Hello from a very busy school as we all settle into semester again.

This newsletter reflects back on a productive and hectic few months. In this edition, you can read about our success at the University Teaching & Learning Awards when, as a school, we had five individual nominees and one teaching team (see page 7 for more details). It is not only academic staff who are collecting awards as some of our undergraduate students have also had success at both poster prizes and a summer scholarship (see page 6).

This newsletter has details about some of the research activities in the school. See page 5, where we outline a new research study led by Dr Mary Rose Sweeney about the health and economic benefit for special Olympic athletes.

Dr Rosaleen McElvaney was involved in a research study investigating the mental health needs of young people in care which was published recently (see page 4). Dr McElvaney also was part of the organizing committee of the 13th European Regional Conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect which was attended by An Taoiseach. We also hosted a visit by Romanian nurses in September for a workshop on E-Learning (see page 7).

In the last couple of months we said goodbye to our colleague Mary Kirwan who retired (pictured below). We welcomed Professor Teresa Burke as Chair of Psychology and Professor Anne Scott returned to the school after her sabbatical.

Finally, as we go to press we are delighted to announce that the Masters in Chronic Disease Management was successfully accredited in October and will commence in February 2014. This Masters programme demonstrates our ongoing commitment to responsive and relevant educational programmes.

Enjoy the read!

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Dual Diagnosis Conference June 2013

In June this year the School of Nursing and Human Sciences and The Lodge, St Vincent’s Hospital, Fairview, www.svhf.ie, ran a successful conference on Dual Diagnosis. The conference themes, ‘Exploring substance use & mental health, sexual addiction & mental health and psychotherapy’, drew significant attention. The conference content was published on www.drugs.ie, a significant resource for anyone with an interest in drug use in Ireland. Over 180 delegates attended on the day.

The conference was opened by Prof Jogin Thakore, Consultant Psychiatrist, St Vincent’s Hospital. St Vincent’s Hospital is one of DCU Partner services for the delivery of the undergraduate Mental Health Nursing Programme and has been at the forefront of delivery of dual diagnosis services for people with mental health and addiction issues for the past twenty five years. In fact the conference was organised to celebrate the successful delivery of the service at The Lodge. Clodagh O’Sullivan, the Clinical Nurse Manager for the service presented material on the scope of the service and its future direction. Amongst the delegates were past and present members of the service including John Mohan who was instrumental in founding and initially delivering this nurse lead initiative.

The key note address was delivered by Dr Olive McKeown, Co–Author Dual Diagnosis “Practice in Context” from the University of East London. Dr McKeown’s paper was well received and it was heartening to note that services in the UK experience similar issues in service delivery to Irish providers.

This was followed by papers from Dr Gerard Moore, Head of the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University who previously worked in the Substance Abuse Service in St Vincent’s and Ms Marion Rackard, Project Manager, Substance Misuse Strategy, Social Inclusion, HSE who along with the School of Nursing and Human Science and the Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit sponsored the event. Dr Bobby Smith, Consultant Psychiatrist, Child & Adolescent Mental Health presented on the challenges of working with young people in the field and Lisa O’Farrell gave a presentation on the role of the Mental Health Commission’s Quality Agenda.

During the afternoon a number of successful workshops ran concurrently and allowed for contributions from other areas of interest within the School and from local service partners. Rita Glover, Dr Evelyn Gordon and Colman Noctor ran a workshop titled; Hypersexuality: How much is too much? Nigel Mulligan and Dr Gerry Moore delivered a workshop on the impact of Encountering Depression, Medication and Substance Abuse. Both Nigel and Colman are candidates on the Doctorate in Psychotherapy at the School.

Clodagh O’Sullivan, Dolores Barrargy and Ian Parker, current staff from The Lodge, conducted a workshop on the Education needs of Staff in Substance Abuse Services and the Finglas Addiction Support Team’s workshop explored Recovery coaches, community addictions and the development of recovery capital as a trichotomy of perspectives.

The day concluded with a lively Panel Discussion which indicated that despite being able to celebrate twenty five years of successful treatment services in The Lodge and the School of Nursing Human Sciences contributions to education and research in the area there is much scope for extended work.
“Safe staffing levels: from research to action”: DCU team facilitate a workshop with the International Council of Nurses Workforce Forum for the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation in September 2013

Dr Anne Matthews, Professor Anne Scott and Dr Marcia Kirwan were invited by the Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation (INMO) to facilitate a workshop on the topic of ‘Safe staffing levels: from research to action’ at the 19th International Council of Nurses (ICN) Workforce Forum which took place in Dublin 23-25 September 2013. The DCU team gave an overview of the evidence about the factors that promote safe care (including staffing levels, education levels of staff, work environment and other key issues) from the RN4CAST study (www.rn4cast.eu), in which they participated, as well as other international research.

They then facilitated a lively and productive discussion about possible levels of action from clinical ward level to national and international policy level, with the participants who were nurse leaders from Australia, Canada, Japan, Ireland and the USA.

The topic of safe staffing levels has become an increasingly important issue generating significant media attention in Ireland, UK and internationally. This is particularly the case in the UK, as the NHS move to implement the recommendations emanating from the Francis report into care in the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust. The data in the Irish arm of the RN4CAST study were collected in 2009/10—this giving a snapshot of Irish acute hospitals at a point in time. In only three out of the 30 larger acute hospitals in the study was staffing and resource adequacy seen as positive by nurse participants. In light of the likely impact of increased and continuing austerity since the time of data collection it is important to consider the issue of safe staffing levels and use the available evidence to help ensure a safe care environment for both patients and staff.

The full report of the Irish RN4CAST study can be accessed at:
http://doras.dcu.ie/19344/1/RN4CAST_FINAL_report_18_April_2013_DORAS.pdf

STAFF SUCCESSES

Siobhan MacDermott recently won an award for her presentation at the conference of the Society for Study of Emerging Adulthood, in Chicago.

Of the 260 presenters, 20 received an award and Siobhan's research was highly commended.

Well done Siobhan. It's really good to see people being recognised in their field.
Mental Health Needs of Young People in the Care and Youth Justice Systems in Ireland

Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney, Chair of the Doctorate Programme in Psychotherapy and member of the Children’s Research Network of Ireland and Northern Ireland (CRNINI) was the lead author on a recent study investigating the mental health needs of young people in the care and youth justice systems in Ireland. Her co-authors included Dr. Mimi-Tatlow-Golden, UCD; Roisin Webb, Children’s Mental Health Coalition; Dr. Eilis Dwyer, Just Economics and Dr. Brian Merriman, CRNINI. Dr. McElvaney presented the findings of the study at the launch of the report by Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in July. She will also present at a conference on ‘Challenges and Opportunities in working with children in care: A multidisciplinary approach’ to be hosted in DCU on October 21st. This conference is being organised by the Psychotherapy Team in DCU in collaboration with the Psychological Society of Ireland and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Cork. Co-presenters will include Dr. Liam Shine, CAMHS, Cork; Dr. Helen Buckley, TCD, Dr. Caroline McKenna, Tavistock, London and Professor Michael Tarren-Sweeney, University of Canterbury.

Masterclass with Dr Julie Repper

On Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} of November the school hosted a Masterclass in conjunction with the Nursing Midwifery Practice Development Unit, HSE, Swords and welcomed Dr. Julie Repper, Associate Professor of Recovery University of Nottingham who spoke about ‘Creating a context in which recovery can flourish’. The masterclass was well attended by an audience of service providers, academics, services users and carers, all with a commitment to and interest in the development of recovery oriented mental health care. Dr. Repper reported on progress in the development of ‘Recovery Colleges’ in the UK and Ireland. The masterclass is available to view at http://youtu.be/SnSlkVL8Xtc
SOPHIE (Special Olympics Programmes Health Impact Evaluation) Study

A team of researchers from the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, and the School of Health and Human Performance, at DCU and Queens University Belfast were successful recently in obtaining a tender award from the Iris O’Brien Foundation administered via Special Olympics Ireland to carry out a research study which aims to examine any health, well-being or economic benefits to taking part in Special Olympics programmes for persons with intellectual disabilities. The study is a mixed methods study which will include collecting nutritional, physical activity and fitness data as well as health status and health service utilisation data. Experiences of participants and their families will also be captured. The study will be conducted over the next 2 years.

The study is led by Mary Rose Sweeney. Co-investigators include Anthony Staines, Deirdre Corby, Michael McKeon, Treasa McVeigh, Veronica Lambert, Sarah Jane Belton and Sarah Meegan.

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13th European Regional Conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

Dr. McElvaney was a member of the organising committee for the 13th European Regional Conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, held in Dublin in September. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD opened the conference to an attendance of 700 delegates from 58 countries across the globe. Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD launched the scientific programme for the conference and is pictured here with Dr. McElvaney, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Dr. Jenny Gray, President of ISPCAN. Dr. McElvaney presented a paper at the conference based on her own research on children disclosing experiences of child sexual abuse.

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Rebecca Jones, a third year student on the BSc Health & Society, was awarded a Health Research Board Summer Student Scholarship in 2013. Her study was entitled: A qualitative study of women’s experiences of prolonged breastfeeding in Ireland using an embodiment theoretical framework. She carried out the research under the supervision of Dr Anne Matthews. Rebecca won a prize for her poster presenting her findings at the annual conference of the Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland in October 2013. Congratulations to Rebecca, pictured opposite.

Ms Marie Delaney is a 3rd Year General nursing student who was awarded the Órán Ó Muiré Summer Scholarship 2013, from the Asthma Association of Ireland. Ms Delaney conducted a systemic review on the role of dietary supplementations on asthma symptoms and was supervised by Dr. Carol Barron.

Congratulations to BSc (Hons) Nursing Students

We are delighted to congratulate two of the BSc (Hons) Nursing Students who presented papers at the 3rd Undergraduate Research Conference in NUI Maynooth on the 27th March. Deborah Keogh is a BNCG a 3rd year nursing student presented a paper entitled “Aseptic technique in wound care—evidence based or ritual?” and Nkiruka Okorie is a BNPY 4th year presented a paper entitled “Exploring how psychiatric nurse can promote urinary continence in older patients with diagnosis of mild to moderate dementia in long stay psychiatric units”.

Both students were commended for their excellent presentations and were a credit to the SNHS. Congratulations to all. Pictured left, Nkiruka Okorie.
Romanian Nurses Visit

In the first two weeks of September two cohorts of Romanian nurses (40 in total) visited the School of Nursing and Human Science on an EU partly funded project with the Irish Nursing and Midwifery Board. The workshop which was entitled *EU Project ID 57946 E-Nursing: “Information Technology Training Program for Nurses, In the Context of Computerised Health Systems focused on eHealth, and related to providing and promoting professional training for health staff. The attendees were all nurses from Romania practicing in clinical and management roles primarily from acute services across the country. This continuous professional development workshop was delivered to maximise the benefits of the implementation of new technologies within the health system in Romania. The workshops were considered a success by the participants and collaboration is ongoing with the Order of Nurses Midwives and Medical Assistants in Romania.*

Participants in the programme at the NMBI

Success for the school at President’s Teaching & Learning Awards

In May, four lecturers, one technician and a teaching team from the school were nominated for as part of the Presidents Annual Teaching & Learning Awards. Our school nominees were Dr Briege Casey, Dr Mark Philbin, Anne Kirwan, Deirdre Corby, Patrick Boylan (Teaching Support) and the Post-graduate Children’s nursing team led by Dr Tracey Harrington. We are all proud of our colleagues and these nominations represent the school’s commitment to teaching and learning. We were delighted when Dr Breige Casey was the winner of the Special Award for Distinctive Teaching.