Welcome

On behalf of the School of Nursing and Human Sciences at Dublin City University, we are delighted to produce our first Research Newsletter.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a snapshot of some of our current research activities.

Kindly send your contributions for future editions to: researchconvenor.snhs@dcu.ie

Produced by:
Dr Mary Rose Sweeney
Dr Lucy Whiston
Seven DCU researchers were the recipients of the Irish Research Council’s (IRC) COALESCE fund including some from the School of Nursing and Human Sciences. Prof Anne Matthews was awarded a grant of €350,000 for a three year project ‘Enhancing evidence-based infant feeding policy implementation in Malawi’. Prof Pamela Gallagher received a grant of €120,000 for her two year project entitled ‘Designing for Enhanced Participation through Technology in Higher Education - The DEPTH Study’. Prof Anthony Staines and Dr Mel Duffy were also successful in receiving funding from COALESCE with Dr Tanya Ni Mhuirthile (School of Law and Government) on a project entitled ‘Mapping the Lived Experience of Intersex in Ireland: Contextualising Lay and Professional Knowledge to Enable Development of Appropriate Law and Policy’.

Dr Paul Buchanan was awarded the Health Research Board (HRB) Ulysses Grant. This award is to facilitate collaboration and establish a joint research area with Professor Christophe Vandier at the University of Tours.
Dr Mel Duffy and her consortium partners were awarded €2.7 million from Horizon 2020 for their project entitled “Intersex - New Interdisciplinary Approaches”.

The Principle investigators at DCU are Dr Mel Duffy and Dr Tanya Ni Muirrthile and the Co-investigators are Prof Regina Connolly and Dr Majela McSharry.

The consortium was made up of partners from DCU, the University of Huddersfield, UK, Universite Libre De Bruxelles, Kinderspital Zurich, Universitat Autonoma De Barcelona and Escuela Andaluza De Salud Publica.

Briege Casey has been awarded funding from IRC for a project entitled The Lived Experience of Adherence to HIV medication in the context of addiction and homelessness; a qualitative study of a Blood Borne Virus Unit in Dublin City with Eavanna Maloney and Dublin Simon’s Majella Darcy. The award will fund an MSc by research over a 2-year period.

Prof Kate Irving won the first ever DCU President’s Impact Award for her work in dementia, the impact of which has translated to multiple settings beyond academia.

Debbie O’Reilly a post-graduate researcher working with Dr Paul Buchanon and Dr Patricia Johnson was the winner of the Researchfest competition earlier this month.

Debbie’s work and award are featured in the Silicon Republic’s article: siliconrepublic.com/innovation/researchfest-2019-winner-prostate

Prof Veronica Lambert was appointed Full Professor of Children and Family Nursing - the first in the country.
Autism Friendly University at DCU

Last March (2018) Dublin City University was recognised as the world’s first Autism-Friendly University. The announcement at DCU’s St Patrick’s Campus was attended by the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins. Over the past year the project led by Dr Mary Rose Sweeney and in collaboration with Prof Teresa Burke from the DCU School of Nursing and Human Sciences along with AsIAm, an Autism advocacy organisation has begun to translate to other HEIs nationally and internationally (UK, EU, USA and Australia). The project has even begun translating to other settings such as hospitals and technology companies. Mary Rose was interviewed by the Anderson Centre for Autism in New York recently. The interview can be heard at the following link: andersoncenterforautism.org/-/mary-rose-sweeney

She also made a short video on the sensory pods at DCU for the journal.ie: www.youtube.com/watch?v=odbugGDexbAandfeature=youtu.be

Further details below on the project:
E: maryrose.sweeney@dcu.ie
Twitter: DCUautism

Centre for eIntegrated Care (www.ceic.ie)

A year since its launch the Center for eIntegrated Care is progressing well with its mission to advance eIntegrated care in order to improve health and wellbeing of citizens. Our core team has expanded to three individuals and our primary investigator numbers are growing. Activities include; securing funding to conduct feasibility studies on IoT in community services and create pilot studies, research building core infrastructure to support the National Health and Social Care Data Dictionary has evolved, formal and informal training has been conducted in the CeIC ensuring that organisations and their staff have capacity to do the work needed to implement planned digital transformation and change, the CeIC has co-ordinated research proposals for large scale pilot studies across EU member states and PD scholarships have been awarded.

Dual Diagnosis Community Inquiry Project

Led by Dr Denise Proudfoot with Dr Liam MacGabhann this project is funded by the HSE with Finglas and Cabra Drug Task Force. It aims to undertake a Participatory Action Research project with the Finglas Addiction Support Team about the community experience of Dual Diagnosis (mental health and substance use problems). This community centred project will explore the needs and impact of dual diagnosis on the two local communities.
The Traumatic brain injury (TBI) project

This is a two year research project, funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and being done in partnership with Headway and ABI Ireland. Prof Anthony Staines is the Principal Investigator, working alongside Prof Teresa Burke and Dr Catherine Corrigan, and newly appointed research assistants, Andrea Healy and Kate O’Donnell. This is the first study of its kind, focusing on TBI survivors’ path through rehabilitation in Ireland. The goal is to recruit a cohort of patients at various stages following moderate or severe head injury, and to follow them up over a year, looking at short and medium term impacts, and access to and use of health and social care services.

DCU Ability project

The first DCU Ability group is up and running. Students are enjoying the experience of attending classes on the DCU St Pat’s campus. We aim to support this group and others with disabilities to access education and work experience opportunities through a 12 week educational programme, followed by a period of work experience placement. We have had two papers accepted for oral presentation at the upcoming International Association for the Scientific Study of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) World Congress in Glasgow in August 2019. “Developing pathways into education, training and employability for young people with intellectual disabilities: Initial experiences from the DCU Ability Project” will be presented by Dr Deirdre Corby and Dr Carmel (Toff) Andersen. “Person-centred vocational assessment for young people with intellectual disabilities: Experiences from the DCU Ability Project” will be presented by Eilish King and Schira Reddy.

DCU PPI Ignite (@PPI_Ignite_DCU)

This is a three year HRB and Irish Research Council funded project to support and promote organisational capacity for public and patient involvement (PPI) in DCU health and social care research. Prof Veronica Lambert is the PI on the project and Dr Lucy Whiston is the Research Fellow. The DCU PPI Ignite team provide support and advice to research teams planning for or including PPI in their research. Contact guidelines are here: drive.google.com/file/d/19iPt06hX96hFzmPgs2wmSo2h8tjWE+vz/view

A series of discussion groups bringing members of the public, patients, researchers, clinicians and policy leaders together are currently underway to develop a plan for how we will support PPI in DCU.
The first meeting of the International Committee was chaired by Dr Rosaleen McElvaney the Associate Dean of International Affairs (ADI). This is a new post for DCU and the first such appointment in the University.

Paul Buchanan and colleague from the NICB, Dr Alex Eustace, set up the DCU Cancer Research Group. They held their first university-wide meeting on the Sunday, 17th March, 2019 in the NICB seminar room. It was a “snapshot event” were cancer researchers across schools and faculties provided a 5-minute synopsis of their work in a bid to create awareness and enable collaborations within the DCU cancer research community. You can contact them at: cancer-research@dcu.ie

Dr Aisling McMahon with Claire O’Dowda and Kay Ferriter ran a psychotherapy lab seminar on the Saturday, 6th April, 2019. This provided an opportunity to discover the extent to which different psychotherapy schools diverge in their theory and technique when compared through the lens of supervision.

Dr Brian Slattery was funded by the HRB TMRN to conduct a workshop titled ‘Methodological considerations in digital health behaviour change research: Design, Implementation, and evaluation in the context of randomised trials’. It was hosted in the SNHS at DCU on Friday, 26th April, 2019 (half-day event). The aim of this workshop was to provide practical guidance, from international DBCI experts, about methodological considerations when conducting randomised trials.

Another successful public lecture series on Understanding Mental Health was organised by Dr Rosaleen McElvaney, Prof Teresa Burke and Dr Mary Farrelly. Speakers included Dr Evelyn Gordon, John Kelly, Gary Noaln, Dr Rosaleen McElvaney, Dr Siobhan Russell, Martha Griffin, Dr Simon Dunne, Manuela Ascarri and Dr Mary Rose Sweeney.

Thanks to all our colleagues in the School of Nursing and Human Sciences for their rich and diverse contributions.

Briege Casey was involved in organising the 5th International Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference focused on Exploring Creativity in Narrative Inquiry in Trinity College Dublin on May 2nd and 3rd 2019.

A seminar series on public and patient involvement (PPI) in Research was run by DCU PPI Ignite. Topics included an introduction to PPI, PPI in grant applications, developing a PPI project and communicating with the public and patients.
Speakers included Noel Hickey and Brona Furlong from MedEx, Alyson Bailey, Sara Lord and Aoife Cahill from the HRB, Bernard Kenny from the Trialogue Network, Avril Kennan from the MRCG and Laura Brady from Fighting Blindness. Slides and audio recording are available here: drive.google.com/open?id=18uaF85_czQW6bfYNWxgWZSaMwa1IZqA6

On Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019, Dr Sabina Stan made a presentation at the European Parliament on the topic of “Impact of European policies on the commercialization of health”. The presentation was part of the conference “Our health is not for sale” organised by the European Network against Privatisation and Marketisation of Health and Social Protection and was supported by The Green-European Free Alliance. You can watch the presentations here: web-greensefa.streamovations.be/index.php/event/stream/our-health-is-not-for-sale-how-to-prevent-commercialisation-and-privatisation-of-health-in-europe (skip to min 13).

Dr Rosaleen McElvaney, Chair of the EuroPsy European Awarding Committee for the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations joined EFPSA country representatives at their meeting in Kowary, Poland on Tuesday, 30th October, 2018 and gave a presentation on the impact of the EuroPsy for the profession of psychology in Europe. She highlighted the importance of students engaging with the EuroPsy during their training, making themselves aware of the EuroPsy requirements, particularly if they are interested in studying, training and working in countries other than their home country.

Professor Anthony Staines and Professor Anne Matthews spoke at the one-day conference and workshop held in the Helix which featured scholars from across the university and highlighted key DCU research relating to the UN’s sustainable development goals (SDG). DCU is actively developing its commitment to the furtherance of the sustainable development goals and already has considerable expertise in this regard. At the event 17 SDG goals were highlighted and discussed by members of DCU academic staff including Professor Anne Matthews who spoke about Goal 2: Zero Hunger and Professor Anthony Staines who spoke about Goal 3: Health and Well-being. For more details see www.dcu.ie/dcu-events/2019/Apr/DCU-and-Sustainable-Development-Goals.shtml

Dr Joanne Carroll and Dr Louise Hopper attended the 11th International Dementia Conference in Croke Park on Monday, 1st April, 2019. Dr Joanne Carroll’s presentation was titled: Incorporating PPI into the H2020 CAPTAIN Project - An eCoaching assistant for older adults and those with dementia.

A workshop entitled ‘PRomoting ethics and integrity in non-medical REsearch’ (PRO-RES) was hosted 16th-17th May 2019. Funded by the EU and lead by Dónal O’Mathúna the workshop gathered experiences and input from experts coming from Africa, India, Lebanon, Canada, USA and several European countries. Representatives from organisations like the Red Cross, UNICEF, MSF, Elrha, the International Association of Bioethics and several universities attended.

Further information can be found at this link: www.prores-project.eu
Alternatively, you may contact: donal.omathuna@dcu.ie
SNHS in the Media

— Daragh Rodger is a third year PhD student based on the CeIC. Daragh’s ANP story was selected by national chief nurse Dr Siobhan O Halloran to represent ANP’s research in Ireland - www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery/personal-stories/daragh-rodger-leading-to-support-healthy-ageing-in-ireland

— Prof Anne Matthews interview on Near FM about global health - nearfm.ie/podcast/?p=31197


— Dr Simon Dunne spoke on Kildare Fm about positive mental health attitudes and cancer survivors quality of life - kfmradio.com/news/22022019-1020/dcu-study-finds-positive-mental-attitude-improves-cancer-survivors-quality-life


— Professor Anthony Staines has been regularly commenting on the Health service in the media over the past year. A recent interview is included below: apple.com/ie/podcast/new-hse-director-warns-senior-management-that-breaching/id698141459?i=1000438160926
Coming up soon

12th Qualitative Research Summer School
The School of Nursing and Human Sciences hosts the 12th Qualitative Research Summer School on June 4-7 inclusive. The summer school is aimed at PhD candidates and researchers with an interest in qualitative methods. Coordinators Mary Kelly and Dawn Clark have invited an exciting line-up of experts – across a range of qualitative research methodologies – to lead this year’s workshops.

Further information can be found at this link: www.dcu.ie/snhs/QRSS2019.shtml
Alternatively, you may contact: dawn.clark@dcu.ie