Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

Annual Report

2010-2011

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Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

Report 2010-2011

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Welcome

Staff and students at the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland enjoyed a lively, eventful and productive academic year in 2010-2011. This was the fifth year of the Centre’s existence and it marked further expansion and collaborations. Funding from the Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award, as well as other sources, facilitated an ambitious calendar of events hosted by the Centre. Visitors from other Universities and institutions were welcomed to the Centre’s seminars and workshops. Work continued on the major collaborative research streams – psychiatry and mental health, public health and disease, archives and library projects, medical professionalization, medical emigration and gender and medicine.

Both past and present PhD students from the Centre continue to perform to a high standard. A monograph written by a former student was awarded the National University of Ireland Publication Prize in Irish History while two students were the joint winners of the History of Medicine in Ireland essay prize.

The activities of the Centre have been bolstered by the arrival of new staff and students. In November 2010, Dr Sarah York joined University College Dublin as research assistant with the Wellcome Trust funded project ‘Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c. 1850-1921’. Dr Ian Miller, formerly a Senior Teaching Fellow in Medical History based in the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin, commenced a two-year post-doctoral fellowship, funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). Mike Liffey, who was Centre administrator from 2007, was replaced by David Durnin in January 2011. Mike, who was a valued member of staff, remains associated with the Centre while David Durnin began a PhD in the Centre in October 2011.

Staff and scholars at the Centre continued to publish their research findings nationally and internationally and participate in public outreach events. A full description of staff and student publications, research, workshops and seminars and the Centre’s public outreach activity is contained in the main body of this report. Further information can be found on the Centre’s website.

Centre website: www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/body.htm.

Dr Catherine Cox, UCD Centre Director
**Research interests**

Dr Cox’s main interests are eighteenth- and nineteenth-century medical history with a particular emphasis on Ireland. She has published on the history of mental illness and the spread of ‘medical knowledge’ and medical professionalization in eighteenth and nineteenth century society. She has also worked on the history of the Great Famine, women’s history and the history of urban development in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Ireland. She is currently working with Professor Hilary Marland on a project that explores the relationship between migration and madness and on another project examining late eighteenth and early nineteenth century medical provision.

**Publications:**


Research Interests
Professor Daly’s research focuses on Ireland from 1840 to 2000. She has special interests in the Great Famine, urban history of nineteenth and century Ireland and social and cultural history. In addition, Professor Daly works on the social, economic and administrative history of independent Ireland since 1922 as well as women's history, especially women and work. Current research activities include commemoration, especially the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. She is working on Ireland 1957-73 continuity and change, statehood and citizenship, social history of medicine in twentieth century Ireland with special interest in the history of family planning and changes in Irish female mortality and morbidity; and the Irish diaspora.

Publications:

Daly Mary E. ‘Catholic Dublin: the Public Expression in the Age of Paul Cullen’, in Daire Keogh and Albert McDonnell (eds), *Cardinal Paul Cullen and his World* (Dublin: Four Courts, 2011).

Research interests:
Dr Earner-Byrne’s research interests span modern Irish social and political history, gender and welfare history of Ireland and Europe and Irish demographic and emigration history. She is working on a project that focuses on poverty and the poor in modern Ireland. The notion that the Irish revolution was more political than social, has been articulated by many historians of modern Ireland, most recently in Ferriter's *The transformation of Ireland 1900-2000* (2004). Descriptions of poverty and the reality of destitution in modern Ireland are not hard to come by from contemporary cases, such as the starvation of a mother in *Adrigole* (1927), to modern day fictional
portrayals like McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* (1996). There have been notable historical studies on the geography and conditions of poverty, for example, J Prunty's *Dublin's Slums, 1800-1925*, but there is a serious lacuna in our historical understanding of the poor themselves. What did Independence mean to those on the financial margins of Irish society? How did those struggling to survive in modern Ireland negotiate the assistance available to them? How did they articulate their poverty and need?

**Research Interests:**
Dr Riordan’s work deals with the social, intellectual and religious history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain and Ireland, particularly social policy and sexuality in twentieth-century Ireland. Her research projects include a social history of venereal diseases in Independent Ireland, the debate on the age of consent in Independent Ireland and the Gaelic commonwealth ideal.

**Publications:**
University of Ulster:

**Professor Greta Jones**
University of Ulster Co-director of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

Research Interests:
Professor Emeritus Greta Jones, the co-director of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, University of Ulster, has expertise in the history of infectious diseases in nineteenth and twentieth century Ireland, with a particular focus on tuberculosis. She is promoting research in nineteenth century history of ideas, the history of Darwinism, scientific institutions and history of medicine, particularly with respect to Ireland.

Publications:


**Dr Leanne McCormick**
University of Ulster Co-director of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

(Leanne McCormick has been on maternity leave from March 2011)

Research interests:
Dr McCormick’s research includes women’s history, history of sexuality and history of medicine in Ireland and more specifically twentieth century Northern Ireland. She has recently been working on family planning in twentieth century Northern Ireland and is developing an oral history project considering pregnancy and its prevention.
Leanne is the University of Ulster’s co-director of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland (CHOMI).

**Publications:**


Dr Andrew Sneddon
School of English, History and Politics
University of Ulster

**Research interests:**
Andrew’s main research projects examine witchcraft and magic in Europe, 1500-1950, history of institutional medicine in Ireland, 1692-1850, magical healing in Ireland 1500-1950, conversion, Catholicism and the Church of Ireland, 1700-1950, Irish parliamentary legislation, 1692-1800, and the Church of England in the long eighteenth-century. He is currently working on two main projects. The first is on witchcraft and magic in Ireland, studied in a European context, from the early modern period up until the twentieth century; the second is a Wellcome Trust funded project entitled ‘The Medical Landscape of Eighteenth Century Ulster’.

**Publications:**


Sneddon, Andrew. ‘The Limitations of “Improvement”’, in David Hayton, James Kelly and John Bergin (eds), The Eighteenth-Century Composite State: Representative Institutions in Ireland and Europe, 1690-1800 (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, October, 2010).


Dr Kate Byrne
Lecturer in Victorian Studies and Women’s Writing
School of English, History and Politics
University of Ulster

Research interests:
Kate’s main research focus is on nineteenth-century literature and disease, the history of medicine, Victorian women’s writing and the body, the Gothic and adapting Victorian fiction for the screen.

Publications:
Kate Byrne. Tuberculosis and the Victorian Literary Imagination (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dr Ian Miller
Post Doctoral Research Fellow
University College Dublin

Research interests:
Ian’s current research area is dietary change in post-Famine Ireland, with a particular emphasis on the complex interactions between state policy, scientific knowledge and the public. His current project assesses this within the broad time-frame 1845-1939, and explores themes including the application of agricultural chemistry to food production; the efficacy of adulteration laws in Ireland; institutional diets; the emergence of consumerist tea-drinking cultures in the late nineteenth century; domestic education; and the impact of the First World War on patterns of food consumption and production.

Publications:

Miller, Ian. *Building a Healthy and Happy Nation: Dietary Change in Ireland, 1845-1922* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, under contract).


Dr Sarah York
Post Doctoral Research Assistant
Wellcome Trust funded project ‘Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c.1850-1921.’

Sarah has worked on the history of psychiatry and asylums with particular reference to the care and management of suicidal lunatics. She wrote her PhD thesis, *Suicide, Lunacy and the Asylum in Nineteenth-Century England*, in the History of Medicine Unit at Birmingham University. The thesis examines the admission, discharge, treatment and management of suicidal lunatics over the course of the nineteenth century. Sarah was recently (Feb 2010-Oct 2011) a Research Assistant on the Wellcome Trust-funded project ‘Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c.1850-1921.. She is currently developing a new project, “Before the Age of Total
War”: Soldiers, Sailors and Mental Breakdown, 1800-1914’, which seeks to examine the ways in which mental breakdown of servicemen was perceived, diagnosed and treated before 1914 and the phenomenon of shell shock.

Publications:

Dr Susan Grant
Post Doctoral Research Fellow
University College Dublin and University of Toronto

Research interests:
Susan is interested in Russian and Soviet history, history of sport and physical culture, and history of medicine. Her monograph (to be published spring 2012) focuses on Soviet physical culture in the 1920s and 1930s. This examines the origins of Soviet physical culture and how it was used in an attempt to modernize and civilize its population in the first two decades of Soviet power. It situates Soviet physical culture within a wider international framework and argues that the ideology of physical culture and the culture of the body was essential to the larger project of constructing the new Soviet citizen. Her current CARA IRCHSS project looks at the development of nursing in the inter war period in Russia.

Dr Tom Feeney
IRCHSS Post-Doctoral Fellow, UCD

Research interests:
Tom’s main research interests include political, cultural and social history of independent Ireland. Tom’s project is entitled ‘The politics of mental health in independent Ireland: the making and unmaking of the Mental Treatment Act, 1945’. He is the author of Sean MacEntee: a Political Life (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2009).

Administrators
Mike Liffey, University College, Dublin (September 2010-January 2011)
David Durnin, University College Dublin (January 2011-October 2011)
Both past and present PhD students from the Centre continue to perform to a high standard. A monograph entitled *The Last Irish Plague, The Great Flu Epidemic in Ireland*, written by Dr Caitriona Foley, a former PhD student in the Centre, was published by Irish Academic Press, and launched at Dublin Book Festival on 5 March 2010. Caitriona’s book has since been awarded the Publication Prize in Irish History. This prize of €3,000 was awarded for a first sole author book by a National University of Ireland scholar whose doctoral degree was awarded no earlier than 1 January 2005. David Durnin and Anne Mac Lellan are the joint winners of the Ulster Society of Medicine’s History of Medicine in Ireland essay prize which will be formally awarded to them in March 2012. Anne Mac Lellan and Alice Mauger have signed a contract to co-edit a book to be published by Irish Academic Press entitled *Growing Pains: Childhood Illness in Ireland, 1750-1950*. This will be published in spring 2013.

**Fiachra Byrne**  
Ad Astra Scholar  
CHOMI, University College Dublin

Fiachra’s thesis was entitled ‘Madness and Mental Illness in Ireland: Discourses, People and Practices, 1900 to c. 1960’. He successfully defended his thesis in November 2011 and continues to work with the Centre, teaching on the MA programme and preparing his research for publication.

**David Durnin**  
IRCHSS Postgraduate Scholar  
CHOMI, University College Dublin

David, who was administrator of the Centre from January to October 2011, has commenced a PhD in the Centre in University College Dublin under the supervision of Dr Catherine Cox. His PhD thesis is entitled “‘The War Away From Home’: Irish Medical Migration during the Great War Era, 1912-1922”. In 2009-2010, he completed an MA in the Social and Cultural History of Medicine at UCD, graduating with first class honours. From 2006 to 2009, he studied for a BA in History at University College Dublin. David’s research interests include the relationship between war and medicine; the history of Irish migration; Ireland’s role in the First World War; the history of Irish workhouses and their role in the care for the insane.
Nigel Farrell passed his transfer exam to PhD in January 2011. His thesis is entitled ‘Epidemic Disease in Mid-Nineteenth Century Belfast’. Supervised by Dr Andrew Sneddon and Dr Leanne Mc Cormick, Nigel, who received DEL funding for his PhD research, analyses the impact of epidemic cholera in a localised setting with relation to the development of public health provision in an industrialising town. The aim is to uncover a new aspect of Belfast’s social, civil and medical history.

Sean Graffin passed his transfer exam to PhD in Spring 2011. Sean is working on a part-time basis on a comparative history of nurses from the Belfast Royal Victoria Hospital and the Glasgow Royal Infirmary 1900-22. He is a lecturer in nursing in the Jordanstown campus of the University of Ulster.

Elizabeth Lake submitted her thesis on communication and medicine in early nineteenth century Ireland, 8 September 2010. Elizabeth successfully defended her thesis in November 2010 and graduated in June 2011.

**Publications:**

Anne’s research interests centre around somatic illness in Ireland in the twentieth century with a particular emphasis on infectious diseases, laboratory medicine, paediatric illness and clinical experimentation. Her thesis is entitled: “‘That preventable and curable disease’: Dr Dorothy Price and the eradication of tuberculosis in Ireland 1930-60’. She successfully defended her thesis in October 2011 and graduated in December 2011. She is now working on a part-time basis as CHOMI administrator while continuing to work on her research.

**Publications:**

Alice Mauger is a former recipient of the Wellcome Trust Masters Award in the Social and Cultural History of Medicine (2009) at University College Dublin and is now pursuing her Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentship. She has completed the first year on her project ‘‘The Great Class which lies between”: Provision for the non-pauper insane in Ireland, c. 1830-1900.’

**Publications:**

Kirsten’s research for a thesis provisionally entitled ‘Issues in Archiving Medical Records in Ireland’ explores the issues that arise in archiving medical records in Ireland and the UK, including access, ethics, representation, and the context of records creation. Through detailed case studies and interviews with Irish and UK archivists, this research aims to culminate in the creation of a code of best practice for archivists charged with the care of medical and other sensitive records. Her work, which will culminate in the first PhD in archivistics to be awarded in Ireland, is supervised by Dr Elizabeth Mullins and Dr Catherine Cox.
MA students

Since its establishment in 2006, one of the Centre’s aims has been to develop a solid platform for the education of scholars in Irish medical history. The MA in Social and Cultural History at University College Dublin contributes significantly to achieving this aim. The number of students who enrolled in the MA in 2010-2011 increased significantly on previous years. Students come from diverse academic backgrounds and pursue different careers. Two of last year’s MA students are continuing their studies at doctoral level. Podcasts of student testimonials for the MA programme are available on the CHOMI webpage: http://www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/chomi/teaching.html#maprog

Ciaran McCabe
MA student (2010-11)
CHOMI, University College Dublin.

Ciaran McCabe, whose MA thesis was entitled ‘The impact of the 1817-19 and 1826-27 fever epidemics on the Cork Street Fever Hospital, Dublin’ will commence a PhD in National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 2012. He presented his work at a number of seminars including the Irish History Students Association conference in University College Cork, 26 February 2011. He also presented a paper ‘Cork Street Fever Hospital: Excavating the Patients Experience’ at the History of Science Technology and Medicine Meeting in Dublin, 19 April 2011.

Jane Hand
Wellcome Trust Master’s Award (2010-11)
CHOMI, University College Dublin

Ongoing Funded Projects

Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c.1850-1921
(Dr Catherine Cox and Professor Hilary Marland Wellcome Trust Project Grant)

This three-year collaborative project is continuing to yield insights into the relationship between Irish migrants, ethnicity and mental illness c. 1850 to 1921. Building on existing expertise in the history of psychiatry in the Centre, this project addresses the relationship between migration and mental illness. In so doing, it will situate the experiences of Irish pauper asylum patients and those treating them within a broader canvas of efforts to manage perceived and real problems of disease, poverty, and intemperance among the Irish migrants. Dr Catherine Cox and Professor Hilary Marland, University of Warwick, received funding for the project from the Wellcome Trust in September 2009. Dr Sarah York, who was appointed Research Assistant in February 2009, completed nine months of research in Warwick before coming to the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland at University College Dublin to continue her work. Dr York completed her research in October 2011. As part of the project, two workshops have now been held. The first workshop entitled ‘Migration, Mental Illness and the Management of Asylums’ was held in the University of Warwick in September 2010 while the second event, which was funded by a Wellcome Trust conference award, was entitled ‘Health, Illness and Ethnicity: Migration, Discrimination and Social Dislocation’. It took place at University College Dublin in June 2011. Reports on the workshops by Drs Sarah York and Anne Mac Lellan were published in *Wellcome History*.

In addition to the workshops, an article has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Social History* and a video commissioned by Dr Catherine Cox and Professor Hilary Marland is available on both CHOMI’s website and the website of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Warwick (see below). It has received 656 visits since it first became available in August 2011.


Links to video at [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/) and [www.ucd.ie/history/chomi/migration.html](http://www.ucd.ie/history/chomi/migration.html).
**Irish Temperance League Survey Grant**
(Dr Leanne McCormick, Irish Temperance League)

A grant of £10,000 was received from the Irish Temperance League for an historical survey of the material available for a history of the League in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr Gill McIntosh has been appointed as Research Assistant on the project and will be working under the supervision of Dr Leanne McCormick and advised by Professor Greta Jones and Dr Paul Darragh the Dun’s Librarian at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

![Image courtesy Wellcome Library](image.png)

**Building a Happy and Healthy Nation: Dietary Change and Medical Ideas in Ireland c. 1845-1950**
(Dr Ian Miller, IRCHSS Postdoctoral Fellow, University College Dublin)

Dr Ian Miller has completed the first year of his IRCHSS funded two-year post-doctoral project entitled ‘Building a Happy and Healthy Nation: Dietary Change and Medical Ideas in Ireland C. 1845-1950’. This project assesses how food became constructed as an integral component of a strong, healthy, independent Irish nation. The crisis of the Famine marked a turning point in Irish attitudes towards food. Yet it was to take a full century for the government in Ireland to take full responsibility for the nutritional health of its citizens. The project explores the extent to which political responsibility for Irish diet was informed by a desire to dispense nutritional knowledge to provide the population with the resources necessary to live in accordance with the shifting norms established and debated by medical science. Previously a Wellcome Trust funded temporary senior teaching fellow in medical history at the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin, Dr Miller commenced this research in September 2010. Dr Miller’s research findings will be disseminated in a monograph entitled *Building a Healthy and Happy Nation: Dietary Change in Ireland, 1845-1922* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, under contract).
Dr Susan Grant’s project focuses on Russian and Soviet nursing before World War 2, with particular emphasis on the development of peacetime Soviet nursing during the 1920s and 1930s. Nurses and nursing tend to come into focus during times of war and revolution. In this project Dr Grant is particularly interested in the emergence of the Soviet system of nursing between the Wars and the type of traditions (if indeed any) this system inherited from its imperial predecessor and the west. To better explain Soviet nursing her research concentrates on learning more about the type of training and education provided, hospital duties and conditions, status and professionalization, workload, the relationship between medical personnel, as well as broader issues relating to questions of gender and Soviet medicine in general. In understanding the role and function of the Soviet nurse, parallel developments in international nursing will also be assessed with the aim of ascertaining how Soviet nurses were viewed and considered by their colleagues abroad. Although the western nursing ethos (as represented by the International Council of Nurses) placed significant emphasis on a shared identity and acceptance of all creeds, nationalities and cultures, this became increasingly frustrated in the Soviet case because of minimal contact with and access to Soviet nurses. This latter concern also fits in with wider concepts of nursing and care-giving, and whether the debate between compassionate care and scientific knowledge that was prominent in western discourse infiltrated any discussions of medical care in the Soviet Union.
‘The War Away From Home’: Irish Medical Migration during the Great War Era, 1912-1922
(David Durnin, IRCHSS Postgraduate Scholar, University College Dublin)

David Durnin has commenced a PhD, under the supervision of Dr Catherine Cox, researching Irish medical migration during the First World War. Some 210,000 Irish personnel enlisted to serve with the British forces during the First World War (Fitzpatrick, 1996). Among them were medical recruits who joined in a well-established tradition of medical migration from Ireland. Irish medical men and women acted as medical officers, surgeons, nurses, and worked in field ambulance divisions, and casualty clearing stations. The strength of the medical forces was central to success. As such, the role of Ireland’s medical participants was of the utmost importance. This project will uncover the extent of Irish medical participation in the Great War by analysing the migration patterns and destinations of Irish medical personnel during the conflict. Drawing on the records of the RAMC, associated regiments, military hospitals, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Red Cross, personal diaries and letters, this study will also explore Irish medical personnel’s wartime roles and experiences and the effect that wartime participation had on the development of their subsequent medical careers.

‘The Great Class which Lies Between’: Provision for the Non-Pauper Insane in Ireland, 1830-1900
(Alice Mauger, Wellcome Trust Doctoral Student)

Alice Mauger, a recipient of Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentship, has completed the first year of work on her project “The great class which lies between”: Provision for the non-pauper insane in Ireland, 1830-1900’. Supervised by Dr Catherine Cox, this thesis explores the care and treatment available to the non-paupers who suffered from mental illness in nineteenth-century Ireland. Alice is a graduate of University College Dublin’s MA in the Social and Cultural History of Medicine and a recipient of a Wellcome Trust Master’s Quota Scholarship. Alice was also awarded the inaugural Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences Daniel O’Connell Scholarship which recognises the highest ranked scholar in the area of Irish history under the Council's postgraduate scholarship awards scheme.
Issues in Archiving Medical Records in Twentieth Century Ireland: Access, Ethics and Gender
(Kirsten Mulrennan, IRCHSS Postgraduate Scholar)

Kirsten Mulrennan completed the second year of her doctoral studies, which she commenced in September 2009 under the supervision of Dr Elizabeth Mullins and Dr Catherine Cox, School of History and Archives. Her PhD, funded by the IRCHSS, is based on a number of case studies in Ireland and the UK and focuses on the issues in archiving medical records, especially the areas of archival access to sensitive records, gender representation in the creation and archiving of such records, and ethical questions surrounding access to and use of medical archives.

‘That Preventable and Curable Disease’: Dr Dorothy Price and the Eradication of Tuberculosis in Ireland 1930-1960
(Anne Mac Lellan, Wellcome Trust Doctoral Student)

Anne Mac Lellan, a Wellcome Trust funded doctoral student completed her research and submitted her thesis in August 2011. Working under the supervision of Dr Catherine Cox, Anne’s thesis investigated the efforts to abate the Irish tuberculosis epidemic in the mid-decades of the twentieth century, with particular reference to the attempt to found a national anti-tuberculosis league, the introduction of tuberculin testing and the establishment of a mass BCG vaccination programme. The emerging consensus on diagnosis and prophylaxis was underpinned by the endeavours of the paediatrician Dorothy Price, who also provided the impetus, in 1942, towards the establishment of a national league. Her work, with its continental bias, was used as a means to access, chronicle and interrogate the attitudes of the Irish medical establishment and the Government towards tuberculosis. Anne successfully defended her thesis on 14 October 2011 and graduated in December 2011. Publication output will include a chapter entitled ‘Victim or Vector: Tubercular Irish Nurses in Britain 1930-1960’ in a collected volume arising from the Health, Illness and Ethnicity: Migration, Discrimination and Social Dislocation conference held in University College Dublin in June 2011. A chapter entitled ‘The Penny Test: Tuberculin Testing and Paediatric Practice in Ireland 1900-1960’ will be included in an edited volume, to be published by Irish Academic Press in Spring 2013, arising from the Paediatric Diseases Throughout the Ages conference held in University College Dublin in December 2010.
**Psychiatry and Psychiatric Care in Twentieth Century Ireland**  
(Fiachra Byrne, Ad Astra Scholar)

Fiachra Byrne completed his research and submitted his thesis in August 2011. He worked under the supervision of Dr Catherine Cox on his Ad Astra funded study which examines the experiences of the psychiatric patient within the wider parameters of psychiatric care in Ireland. His project explored the forms of patient subjectivity in the situational context of the Irish mental hospital in the twentieth century. The project focused primarily on the patients and workings of three institutions, Our Lady’s Hospital, Ennis, St Patrick’s Hospital, Dublin and Grangegorman Hospital, Dublin. Fiachra successfully defended his thesis on 17 November 2011 and will graduate in 2012.

Image courtesy Wellcome Library

**Cholera and the Development of Public Health in Belfast 1832-1878**  
(Nigel Farrell Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) Funding)

Nigel Farrell, who received DEL funding for his PhD research, began work on his project which will analyse the impact of epidemic cholera in a localised setting with relation to the development of public health provision in an industrialising town. The aim is to uncover a new aspect of Belfast’s social, civil and medical history. This research is being carried out under the supervision of Dr Andrew Sneddon and Dr Leanne McCormick, School of English History and Politics, University of Ulster.
In June 2011, a Wellcome Trust Conference award funded a conference on Health, Illness and Ethnicity: Migration, Discrimination and Social Dislocation held at University College Dublin. Organised by Dr Catherine Cox, Professor Hillary Marland and Dr Sarah York, this two-day conference (10-11 June) also relied on financial and administrative support from the Centres for the History of Medicine at Warwick University and University College Dublin. The keynote speaker was Professor Alison Bashford of the University of Sydney, Australia. Further details of the conference are to be found in the workshops and seminars section of this report.

Jane Hand was the recipient of the Wellcome Trust Master’s Award for 2010-2011. Jane’s thesis was entitled: ‘The Crusade to “Conquer Cancer”: Public and Voluntary Health Education Initiatives in the Campaign against Lung Cancer in Ireland 1958-1978.’ Graduating with first class honours, Jane has commenced a Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentship in the University of Warwick entitled ‘From the Sexual Revolution to the New Plague: A Visual Investigation into Changing Notions of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Britain 1961-1992’.

In 2010, Kieran McNally was awarded a Wellcome Trust travel grant to investigate ‘The disappearance of catatonia 1878-1980’ and to prepare the groundwork for a Wellcome Trust Fellowship application, which will investigate the historical relationship between the concept of schizophrenia and one of its key symptom groups - catatonia. Visits were made to the Wellcome Library, The British Library and the National Library of France (La Bibliothèque Nationale de France). Case studies were examined at the archives of St. Patrick’s University Hospital.

In September 2010, Dr Tom Feeney completed his IRCSS post-doctoral fellowship project entitled 'The politics of mental health in independent Ireland': the making and unmaking of the Mental Treatment Act, 1945. He was associated with the Centre throughout the duration of his study and completed his project under the supervision of Dr Catherine Cox. Tom’s monograph entitled Sean MacEntee. A Political Life was published by Irish Academic Press in 2009.

In September 2009, Evelyn Flanagan, University College Dublin Special Collections Librarian was awarded a Wellcome Trust Research Resources award for a project entitled ‘Assessment of the conservation storage and cataloguing requirements of the library of the Royal College of Science for Ireland at University College Dublin’. The project aimed to make the library of the Royal College of Science for Ireland
available for research and teaching within University College Dublin and to the
general public. The project was successfully carried out during a four month period.
Funding also facilitated the filming of two promotional videos about the collection
which are available to view on YouTube.

In July 2009, Prof Mary E. Daly secured funding from the Irish Virtual Research
Library and Archive at University College Dublin for a library project. As part of the
IVRLA digitisation project John Mullen and Harriet Wheelock successfully
completed work on a database of all articles in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*
from its establishment in 1832 to 1949. This database opens up the *DJMS* as a source
for medical historians who are developing an analytical and contextual approach to
their subject, and will help develop a new interest in the history of Irish medical
publications. The database is available at http://ivrla.ucd.ie/ivrla/home.
Workshops and conferences

Five workshops and conferences were hosted or jointly organised by the Centre throughout the year, providing lively forums for discussion and collaboration. These took place in University College Dublin, the University of Ulster and the University of Warwick. The Centre continued to host its successful seminar series.

Migration, Mental Illness and the Management of Asylum Populations

Image courtesy Wellcome Library

University of Warwick
24 September 2010
Organised by Hilary Marland, Sarah York and Catherine Cox
Funded by Wellcome Trust

This one day workshop was hosted by the Centre for the History of Medicine at Warwick, and co-organised by Hilary Marland, Sarah York (University of Warwick) and Catherine Cox (University College Dublin), and was generously supported by the Wellcome Trust. The workshop was designed to bring early career and established scholars together to focus on the relationship between migration, mental illness and the management of asylum populations. A range of papers, concentrating on the nineteenth- and twentieth century asylum, contributed to debates on admission and discharge processes, the complexities of asylum management, and the management of particular patient groups within the asylum. Contributors included Rebecca Wynter ““Singing & swearing & beating the door all night”: Micro-migration, Spatial Integrity and the Early Nineteenth-Century Asylum’, Sarah York, ‘The Desirability of Prevention: Institutional Care of Suicidal Lunatics, c.1845-1900’, Louise Hide, ‘Another World? Adapting to the Regime in London’s Asylums, 1890-1914’, Jonathan Andrews, ‘The Management of Death, Dissection and the Dead House in the Victorian Asylum: Necroscopy versus Mourning at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, ca. 1813-1913’, Carole Reeves, ‘Jewish Immigrants in Colney Hatch Pauper Lunatic Asylum, 1880-1920’, Pamela Michael, ‘Migration and Insanity in North Wales’, Catherine Cox, Hilary Marland and Sarah York, ‘Itineraries of the Insane: Irish Migration and Mental Illness in Nineteenth-Century Lancashire’, Nicole Baur and Joseph Melling, ‘Mental Health Patients and Readmissions to Mental Hospitals in Southern England c.1948-1965: Some Patterns of Movement’.

Arising from this workshop, a number of the contributors - Jean Walker, Ida Milne Philomena Gorey and Anne Mac Lellan - are participating in a panel entitled ‘Childhood illness on the European Periphery: Ireland’ at the European Economic and Social History conference in Glasgow in April 2012. A volume containing an expanded version of selected papers presented at the conference in University College Dublin, along with some commissioned chapters, will be edited by Dr Anne Mac Lellan and Alice Mauger and published by Irish Academic Press in Spring 2013.
Cares, Cures and Charms’: Health Provision in Medieval and Early Modern Ireland

Offering found at St Ciaran’s Well in Clareen, Offaly, Ireland. Image courtesy Science Museum London, Wellcome Images

University College Dublin,
9 April 2011
Organised by Dr Catherine Cox and Dr Edel Bhreathnach
Funded by the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, University College Dublin, and the Micheál Ó Cleirigh Institute

This symposium was jointly organised by the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland and the University College Dublin Micheál Ó Cleirigh Institute. This one day event provided an opportunity for scholars to examine texts and recent scholarship on how communities in medieval and early modern Ireland cared for the sick, their various approaches to medicine and regimes of care that developed in Ireland from the early medieval to early modern period. Dr Catherine Cox, Director, Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, welcomed speakers and delegates. Speakers included Professor Fergus Kelly, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, ‘Medical Care in Early Irish Law’, Dr Jacqueline Borsje, University of Amsterdam, ‘A Spell called “élé”: Powerful Words as Medicine’, Dr Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, Glenstal Abbey, ‘The Hospital in Late Medieval Ireland’, John Bradley, NUI Maynooth, ‘The Late Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene in Kilkenny’, and Dr Benjamin Hazard, University College Dublin, ‘A Preliminary Study of Irish Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries in Spanish Flanders, c.1587-1673’. Dr Edel Bhreathnach, University College Dublin Micheál Ó Cleirigh Institute, closed the proceedings.
This two day conference brought scholars together to discuss various topics and themes related to the history of medicine. Speakers on the first day of the conference included Greta Jones, University of Ulster, ‘The Medical Profession in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Ireland’, James McGeachie, University of Ulster, ‘Public Intellectuals in the Irish Market Place: the Case of George Siegerson 1835-1925’, Laura Kelly, NUI Galway, ‘The Turning Point in the Whole Struggle’: the Admission of Women to Irish Medical Schools’, Olive Purdue, Queen’s University Belfast/University of Ulster, ‘Sick in the City: the Workhouse and the Female Poor of Nineteenth Century Belfast’, Sean Lucy, Trinity College Dublin, ‘From Poor Law to Free State: workhouse Infirmaries and Hospital Provision in Early Independent Ireland, 1920-32’, Mary Daly, University College Dublin, ‘Contraception: Interest Groups and Medical Stakeholders: the 1979 Family Planning Act’. Speakers at the parallel postgraduate session included two University of Ulster students Nigel Farrell and Sean Graffin and four University College Dublin students Anne Mac Lellan, Alice Mauger, Kirsten Mulrennan, and Philomena Gorey. In the final session, Kate Byrne, University of Ulster, spoke on ‘Fragile Dynasties: Neo-Edwardian Representation of Medicine in Downton Abbey’ while Maebh O’Regan gave a talk entitled ‘Bernie Masterson’s Work: Drawing on the Body’. The day concluded sociably with an opportunity for speakers to relax and chat to each other during a drinks reception which was followed by dinner in college.

Proceedings on the second day were opened by Dr Catherine Cox, University College Dublin, who spoke on ‘Itineraries and Experiences of Insanity: Irish Migration and Mental Illness in Nineteenth-Century Lanchashire.’ Other speakers included Kieran McNally, University College Dublin, ‘Catatonia: Appearance and Disappearance’, Sarah York, University College Dublin and University College Dublin, ‘Alienists, Attendants and the Containment of Suicide in Public Lunatic Asylums, 1845-1890’, Andrew Sneddon, University of Ulster, ‘Infirmaries in Eighteenth Century Ulster’, Bethany Sinclair, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, ‘Eighteenth Century Communication Networks for Medical Matters’, Ian Miller, University College Dublin, ‘Nutritional Knowledge, Dietary Practice and the Transformation of Irish society, 1845-47’. After lunch, there were two parallel sessions. In the psychiatric session, the speakers were Tom Feeney, University College Dublin, ‘Mental Health Provision in Ireland since 1940’, Ian Montgomery, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, ‘Not within the Four Walls of the Lunacy
Acts’: the Treatment of People with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland before the 1948 Mental Health Act’ and Georgina Laragy, NUI Maynooth, ‘I don’t know much about electricity’: ECT among Irish Psychiatric Patients, 1940s-70s’. In the concluding session, Evelyn Flanagan, University College Dublin, spoke on ‘Re-discovering the Royal College of Science for Ireland Library’; Harriet Wheelock gave a talk entitled ‘Caring for the History of Medicine. Cataloguing the RCPI Archive’ and Clara Cullen, University College Dublin, ended the conference with her talk ‘Some Irish Scientists and their Library: Scientists, Students and the Library of the Museum of Irish Industry and Royal College of Science for Ireland (1854-1926’).

Health, Illness and Ethnicity: Migration, Discrimination and Social Dislocation

University College Dublin
Organised by Dr Catherine Cox, Professor Hilary Marland and Dr Sarah York.
10-11 June 2011
Funded by Wellcome Trust

Image courtesy Wellcome Library

This two-day workshop focused on the relationship between illness, migration, discrimination and social dislocation primarily during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It explored the relationship between historical concerns surrounding health and ethnicity, and current health practices and policy. The workshop considered how the medical management of specific ethnic groups intersected with broader health and welfare strategies. By migration, we refer to migration between countries and internal movements of populations, for example between regions or from rural to urban areas. It was the second event associated with the ongoing Wellcome Trust project ‘Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c.1850-1921’.

The keynote speaker was Professor Alison Bashford, University of Sydney, ‘Insanity and Immigration Restriction’. Other speakers included Dr Roberta Bivins, University of Warwick, ‘Race, Ethnicity and Environment in the Postcolonial Metropole’, Dr Catherine Cox, Professor Hilary Marland and Dr Sarah York, University College Dublin and University of Warwick, ‘Itineraries and Experiences of Insanity: Irish Migration and Mental Illness in Nineteenth Century Lancashire’, Dr Sinead Donohue, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, ‘Clinical Cultural Competence – A Needs Assessment of Postgraduate Training Requirements for the Medical Profession in Ireland’, Dr Katherine Foxhall, King's College London, ‘The Travels of Britain’s Colonial Vaccines: Convicts, Emigrants and Children at Sea (c.1820 – 1850)’, Dr Letizia Gramaglia, University of Warwick, ‘Migration and Mental Illness in the British West Indies 1838-1900’, Professor Marjory Harper, University of Aberdeen, ‘Dysfunction, Detention and Deportation: Hidden Dimensions of Scottish Migration to Canada’, Dr Alan Ingram, University College London, ‘Epidemic Governmentality: Neoliberalism, and the Management of HIV and AIDS in the UK’, Dr John Odin Jensen, Sea Education Association,
Massachusetts, ‘Cultural and Organizational Responses to Immigrant and Transient Illness in the American Midwest’, Anne Mac Lellan, University College Dublin, ‘Victim or Vector? Tubercular Irish nurses in Britain 1930-60’, Dr Ronnie Moore, University College Dublin, ‘Travellers and Change in the Twenty First Century’, Dr John Welshman, Lancaster University, ‘From the Cycle of Deprivation to Social Exclusion: Ethnicity and Poverty’, Viktoria Zander, Mälardalen University, ‘The Magnitude of Reciprocity in Chronic Pain Management: Experiences of Dispersed Ethnic Populations of Muslim Women’, Dr. Krisztina Zimányi, Dublin City University, ‘How do we know how they really feel? Difficulties in Accessing the Views of Immigrant Mental Health Care Service Users in a Community Interpreting Context in Ireland’.

Video recordings of presentations are available to view on CHOMI’s vimeo site http://vimeo.com/chomi and via the podcast series on iTunes. A report of the workshop, written by Anne Mac Lellan, was published in Wellcome History 48 (Winter 2011), 18-19.

The proceedings of the conference are in the process of being published in a collection edited by Dr Catherine Cox and Professor Hilary Marland.
The Centre’s involvement in public outreach projects continued throughout the academic year. This brought the work of the Centre to the attention of a diverse group of professionals, including artists, art historians, archivists, doctors and nurses, as well as the general public.

Continuing the Centre’s support for archives and archivists, Dr Catherine Cox presented a talk entitled ‘A Valuable and Vulnerable Resource: Medical Records and the Historian’ at Archives Awareness Week in Trinity College Dublin, 15 September 2010. This talk highlighted the ongoing discourses, concerns and collaborations shared between medical historians and archivists. During the 2010–2011 academic year, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland undertook a Wellcome Trust funded project to e-catalogue its entire archival holdings. The steering committee for the project includes Prof Greta Jones and Dr Catherine Cox. Part of the project proposal was the development of links between RCPI and CHOMI, to publicise the material held by the archive to CHOMI researchers and to facilitate and encourage their use of the collections. In January 2010, the RCPI’s archivist Harriet Wheelock took part in the CHOMI seminar series, giving a paper on the progress of the project and publicising the collections. In May 2010, Harriet presented a paper to the CHOMI Conference in Belfast. Both of these events were followed by a noticeable increase in enquiries and visits to the RCPI archive, with researchers asking to see material from a wide range of collections including several that had been discovered during the cataloguing project. During 2011, CHOMI researchers have constituted more than 25 per cent of the visitors to RCPI’s Heritage Centre, excluding genealogical researchers. Meanwhile, Dr Sneddon has undertaken to work with the RCPI to assist in organising the commemoration of the tri-centenary of Sir Patrick Dun’s library.

Engagement with the arts provided a cross-disciplinary highlight during the year as the Centre’s relationship with the National Gallery of Ireland continued with a lecture given by Professor Valerie Hedquist, University of Montana. Entitled ‘Metsu’s “The Sick Child” in the context of 17th century Dutch Art’. The lecture was hosted in the National Gallery, on 18 November 2010. This well-attended event was open to members of the public and ended with a lively discussion encompassing visual culture, medical history and depictions of illness. Anne Mac Lellan once again taught a module (five seminars) on the history of medicine and medical devices to the students of the MSc in industrial design in the National College of Art and Design. Anne gave a lecture to medical and biomedical students in University College Dublin, as part of the module ‘Science, Medicine and Society’ run by University College Dublin School of Medicine and Medical Science. The Centre, in association with Trinity Long Room Hub, organised a presentation by Professor David Hufford, Penn State University and Samueli Institute, ‘The Rationality of Folk
Healing in the Enchanted Present’. This was held in the Trinity Long Room Hub Building on 2 December 2010.

Meanwhile, media relations continued apace during the year. Leanne McCormick consulted and appeared on a TwentyTwenty Production for Channel 4 and National Geographic, ‘Titanic the Mission’, discussing the role of women working in linen mills in early twentieth century – September 2010.

Largely due to the recent 300th year anniversary on 31 March 2011 of the trial of the Islandmagee witches, Dr Sneddon’s research on Irish witchcraft gained a considerable amount of International media attention, on television (April 2011 appearance on TV3 the Morning Show), radio (Live Interviews: Belfast U105, Radio Ulster Talkback programme), and in newspapers (The Sun, Daily Mirror, Florida Herald, Irish Times, The Scotsman, Irish Independent, Daily Mail, Belfast Telegraph), websites and blogs. This has generated a considerable amount of offers for talks to community groups and societies. For instance, Dr Sneddon gave a talk entitled ‘Witchcraft in early modern Ireland’ at the Jonathan Swift Festival, Trim, County Meath, July 2011.

**Professional associations**

Dr Catherine Cox and Professor Greta Jones continue to serve on the Library and Archives Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and on the History of Science and medicine Committee of the Royal Irish Academy. Prof Jones is also a member of the Worth Library Committee and the Irish Manuscripts Committee. Dr Cox and Dr Andrew Sneddon are committee members of the Irish Economic and Social History Society of Ireland. Dr Cox is the membership secretary of the Society for the Social History of Medicine.
Social Media

The Centre’s use of social media makes its activities readily accessible to a wide audience. Podcasts of CHOMI seminars are available on iTunes. This year, in a new departure, CHOMI opened a Twitter account which keeps followers updated on all the latest Centre news and events. In addition, visitors to the Centre’s new Vimeo site can watch videos commissioned and recorded to elaborate on various projects and seminars. These are available at iTunes: http://itunes.apple.com/ie/podcast/Centre-for-history-medicine/id458306348, Twitter: http://twitter.com/CHOMIreland, Vimeo: http://vimeo.com/chomi.

The number of visits to the Centre’s website increased once again. In all, 2,765 visits were recorded, looking at a total of 4,001 pages in the academic year from September 2010 to September 2011. This compares with 2,282 visits in the preceding academic year. Once again, visitors viewed the website from a wide variety of geographical locations. In all, visits from sixty countries were logged during this academic year. This represents a substantial increase on the fifty countries recorded in the preceding year. Not surprisingly, the greatest number of visits (1,863) originated in Ireland with 494 visits from the United Kingdom and 151 from the United States.

David Durnin was the editor of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland Podcast Series while Mike Liffey was video and website editor.
Additional Publications

Image courtesy Wellcome Library


Book Reviews


Selection of papers presented at conferences and workshops

Kate Byrne


Catherine Cox


Mary E. Daly


David Durnin


Tom Feeney

‘Mental Health Provision in Ireland since 1940’ at CHOMI Conference. University of Ulster, Belfast campus, 26-27 May 2011.

Greta Jones

‘The Irish Medical Profession and India’ at India and the Practice of Irish Medicine conference. Trinity College Dublin, 6 November 2010.

‘Darwin and Ireland’ at the Modernity and Ireland conference. Institute of Irish Studies, Queen’s University of Belfast, 11-13 November 2010


Rapporteur at Conference on the Poor Law held at Trinity College Dublin and organised jointly with Oxford Brookes. Trinity College Dublin, 24 June 2011.

Susan Kelly


Alice Mauger


Anne Mac Lellan


Ciaran McCabe


Leanne Mc Cormick


Ian Miller


‘Suffragette Hunger Strike and Medical Controversies in Britain, 1909-14’ at Women’s History Association of Ireland Seminar Series. Queen’s University, Belfast, 3 December 2010.

**Kirsten Mulrennan**


**John Privilege**


‘Catholicism and Science’ at Modernity and Ireland conference. Institute of Irish Studies, Queen’s University of Belfast, 11-13 November 2010

**Andrew Sneddon**

‘Witchcraft, Magic and Demonic Possession in Early Modern Ireland’ at Cumann Staire, NUI Galway, 4 November 2010.


**Sarah York**


‘“Whether Suicidal or Dangerous to Others”: The Certification, Admission, and Confinement of Suicidal Lunatics, c.1845-1900’ at CHOMI Seminar Series. University College Dublin, 24 February 2011


The Centre hosted a number of distinguished visiting speakers at University College Dublin and the University of Ulster. Many of the papers below are available as podcasts on the CHOMI podcast series on iTunes.

16 September 2010
CHOMI in association with Trinity Long Room Hub
Trinity College Dublin
‘The Rationality of Folk Healing in the Enchanted Present’
Prof David Hufford (Penn State University & Samuels Institute)

30 September 2010
University College Dublin
‘I was Right Glad to be Rid of it: Dental Medical Practice in Eighteenth-Century Ireland’
Prof James Kelly (St Patrick's College)

21 October 2010
University College Dublin
‘“Are Women Animals?”: Women, Sentience, and Rights (in the UK from the 1790s to the Twentieth Century)’
Prof Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck, University of London)

11 November 2010
University College Dublin
‘Test Tubes and Turpitude: Debates surrounding Artificial Insemination in Mid-Twentieth-Century Scotland’
Dr Gayle Davis (University of Edinburgh)

18 November 2010
National Gallery of Ireland
Public Lecture in association with National Gallery of Ireland
‘Metsu’s ‘The Sick Child’ in the context of 17th century Dutch Art’
Prof Valerie Hedquist (University of Montana)
2 December 2010
University of Ulster Belfast Campus
‘Consumptive Dystopias: Tuberculosis, Fascism and the Sanatorium Novel’
**Dr Kate Byrne (University of Ulster)**

27 January 2011
University of Dublin
‘Caring for the History of Medicine – the Archive of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland’
**Harriet Wheelock (Royal College of Physicians of Ireland)**

24 February 2011
University of Dublin
‘“Whether Suicidal or Dangerous to Others”: The Certification, Admission, and Confinement of Suicidal Lunatics, c.1845-1900’
**Dr Sarah York (University of Warwick and University College Dublin)**

24 March 2011
University of Dublin
‘The Curse of the Hospitals Sweepstake? A Hospital Service not a Health Service’
**Prof Mary E. Daly (University College Dublin)**