



Faculty Research Committee Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Scheme 2019

Project Title: CAPTAIN – Development of personalized eCoaching for older adults

Principal Investigator: Dr Louise Hopper

School/Research Centre: School of Nursing and Human Sciences

Brief description of research and experience

I am an Assistant Professor in Psychology (SNHS) teaching quantitative and qualitative research methods on the B.Sc. Psychology and on the M.Sc. (Conversion) Psychology programmes. I also teach person-centred dementia care on the professional development and M.Sc. in Dementia Nursing/Health Care Practice programmes.

My research interests include health, social psychology, cognition, and socio-cognitive development. I have a specific interest in ageing, health and social care (with a focus on cognitive impairment), assistive technologies, health informatics, health attitudes and behaviour and self-management.

I am the Principle Investigator of the National Dementia Registry project (funders: Health Service Executive, Department of Health) and the EU H2020 CAPTAIN (www.captain-eu.org) project. I supervise a research assistant, a project manager and a range of undergraduate and post-graduate students. I have previously worked on the ACTIFCare (Access to Timely Formal Care) project - a systematic review of the care pathway (from care provision, economic and health systems perspectives) from after diagnosis to the onset of formal care – and Dem@Care (Dementia Ambient Care) – a system based on the use of sensor technology to aid the diagnosis of dementia and to enable home-based independent living for adults with mild dementia. I was also a member of the scientific advisory board for the MARIO (EU H2020) project. I was awarded the DCU Presidents Research Award for 2017 in recognition of my work on these projects.

I am a member of the Centre for Integrated Care (www.ceic.ie). I am also a member of the SNHS Ethics Advisory Committee (EAC) and I have previously served on the Faculty and School Research Committees. I have supervised INTRA research placements (psychology; 2015-2016), SNHS undergraduate research summer students (2015 – 2018) and two of these students were awarded first (2016) and second (2017) prize in their respective cohorts.

Title: CAPTAIN - development of personalised eCoaching for older adults.

Supervisor: Dr Louise Hopper

Project description: *CAPTAIN* (Coach assistant via projected and tangible interface) is a H2020-funded, multi-site European project that will develop a virtual interactive coaching system to support older adults in their day-to-day lives at home. The aim is to develop a non-invasive support system that provides personalised advice, guidance and follow-up for key age-related issues in daily life which impact the person's ability to remain active and independent at their home. This will include risk avoidance, nutrition guidance, physical activity and cognitive training follow-up, and guidance for lifestyle changes and social participation.

Studentship: We are currently recruiting a student researcher to be involved in the analysis and dissemination of baseline lifestyle data for older adults and to take part in the third co-production cycle of the project.

Tasks of student: (i) to assist the *CAPTAIN* team with the quantitative analysis of the baseline healthy adult data and the preparation of a publication based on these findings; (ii) to participate in participatory co-production workshops; (iii) to assist in the collection and analysis of user acceptance evaluations alongside the lead researcher.

Skills acquired: The student researcher will have the opportunity to be part of a multisite European research project, working with experts from a wide range of areas. They will also gain experience with design thinking, mixed-methods data analysis and the dissemination of research findings.

Applicant skills required: The student researcher should be highly motivated and specifically interested in health psychology, cognition, and ageing. They should have good writing skills and be responsible, well-organised, able to work independently and as part of a group, and respectful of the confidential nature of the data.

If you are interested, please contact Dr Hopper directly at: louise.hopper@dcu.ie.