

Innovation, Prevention and Policy: Shaping Tomorrow's Health

THU
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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	

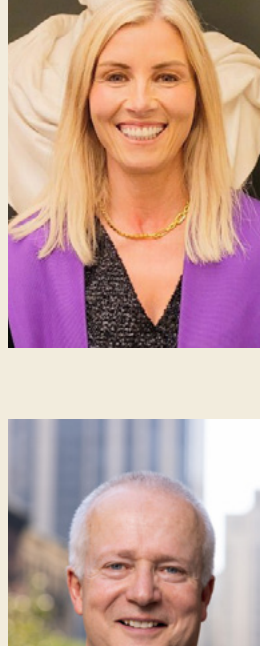
SPEAKERS

**Professor Anthony O'Regan**

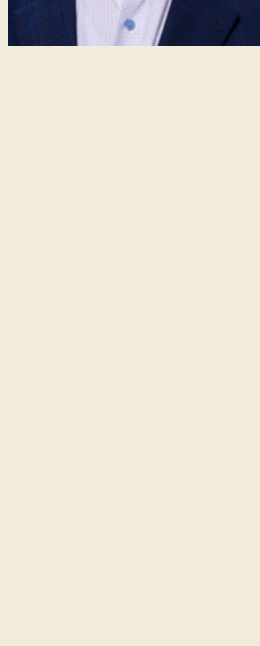
Professor Anthony O'Regan is President of RCPI. A consultant respiratory and general physician in Galway University Hospital and Honorary Professor of Medicine at University of Galway, Professor O'Regan graduated from UCD in 1990, trained in general internal medicine, pulmonary, critical care and clinical allergy and immunology in the USA. And was conferred with an MD by UCD in 2002. Professor O'Regan has served as foundation Dean of the Institute of Medicine, Dean of Postgraduate Training in RCPI, Medical Director of National Doctors Training and Planning, and Chief Academic Officer for Saolta (WNW Region). He was appointed by the Minister of Health to Chair of the Taskforce on NCHD workforce and is a past president of the Irish Thoracic Society.

**Dr Bearach Reynolds**

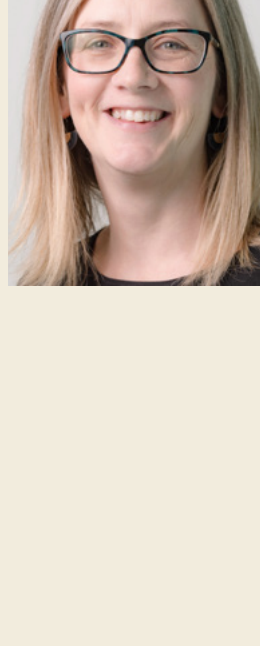
Dr Bearach Reynolds is a final-year Infectious Diseases Specialist Registrar in St. Vincent's University Hospital. In July 2026, he completed a Fellowship in Healthcare Leadership in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer within the Department of Health, as part of the programme's inaugural intake. He holds an MPH from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and was an Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellow with Cochrane Ireland and Dalhousie University. His career focus is bridging clinical medicine, policy, and public health through cross-specialty collaboration.

**Dr Paul O'Brien**

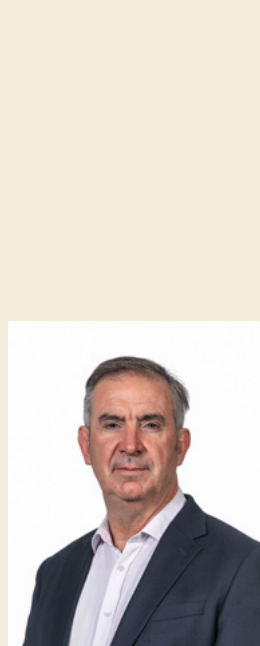
Dr Paul O'Brien is an Oncology Registrar at Cork University Hospital. His career has followed an unconventional international pathway spanning genetics, food science, the Chinese food industry and clinical medicine. He holds a BSc in Genetics, an MSc in Food Science and an MBBS from Zhejiang University in China, and is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. His current professional interests include medical oncology, clinical innovation and the development of practical digital tools to support safer and more consistent cancer care.

**Dr Rachel McNamara**

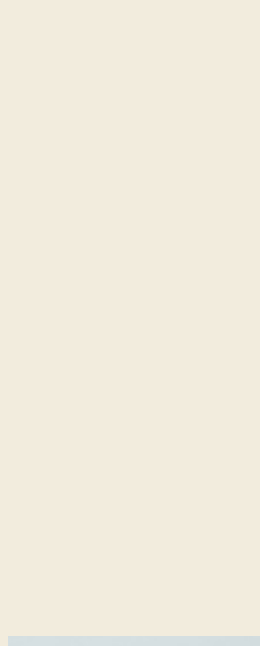
Dr Rachel McNamara is a Higher Specialist Trainee in Public Health Medicine, currently on placement with the Department of Health. She completed her internship in St James's Hospital, Dublin, before undertaking two years of standalone clinical posts in emergency medicine and medicine for older adults, followed by Basic Specialist Training in General Internal Medicine at University Hospital Limerick. Rachel subsequently spent two years as the National Fellow for Innovation and Change with the HSE Spark Innovation Programme, supporting frontline healthcare innovation while progressing towards Higher Specialist Training in Public Health Medicine, which she commenced in 2023. Her career to date has spanned acute clinical practice, health service innovation, public health and national health policy, giving her a broad perspective on how healthcare can be improved at both individual and system level.

**Dr Mary T. O'Neill**

Dr Mary T. O'Neill is a specialist in occupational medicine and recently completed an Aspire fellowship which involved researching physician wellbeing and the completion of a national review measuring the wellbeing of hospital doctors in Ireland.

**Dr Robert A Harrington**

Dr Robert A. Harrington is a cardiologist and serves as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. His research areas of focus include evaluating antithrombotic therapies to treat acute ischemic heart disease and to minimize the acute complications of percutaneous coronary procedures and trying to better understand and improve upon the methodology of clinical research, including the use of technologies to facilitate the conduct of clinical trials. A previous American Heart Association (AHA) president, Dr Harrington remains a member of AHA's Board of Directors. He is also an elected member of the Association of American Physicians, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the National Academy of Medicine. In addition, he 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 Harrington was named a Master of the American College of Cardiology in 2016, was awarded the AHA's Clinical Research Prize in 2017, and earned the AHA Council on Clinical Cardiology (CLCD) Distinguished Achievement Award in 2022. In 2022, he was awarded the Stokes Medal, and in 2023, Honorary Fellowship in the Irish Cardiac Society. From the AHA he received both the 2024 Chairman's Award and the Gold Heart Award for his leadership. The Cardiovascular Research Foundation recognized him with the 2024 TCT (Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics) Career Achievement Award as an outstanding individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the field of interventional cardiology and made a transformative impact on cardiovascular care through clinical excellence, pioneering research and mentorship.

**Professor Catherine Quinlan**

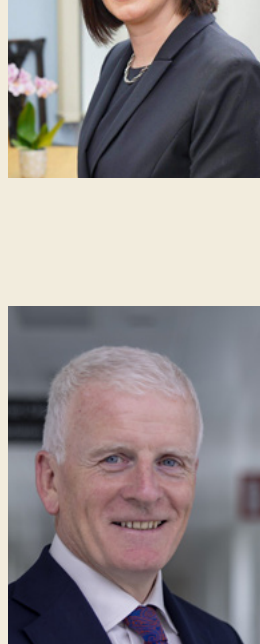
Prof Catherine Quinlan is Clinical Lead for AI at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Director of Research Partnerships and Impact at Children's Health Ireland, where she also practises as a consultant paediatric nephrologist. Her career sits at the interface of clinical medicine, genomics and data-driven innovation, and she has a particular focus on AI governance and the safe, responsible adoption of AI in healthcare. An accomplished clinician scientist, Catherine has secured over \$15 million in competitive research funding and published more than 100 peer-reviewed works. She established Victoria's state-wide kidney genetics service, co-founded national research networks in kidney genomics and paediatric hypertension and developed a pipeline using routinely collected electronic health record data for the early detection of kidney disease, laying the groundwork for AI-enabled risk prediction. She was awarded RACP Mentor of the Year in 2025. Catherine has delivered more than 80 invited talks and workshops on the safe, effective and responsible use of AI for clinicians, researchers and health system leaders across Australia and Ireland. She has shaped AI governance frameworks at institutional and university level, including at the Melbourne Children's Campus and the University of Melbourne, and works to ensure AI adoption in healthcare is ethical, transparent and clinically grounded, aligned with emerging regulatory frameworks such as the EU AI Act.

**Damien McCallion**

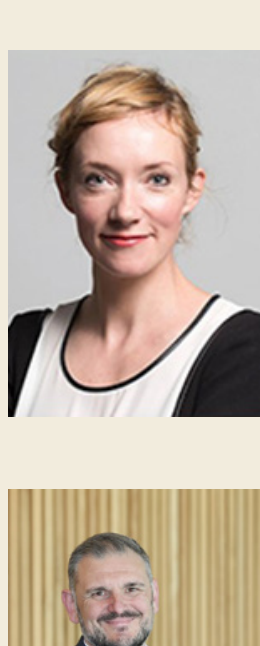
Damien McCallion is the HSE's Chief Technology and Transformation Officer with responsibility for technology, information security, data governance and digital development. Damien is the HSE Director for the Sláintecare Programme, overseeing the HSE's medium to long term transformation programmes. Damien is also the lead for the HSE's Organisational Change Unit, overseeing reform and transformation in the HSE, and the HSE's National Productivity Unit. Damien is also Deputy CEO of the HSE. Damien was the HSE's Chief Operations Officer from mid 2022 to June 2024, responsible for oversight of day-to-day health and social care operations in the HSE and over 100,000 staff. He took on a lead role in the COVID-19 pandemic response as the head of the successful Vaccination and Test & Trace programmes, a key part of the nation's public health response to the pandemic. He held a variety of roles prior to this within the HSE, from Screening Services, Head of the National Ambulance Service, Head of ICT, National Director for Emergency Management and Special Delivery Unit, and an Area Manager for Health Services in the North West. He has also had a lead role in cross border health programmes, as Chair and Director General of CAWT, and the organisation SafeFood as Deputy Chair, for a number of years. Prior to working in the Health Service he worked for ten years in the airline industry. Damien originally qualified from Letterkenny IT in computing and subsequently completed an MSC in Innovation Management from University of Ulster and Letterkenny IT.

**Derek Tierney**

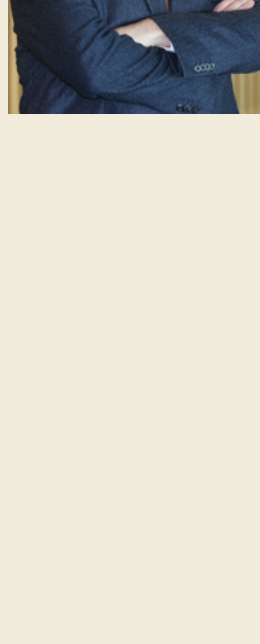
Derek Tierney is Secretary General of the Department of Health, responsible for leading the Department as its administrative head and Accounting Officer, advising the Minister and Government, and stewarding the delivery of Ireland's health and social care policy and reform agenda. Prior to this role, Derek served as Assistant Secretary General at the Department of Health leading out on Health Infrastructure, advancing Digital Health and the coordination of the Sláintecare Reform agenda. Before that, Derek served as Programme Director in the Government's Covid-19 Vaccination Taskforce. He has held senior roles across the Justice and Transport sectors and central Government with responsibility for large scale programmes, reform delivery, system governance and whole of Government responses. Before moving into the Civil Service, he has also held senior roles in a commercial transport semi state and the private sector working in pharmaceutical, computer and telecoms industries.

**Dr Ronan Glynn**

Dr Ronan Glynn leads EY's Health Practice in Ireland. A physiotherapist and medical doctor, Ronan has worked across virtually all parts of the healthcare system in Ireland, in public and private organisations, over the last 25 years. Ronan is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians. Prior to joining EY, he worked as Deputy Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at the Department of Health and was 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 National Science Advice Forum and a member of the Irish Cancer Society's Research Advisory Committee.

**Dr Eamon Dolan**

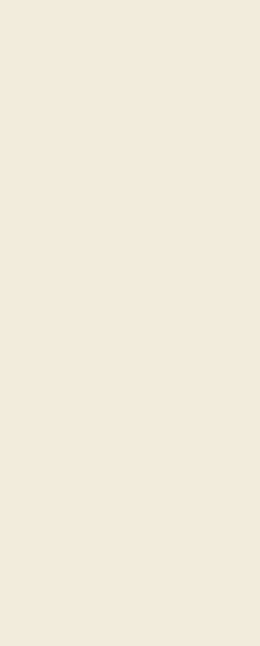
Dr Eamon Dolan is a Consultant Geriatrician and Stroke Physician. He completed his stroke training at Addenbrookes hospital, Cambridge and returned to Connolly hospital Blanchardstown in 2009. He developed a stroke service there and now provides acute stroke cover to a number of hospitals across the Dublin North East region. He was appointed Associate Clinical Director in 2018 and was Clinical Director for 5 years at Connolly. He took up the role as Regional Clinical Director for Dublin North East in April of this year. These roles have increased his interest in the delivery high quality patient care as part of the HSE QPS framework. He chairs the regional Serious Incident Management Forum and QPS Business meetings. He also has an interest in hypertension and stroke research and his h-index is 57. He is a current board member on various national, international and journal advisory boards related to the area of hypertension.

**Sara Long**

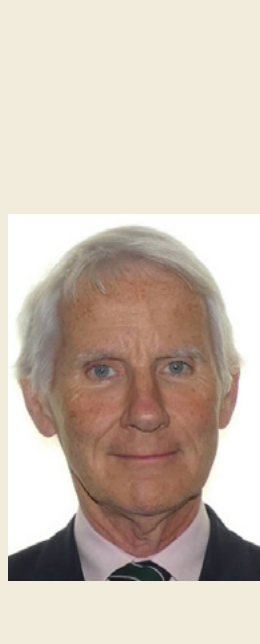
Sara Long took up her role as Regional Executive Officer, HSE Dublin and North East in April 2024. She joined the HSE from the Education Authority in Northern Ireland where she was Chief Executive and previously the Director of Operations and Estates. She has extensive experience developing strategic partnerships, driving service performance and achieving results Sara has previously enjoyed an extensive career within Health and Social Care including management posts in acute and community care across the Western Health and Social Care Trust, and as an Assistant Director at the Health and Social Care Board 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 Services. In 2012, he was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the first Hospital Group in the country, which subsequently became the Saolta Group. In 2015, he became Chief Officer of Community Healthcare West before returning to the Saolta Group four years later as CEO. He took up the role of Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North West in March 2024.

**Dr Norah Campbell**

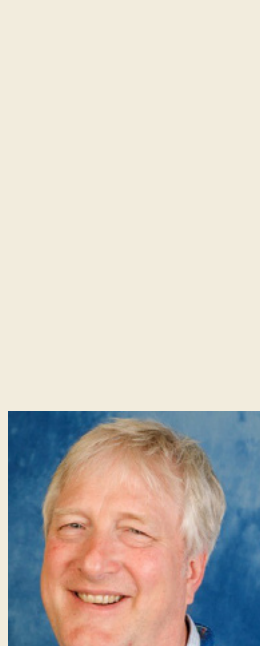
Dr Norah Campbell is an Associate Professor of Business in Trinity Business School and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. Her research is in the commercial determinants of health: measuring the ways business activities (supply chain, taxation, lobbying, marketing, product design, public relations) can impact the population's health.

**Dr Paul Kavanagh**

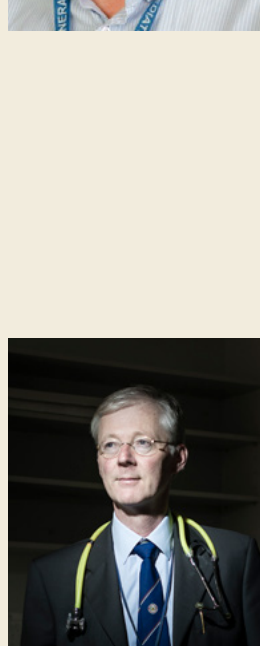
Dr Paul Kavanagh is a medical doctor (Trinity College Dublin, 1997), a registered specialist in public health medicine (Medical Council of Ireland Registration Number 021204), and holds postgraduate qualifications in Community Health, Health Economics, Medical Education, Healthcare Leadership and Data Science. Having worked across a range of health system settings, he has broad experience designing and driving strategic interventions that strengthen healthcare governance, maintain public trust in healthcare, and that protect and improve population health. Currently, Paul is a Consultant in Public Health Medicine at the National Health Intelligence Unit, where he provides epidemiological advice and public health support to health information system design, major national health service reform, population profiling, and health service planning and evaluation. He has a special interest in tobacco control, has advised the HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme and the World Health Organisation on stop-smoking care, and is Chair of the Clinical Advisory Group on Smoking and E-Cigarettes at the Royal College of Physicians. Paul is Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Public Health at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin. He is Chair of the National Cancer Registry of Ireland, and a member of the Boards of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland.

**Professor Catherine B Woods**

Prof Catherine B. Woods is a full professor and Director of the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAFH) at the Health Research Institute, University of Limerick (UL), Ireland. PAFH's mission is to conduct excellent research across its six thematic areas -measurement, biomechanics, interventions and policy, exercise as medicine and active mobility (www.ul.ie/ehs/pafh). PAFH's Principal Investigators, research staff and postgraduates work collectively to build capacity, to enhance PAFH's international reputation for research excellence and in collaboration with other researchers, policymakers and practitioners we strive to deliver real world impact. Catherine's expertise is in physical activity (PA) policy, intervention development and effective implementation. She has presented her work through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and has accrued competitively awarded €16 million research funding from (international grant agencies. As Deputy Chair of the Policy Evaluation Network (www.jpi-pen.eu), she co-lead a consortium of 28 research institutes across Europe to find systematic ways of evaluating and monitoring policy impact on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and food. As Chair of the ERA4Health (EU funded) IMPAQT study, she continues this research across six EU countries with a focus on health equity (www.ul.ie/research/impact). Catherine has advised the WHO HEPA Physical Activity Focal Points representing 27 countries in Europe. With Colin O'Hehir from the Department of Health, Ireland, she co-Chairs the Irish Physical Activity Collaboration (www.i-parc.ie), which is instrumental in bringing researchers, policymakers and practitioners together to use a cross-sectoral approaches to address the inactivity pandemic across the island of Ireland. In 2025, as Chair of Healthy UL, a campus-wide initiative to promote health and wellbeing for UL staff, students and wider community she led on the development and publication of the 'Limerick Framework for Action: Advancing the Global Health Promoting Campuses Agenda' (Healthy UL | University of Limerick).

**Professor Frank Murray**

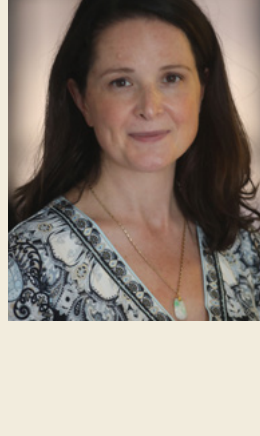
Prof Frank Murray MD FCPI is a Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist in Dublin, Ireland. He trained in Ireland, USA and UK. He served as Registrar and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). He initiated and chaired of the Alcohol Policy Group in Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), and led the alcohol advocacy programme in RCPI, contributing to the passage of the Public Health Alcohol Act, 2018. He chaired EASL Alcohol Policy and Advocacy Group (2022-23), which led to the development of EASL Policy Statement: Reducing Alcohol Harms (2023). He is Chair of European Health Alliance on Alcohol, an alliance of 29 pan European organisations representing more than 2 million health professionals, which he helped found. He initiated and led the EQUALS initiative, which has evolved as a joint venture between HSE, RCPI and Zambia. This project has partnered with the Zambian Government to help delivery of postgraduate medical training in Zambia, and delivers medical equipment and biomedical engineering training in Zambia. Director, National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP), HSE, April 2018-November 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 Weston and O'Born Centre for Mature Women's Health, inaugural Barry J. Goldlist Chair in Aging and Health at Sinai Health, and a Senior Clinician Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. She was the founding director of the Women's Age Lab, former VP of Research at Women's College Hospital, and held the RTOERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto for 10 years. Her research has been instrumental in shaping more inclusive, evidence-informed health systems across Canada and beyond. Dr Rochon has spent her career transforming women's healthcare and her research has made a profound impact, informing the development of evidence-based interventions that address the unique health needs of aging women. She has published over 450 research articles in numerous medical journals, and has amplified the health care needs of older adults and women globally. Dr Rochon's distinctions include being elected as a Fellow to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the Canadian Geriatrics Society. She was awarded the Eaton Clinical Researcher of the Year (2020) from the University of Toronto received the President's Impact Award along with the COVID-19 Science Table Leadership Award (2023) for her outstanding pandemic response contributions. She is the 2025 YWCA Women of Distinction Award Recipient in Health and received the 2025 Ronald Cape Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Geriatrics Society.

**Dr John Fitzsimons**

Dr John Fitzsimons is a Consultant Paediatrician with Children's Health Ireland @ Temple Street, Clinical Director for Quality Improvement (QI) with the HSE's National Quality & Patient Safety Directorate and course director of the HSE funded RCPI Quality Improvement and Leadership Post-Graduate Certificate which has been running since 2011 and graduated over 750 participants. He has contributed to national improvement projects including Irish Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS), Situation Awareness for Everyone (SAFE), Quality and Safety Walkrounds, Pressure Ulcer and VTE collaboratives and the HSE Patient Safety Strategy 2019-2014. His QI research interests include Patient Safety, Human Factors and governance for improvement. He is an editor of the Oxford Handbook of Patient 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 National Center for Infectious Diseases. His research contributions to the field of 'infection and host defense' include the seminal report of the association of tuberculosis with biological treatments. His group performs cellular immunology and translational research, and his scholarly work has been recognized by his election to the Royal Irish Academy.

Dr Aoife Laffan

Dr Aoife Laffan is a Consultant Neurologist at St. James's Hospital, where she leads Long Covid Neurology and has been the Clinical Lead in developing Long Covid neurological services in Ireland. She qualified from UCD in 2007 and completed her MD thesis on autonomic function in epilepsy in 2012. Following specialist training in Ireland, she completed two Aspire Fellowships: one in deep brain stimulation for movement disorders at the Mater Hospital, and another in epilepsy and chronic disease management at St. James's Hospital. Her specialist interest is in Functional Neurological Disorder (FND), and she has spent time with Professor Jon Stone and his team in Edinburgh. She is on the Board of Directors of FND Ireland, the first Irish charity for FND, and is a founding member of the Functional Neurological Disorder Society. She is also the clinical lead for FND in Ireland, working to develop the country's first comprehensive multidisciplinary FND service.

Dr Bairbre McNicholas

Dr Bairbre McNicholas is a Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine and Consultant Intensivist, Nephrologist and Physician at the University of Galway and Galway University Hospitals. Her research focuses on improving outcomes for critically ill patients through clinical trials, translational research and data-driven approaches to critical care.