Faculty	**Science and Health**
School	**School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health**
Post title	**Postdoctoral Researcher Health Service Research**
Level on Framework	**Level 1**
Post duration	**Two Years Fixed Term Contract**

Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Background
COST2CARE is a Health Research Board (HRB) funded research project based in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health at DCU. The aim of the project is to demonstrate the potential for safer hospital care and reduced healthcare costs associated with older patients in acute hospitals in Ireland through routine measurement of missed nursing care, and sustainable and accurate reporting of nursing-sensitive adverse events using routinely collected hospital discharge data. This project offers a smart, scalable and sustainable solution to a contemporary healthcare challenge, and enables opportunities for benchmarking and quality improvement initiatives in Ireland and potentially globally.

One of the greatest challenges to health care systems today is the rapidly increasing proportion of older people (>65 years) accessing healthcare in acute hospitals. The OECD predicts that the proportion of the population aged >65 years will rise from 17.4% in 2017 to 27.1% by 2050, placing their care management high on the agenda of clinicians and policy makers. The largest group of patients in acute hospitals in Ireland and elsewhere is that of older people, accounting for half of all hospital bed days. While these patients require acute nursing care for their presenting condition, they often simultaneously require a level of fundamental care to address other needs related to advancing age, or the presence of co-morbidities. If this care is missed or incomplete, patients are at high risk of experiencing complications (nursing sensitive adverse events), which are often associated with extended lengths of stay or reduced function on discharge. Ultimately, these complications are high-cost events, both financially, to the health service, and in human costs to the patient and caregiver.

This research study recognises the importance of nursing care in the patient safety continuum and reflects the reality that where nursing care is missed or incomplete, patient outcomes are less favourable overall. In essence, it recognises that nursing care is an important determinant of patient outcome following hospitalisation. The phenomenon of missed nursing care, associated with poor patient outcomes, and linked to nurse staffing, has been an important focus for nurse researchers for the last 20 years. Nonetheless, global shortages of nurses and an ageing nurse workforce suggest the problem is likely to continue.

In Ireland Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) is the principal source of national data on discharges from acute hospitals, through which demographic, clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals nationally are collected. To date nursing sensitive adverse events are largely invisible in reports generated from HIPE and it is likely that this reflects a lack of understanding of the potential of routinely available discharge data as a source of important patient safety data. In the COST2CARE project we intend to mine the national HIPE data for national rates of four nursing sensitive adverse events (pneumonia, delirium, urinary tract infections and pressure injuries) and to verify the accuracy of the data through an extensive retrospective chart review in one model four hospital. These four events, described as Failure to Maintain events are known to occur when fundamental nursing care is missed. Using ICD10 data and rates of occurrence verified through chart review the research team hope to calculate the cost to the Irish health service by examining length of stay, and other variables associated with cost of illness calculations. Simultaneous surveys of both nurses and patients in one hospital using validated instruments will enable the team to examine the human cost of missed care in acute hospitals.

Role Profile

Applications are invited from interested and suitably qualified individuals for a two year full-time fixed term position as Postdoctoral Researcher with COST2CARE. This position is available from September 2023 and offers an opportunity to join a project team which includes an international and multidisciplinary collaboration of academic, clinical and other key patient and public stakeholders.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the Principal Investigator Dr Marcia Kirwan, the duties of the Researcher will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Overseeing the day-to-day management and successful implementation of the project working closely with the project PI and other members of the research team.
- Taking significant responsibility for planning and implementation of specific elements of the research activities, in line with commitments to stakeholders and funders.
- Facilitating Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) input into all aspects of the research, including research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Coordinating and assisting with all elements of fieldwork associated with the project, including managing and assisting with retrospective chart reviews, and preparing, testing and administration of surveys, data management and analysis.
- Fostering and maintaining effective partnerships and communication with all team members, collaborators, and key stakeholders.
- Coordinating and co-facilitating stakeholder consultations.
- Reporting project progress to all parties at the agreed intervals including details such as project outputs, adherence to schedule, budget tracking etc.
- Preparation of project outputs, interim and final reports as required by the project schedule.
- Engaging in teaching and support to postgraduate students.
- Engaging in the dissemination of the results of the research with the assistance of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required.
- Assisting report writing, the preparation of research publications, and the dissemination of project information through webpages and other media/forums, including knowledge exchange events.
- Other tasks relevant to the successful delivery of the research project and activities.

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in in a related health science, psychology, or social science discipline. In addition, it is desirable that the individual has experience in conducting research or assisting those who conduct research, including:

- experience in effective networking and building strong working relationships within and across organisations, disciplines and professions;
- excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills, be able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines, and have the ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team;
- a range of quantitative research skills and experience of research in health /healthcare or a relevant related area;
- experience of working with healthcare providers and health service users and liaising with multi-stakeholders;

- strong leadership and influencing skills with expertise in project management.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline.

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications.

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students.

Managing & Leadership skills - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students.