discussion	
14:45-15:15	Coffee Break	
Session 5		
Clinical Pearls Chair: Dr Jennifer Martin, Director of National Health Service Improvement, Public Health, HSE & Dr Maeve Doyle, Director of Education RCPI		
15:15 –15:40	Keynote: Women, Ageing and Research	Dr Paula Rochon, Geriatrician and Director of Research for the Weston and O'Born Centre for Mature Women's Health at Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto
15:40-15:50	Quality needs Kindness	Dr John Fitzsimons, Consultant Paediatrician, Children's Health Ireland
15:50 – 16:00	The Great Mimicker	Prof Joseph Keane, Consultant Respiratory Physician St James's Hospital National Centre for Tuberculosis; 1955 Chair of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin
16:00- 16:10	FND in 10 Minutes: What Every Physician Should Know	Dr Aoife Laffan, Consultant Neurologist, St James's Hospital
16:10-16:20	Perfusion You Can See – Physical examination in the management of shock	Dr Bairbre McNicholas, Consultant Intensivist, Nephrologist and Physician at the University of Galway and Galway University Hospitals.
16:20-16.30	Conference Close	

ST. LUKE'S SYMPOSIUM

Innovation, Prevention and Policy: Shaping Tomorrow's Health

THU 26 SEP - FRI 04 OCT

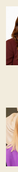
UP TO 15 CME CREDITS

SPEAKERS



Professor Anthony O'Regan

Professor Anthony O'Regan is President of RCPI. A consultant respiratory and general physician in Tallaght University Hospital, he is Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Dublin, Trinity College. He graduated from UCD in 1990, trained in general medicine and respiratory medicine in Ireland and clinical allergy and immunology in the USA. He has a PhD and with an MD (UCD) in 2002. Professor O'Regan is Clinical Lead for Respiratory Medicine and Acute Medicine, Dean of Postgraduate Training in RCPI, Medical Director of National Doctors Training and planning, and Chief Academic Officer for Sláintecare Integration Fund. He was appointed by the Minister of Health to the Board of the HSE in 2019. Professor O'Regan is a past president of the Irish Thoracic Society.



Dr Bearach Reynolds

Dr Bearach Reynolds is a final-year Infectious Diseases Physician Trainee in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. In July 2020, he completed a MSc in Healthcare Leadership in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer within the Department of Health. During 2021, he was seconded to the Department of Foreign Affairs where he worked in Ireland's Pandemic Taskforce and was an Editorial Board Member of Ireland Fellow with Cochrane Ireland and Dalhousie University. His research interests include the intersection of health and public health through cross-specialty collaboration.



Dr Paul O'Brien

Dr Paul O'Brien is an Oncology Registrar at Cork University Hospital. His research interests include unconventional interventional oncology, cancer genetics, food science, the Chinese food industry and clinical medicine. He holds a BSc in Genetics, an MSc in Food Science and an MBBS from Zhejiang University, China. In 2021, Dr O'Brien was awarded membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.



Dr Rachel McNamara

Dr Rachel McNamara is a Higher Specialist Trainee in Acute Medicine and Respiratory Medicine working in the Department of Health. She completed her medical training in St James's Hospital, Dublin, before undertaking two years of standalone clinical research in emergency medicine and medicine for older adults, followed by two years of training in Acute Medicine and Respiratory Medicine in Tallaght. She was an elected member of the Association of American Physicians, the Association of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Medicine. In addition, she has served as a chair and member of the US Food and Drug Administration Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee. Among his numerous awards and recognition, Dr Chakravarthy was awarded the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Medicine. He was awarded the Anne's Clinical Research Prize in 2017, and earned the AHA-Merck Clinical Research Award in 2018. He received the Research Excellence Award in 2019. In 2022, he was awarded the Stokes Medal, and in 2023, Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He received both the 2024 Chairman's Award and the Gold Medal Award for his leadership. The Cardiovascular Research Foundation recognised Dr Chakravarthy with the 2024 TCT Distinguished Cardiovascular Therapeutics) Career Achievement Award. Dr Chakravarthy is a physician who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of interventional cardiology and made a transformative impact on the treatment of patients with aortic valve disease, cardiomyopathy, research and mentorship.



Professor Catherine Quinlan

Prof Catherine Quinlan is Clinical Lead for AI at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and Clinical Partnership Lead and Project Director for Healthlink, a collaboration between RCPI and Dublin City University. Prof Quinlan is also the lead for the HSE's Sláintecare Chair for overseeing reform and transformation in the HSE. Prof Quinlan is a Consultant in Acute Medicine and is also Deputy CEO of RCPI. Prof Quinlan was the HSE's Chief Operations Officer from mid 2022 to June 2024, overseeing operations in the HSE. She led the response to care operations in the HSE and was 100,000-staff, 24/7 look on a lead role in the COVID-19 pandemic response and the Ukrainian refugee response. Prof Quinlan is a former member of the nation's public service executive. She is a graduate of Trinity College, with a number of roles prior to this within the HSE, from Screening Services, Head of the National Ambulance Service, Head of the Dublin Ambulance Service, Assistant National Director and Special Delivery Unit and Area Manager for Health Services in the North West. She has also had a number of roles in the Department of Health, as Chair and Director General of CARA and the organisation Safefood as Deputy Chair, for a number of years. Prior to working in the Health Service she worked for ten years in the airline industry. Dominic originally studied Medicine in Trinity College Dublin and completed an MSC in Innovation Management from University of Ulster and Letterkenny IT.



Derek Tierney

Derek Tierney is Secretary General of the Department of Health, responsible for leading the Department as its administrative head and Accounting Officer, and for the delivery of its strategic priorities, including the delivery of Sláintecare health and social care reforms and reform agenda. Prior to this, Derek served as Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Health leading out on Health Infrastructure, advancing the delivery of the National Children's Hospital and the Beacon agenda. Earlier than that, Derek was Principal Director in the Government's Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, leading out on the delivery of the health and Transport sectors and cross-Government with responsibility for large scale programmes, including the Government's Vaccination Centre. Across Government responsibility, before moving into the Civil Service, he has also held senior roles in a commercial transport semi-state and the private sectors working in pharmaceutical, computer and telecoms industries.



Dr Ronan Glynn

Dr Ronan Glynn leads IEA's Health Practice in Ireland. A pharmacist and medical doctor, Ronan has worked across virtually all parts of the healthcare system in Ireland. He was Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Medicines Board, a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians, Prior to joining IEA, Ronan was Chief Executive Officer of ICMSA (an Executive Department of Ireland), a member of the team tasked with leading the national response to COVID-19. Ronan is Adjunct Professor at the UCD School of Business, a Member of the Government's Economic Advisory Group and a Director of the Irish Cancer Society's Research Committee.



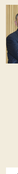
Dr Eamon Dolan

Dr Eamon Dolan is a Consultant Geriatrician and Stroke Physician in Tallaght University Hospital and Adelaide&Meath Hospital, Cambridge and lectures in Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown in 2009. He developed a stroke service and then an emergency acute stroke cover to a number of hospitals across the HSE West region. He was Clinical Director of Stroke and Clinical Director in 2018 and was Clinical Director for 5 years at Connolly. He took up the role as Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North East in July 2021.



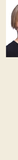
Dr Norah Campbell

Dr Norah Campbell is an Associate Professor of Business in Trinity Business School and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. Her research is in the economic determinants of health, measuring the ways business activities (supply and demand) impact on the population's health.



Dr Paul Kavanagh

Dr Paul Kavanagh is a medical doctor (Trinity College Dublin, 1998) with advanced specialist in public health medicine (Medical Council of Ireland Specialist Number 021204), and holds postgraduate qualifications in Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine, Health Education, Healthcare Leadership and Data Science. Having worked across a range of health system settings, Dr Kavanagh has a particular interest in driving strategic interventions that improve health and wellbeing governance, maintain public trust in healthcare, and that protect and promote population health. Dr Kavanagh previously enjoyed an extensive career within Health and Social Care including management roles in primary and community care across the Western Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, and as Assistant National Director of the Irish Hospice Foundation leading on the commissioning of cancer services and performance management.



Tony Canavan

Tony Canavan has worked in the Health Services in the West for over 30 years. Over that time he has held a number of appointments with the Western Health Board in the Mental Health Services, the Department of Public Health, Primary Care Services and Acute Hospitals. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Mayo General Hospital for the first Hospital Group in the country, which subsequently became the Saolta Group. In 2013, he moved to the Health Service Executive Dublin where he before returning to the Saolta Group for the past 5 years as CEO. He took up the role of Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North East in October 2021.



Dr Norah Campbell

Dr Norah Campbell is an Associate Professor of Business in Trinity Business School and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. Her research is in the economic determinants of health, measuring the ways business activities (supply and demand) impact on the population's health.



Professor Catherine B Woods

Prof Catherine B. Woods is an Economist and Director of the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC) at the University of Limerick (UL) and Sport Ireland Institute. Prof. Woods's mission is to conduct excellent research across its six thematic areas (economics, epidemiology, health behaviour, physical activity, exercise as medicine and workforce development) to affect policy. Prof. Woods's Principal Investigator (PI) track record includes leading on UL's international research capacity to enhance PAHRC's international reputation for research excellence and in collaboration with other researchers, attracting substantial investment to enable her to deliver real world impact. Catherine's expertise is in the area of Physical Activity for Health economic evaluation and effective implementation. She has presented her work through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and invited talks to international audiences. She is a UL representative on the Sláintecare Implementation Council and Prof. Woods is a member of the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy Group. She is a member of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and a member of the Department of Health's Expert Group on Health Workforce Planning. Prof. Woods is a member of the Irish Cancer Society's Research Committee and a member of the Irish Heart Foundation's Research Committee. She is a member of the Irish Government's Economic Advisory Group and is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's Clinical Advisory Group on Smoking and E-Cigarettes at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Catherine is Clinical Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Limerick and is a Research and Adjunct Associate Professor of the Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland.



Professor Catherine Comiskey

Prof Catherine Comiskey is a Professor and Director of the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC) at the University of Limerick (UL) and Sport Ireland Institute. PAHRC's mission is to conduct excellent research across its six thematic areas (economics, epidemiology, health behaviour, physical activity, exercise as medicine and workforce development) to affect policy. PAHRC's Principal Investigator track record includes leading on UL's international research capacity to enhance PAHRC's international reputation for research excellence and in collaboration with other researchers, attracting substantial investment to enable us to deliver real world impact. Catherine's expertise is in the area of Physical Activity for Health economic evaluation and effective implementation. She has presented her work through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and invited talks to international audiences. €3.5 million research funding from international and national agencies. As Deputy Chair of the Policy Evaluation Research Unit (PERU) in UL, she has led the completion of 28 research briefings across a diverse range of topics and ways of evaluating and monitoring policy impact on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and health. As Chair of the ERAHealth-ED funded INPHACT study, Catherine has led the development of a new research network to address physical inactivity (www.ul.ie/research/inphact). Catherine has advised the WHO HEPA Physical Activity Strategy Network and the WHO Europe Working Group. With Colin Fleming from the Department of Health, Ireland, she co-Chairs the Irish Physical Activity Research Network (www.ipran.ie). She is a member of the funding researchers, policymakers and practitioners, including the Irish Research Council and Sport Ireland. Catherine is a member of the Irish Cancer Society's Research Committee and a member of the Irish Heart Foundation's Research Committee. She is a member of the Irish Government's Economic Advisory Group and is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's Clinical Advisory Group on Smoking and E-Cigarettes at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Catherine is Clinical Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Limerick and is a Research and Adjunct Associate Professor of the Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland.



Professor Frank Murray

Prof Frank Murray MD FRCPI is a Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist in Dublin, Ireland. He trained in Ireland, USA and UK. He served as Registrar and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), and is the Chairman of the Medical Policy Group of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), and led the development of the Framework for Medical Practice in the passage of Health Bill (Medical Practice) Act 2019. He chaired EASL Alcohol Policy and Advocacy Group 2015-2019. He is a member of the Irish Government's Policy Statement: Reducing Alcohol Harm 2018-2021. He is Chair of European Health Alliance on Alcohol, an alliance of 20 pan-European organisations representing more than 2 million health professionals, which he founded in 2019 and launched in 2020. He is a co-initiator, which has received an endorsement in principle from HSE, RCPI and Cardiac. This project has partnered with Cardiac to develop a digital platform for quality improvement and training in Cardiac and believes medical equipment and biomedical engineering. He is Chairman of the Irish Medical Council Steering and Planning (SAPTR) HSE, Dept of Health Review 2020. Member EASL Public Health, Policy and Advocacy Committee, (2022-2025). Chair, Alcohol Action Ireland. Chair, Practitioner Health, Ireland.



Dr Paula Rochon

Dr Paula Rochon is a geriatrician and the Director of Research for the Women's College Hospital Institute for Mature Women's Health, inaugural Barry J. Gribble Chair in Women's Health Care, Senior Scientist, Senior Clinician Scientist at Canada's Women's Health Research Institute. She was the founding director of the Women's College Research Institute. She is Professor, Department of Medicine, and held the RTOHAD Chair in Geriatric Medicine, University of Toronto, from 2000 to 2008. Her research has been instrumental in shaping more inclusive, evidence-informed health systems across Canada and internationally. Her work has contributed to transforming women's health and has been recognized as made a profound impact, informing the development of policies and practices that have improved the overall health needs of aging women. She has published over 450 research articles in numerous medical journals, and has established a strong research center for older adults and women globally. Dr Rochon's distinctions include being named to the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars and the Canadian Geriatrics Society. She was awarded the Eaton Clinical Researcher of the Year (2020) and the Canadian Geriatrics Society Distinguished Career Award (2021). She received the 2019 Sciences Table Leadership Award (2020) for her outstanding contributions to women's health research. She is a YWCA Women of Distinction Leadership in Health and received the 2021 Ronald Case Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Geriatrics Society.



Dr John Fitzsimons

Dr John Fitzsimons is a Consultant Paediatrician with a special interest in Quality Improvement. He is the Director for Quality Improvement for the HSE's National Quality & Patient Safety Directorate and Clinical Lead for the National Centre for Quality Improvement and Leadership Post-Graduate Certificate which has been running since 2011 and has trained over 1,000 clinicians. He is the Clinical Lead for National Improvement projects including Safer Sedation, Paediatric Early Warning Systems (PEWS), Situation Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) Quality and Safety Walkrounds, Pressure Ulcer and VTE collaboratives and the Safer Surgery Checklist. He is the HSE Clinical Lead for Consent, Supporting Patient Safety, Human Factors and governance for Improvement. He is a member of the National Clinical Effectiveness & Safety 2022 and a contributor to the Oxford Handbook of Quality Improvement (2024).

Professor Joseph Keane

Prof Joseph Keane holds the 1955 Chair of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin and he works at the Saint James's Hospital campus. He is Chief Academic Officer for Sláintecare Integration Fund. He is a Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine. His research centres around the role of 'infection and host defense' include the seminal impact of the tuberculosis pandemic on the human immune response. His group performs cellular immunology studies, translational research, and his scholarly work has been recognised by his election to the Royal Irish Academy.

Dr Aoife Lalla

Dr Aoife Lalla is a Consultant Neurologist at St. James's Hospital and the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. She has been the Clinical Lead in developing Long Covid multidisciplinary services in Ireland. She graduated in 2007 and completed her MD thesis on autonomic dysfunction in Parkinson's disease. She completed specialist training in Neurology in Dublin and Melbourne. Her interest is in deep brain stimulation for movement disorders and in Functional Neurological Disorder and chronic illness disease management at St. James's Hospital. Her specialist interest is in Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) and she has worked with Professor Jon Stone and his team in Edinburgh. She is on the Executive Board of the UK and Ireland Society of Neurology for FND, and is a founding member of the Functional Neurological Disorder Society. She is also the clinical lead for the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing and has interests in complex multidisciplinary FND services.

Dr Bairbre McNicholas

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