



UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems



Research & Innovation News

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Editor's note

In June the School conducted a review of its research and innovation function. The review was conducted by a three-member External Peer Review Group (EPRG), comprising Professor Linda McGillis Hall, Associate Dean of Research & External Relations, University of Toronto; Professor Jessica Corner, Head of the School of Health Sciences, University of Southampton and Professor Torres Sweeney, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science & Veterinary Medicine. The EPRG met with key stakeholders, including academic and research staff, research students and representatives from the HSE, An Bord Altranais and the School's partner hospitals.

Following its visit, the EPRG presented their report to Dr McNamara, Dean and Head

of School. The Review Group pointed to some notable achievements in the past five years, including the 'tremendous growth and development' in the School's research base. The Group also wrote of the School's innovative partnerships and scholarly engagement, integrated with national policy, regulatory bodies and clinical practice agencies.

The Group also made a number of recommendations on the ways that the School might continue to develop its research and innovation function over the next five years. These included the need to ensure that research activity is focused on clinically-relevant areas, including older people, maternal and child health and health systems and that research should be driven by practice relevance,

service and policy need and clearly aligned with the School's educational programmes. The Review Group also made recommendations in areas of staff development and engagement, graduate training and research careers.

The Report of the Review Group represents a milestone in the School's development. It will inform the School's QA/QI process and has already formed the basis of discussions with the President and the University Senior Management Team. In the coming months, the Head of School and the School Management Team will examine the Group's recommendations and will work closely with all School staff and other key stakeholders in addressing the recommendations (GF).

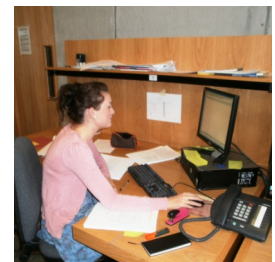
Student news



Three degrees!

Pictured left to right are Dr Eileen Furlong, Dr Patricia Fox and Dr Sinead O'Toole, newest graduates from the School's graduate research program. Each was conferred with a PhD degree at the nursing and midwifery conferring ceremony held in the O'Reilly Hall in June.

Congratulations to all three!



Summer Student Scholar
Jennifer Smartt



Preserving the record

The Irish Nurses' Journals Collection

Irish Nurses' Journals Collection

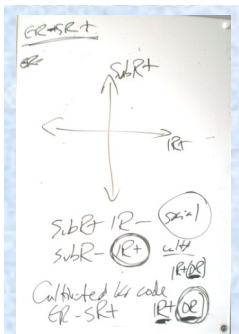
UCD IRISH CENTRE for NURSING & MIDWIFERY HISTORY

The Irish Nursing Journals Digitisation Project is a collaborative project between the UCD Irish Centre for Nursing & Midwifery History, UCD Library and the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO). It aims to produce and preserve journal content by digitising and describing historic nursing journals that are currently held at the INMO Library. This

content will be added to the UCD Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) a digital repository initiative in UCD Library, thus ensuring greater visibility and increased access for this valuable resource.

The digitizing project is being undertaken with grant assistance from the IRCHSS Targeted Co-fund Initiative. The grant

is part funded by IRCHSS and part funded by the INMO. The project commenced in December 2010 and will be completed in spring 2012. Audrey Drohan is the Operational Project Manager, IVRLA, and Ríoghnach Ahern is the Metadata Librarian for the project. For further information visit: <http://www.ucd.ie/icnmh/>



Legitimation code theory

Visit of Dr Karl Maton

UCD IRISH CENTRE for NURSING & MIDWIFERY HISTORY

Dr Karl Maton, principal author of Legitimation Code Theory (LCT), visited the UCD School of Nursing Midwifery & Health Systems on the 31st June and 1st July, 2011. The visit was supported by the UCD Fellowships in Teaching and Academic Development and was hosted by the History Centre. Dr Maton presented two master

classes on Specialisation and Semantics, and their application in a range of educational research projects.

The seminars brought together individuals from a broad range of disciplinary fields, including linguistics, education, nursing, economics and sociology, and provided a forum for students, research

and academic staff to meet and discuss the potential of LCT in their own area of work. In addition to the seminars, Dr Maton met with a number PhD students for one-to-one workshops and he conducted meetings with the History Centre team, examining the application of LCT to data collected for the Tutors' Tales of Transition Project.



Pictured above with Prof Gerard Fealy, Centre Director, is Dr Brandy Lane Schillace of Winona State University.

History Centre activities

UCD IRISH CENTRE for NURSING & MIDWIFERY HISTORY

Spring seminar series

The Centre's spring seminar series continued. In April, Lisa Butterly, a PhD student at NUI Maynooth presented a paper entitled 'The development of an 'economy for lunacy' in County Louth, 1930-1937', in which she examined the economic

infrastructure that developed from building an asylum in a community setting in the new Irish Free State.

In May, Dr Brandy Lane Schillace of Winona State University, Wisconsin, presented a paper entitled: 'The father of British midwifery and the mother of inventions',

which examined the subject of Dr William Smellie's mechanized obstetrical phantom or a teaching device used in obstetrical training in the eighteenth century.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



To mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), the National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP), in collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) hosted a one-day conference entitled 'Open Your Eyes' on Wednesday 15 June 2011 in the UCD Health Sciences Centre.

The conference was formally opened by Ms Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health & Older People. The keynote address by Professor Mary Gilhooly of the Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies, Brunel University, London, focused on recent research into financial elder abuse. Professor John Horgan, Press Ombudsman for Ireland, delivered the conference

reflections.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Gerry Breen was also in attendance and signed the INPEA Mayoral Proclamation against Elder Abuse. Deputy Commissioner of An Garda Síochana, Nacíe Rice signed the INPEA Municipal Declaration against Elder Abuse together with Dr Martin McNamara, Dean and Head of School.



Pictured above is a section of the large crowd that attended the WEAAD Conference, 15 June 2011



Dr McNamara, Dean & Head of School with Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister for Older People (centre) with NCPOP team members, speakers and guests of honour at World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



NCPOP Seminar Series



The National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP) held a seminar, entitled *The Legal and Policy Challenges of Financial Elder Abuse*, on 22 February 2011, in the Health Sciences Centre, UCD.

Prof Katherine Pearson, Professor of Law, Pennsylvania State University

presented on *The Legal Implications of Ambivalence in Caregiver Relationships* and Commissioner Patricia Richardson, The Law Reform Commission, presented on *Financial Abuse: The Legal and Regulatory Gaps*.

The seminar was attended by almost 100 people, with a large con-

tingent from the legal and financial sectors.

Video recordings and PowerPoint presentations from this seminar are available to download from www.ncpop.ie

Further information on forthcoming seminars at: <http://www.ncpop.ie/>



Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Gerry Breen signs INPEA Mayoral Proclamation against Elder Abuse



Exploring nursing expertise in the care of older people

Nursing expertise in the care of older people



Older people in residential care settings have complex needs, which require specialist nursing expertise. This expertise is often tacit and not readily described in the literature. The need to develop qualitative descriptions of this expertise is the basis for an all-Ireland study that will examine nursing expertise in residential care for older people.

The study is a collaborative project between Dr.

Amanda Phelan (UCD) and Professor Brendan McCormack (University of Ulster). The project is jointly funded by the All-Ireland Gerontological Nurses' Association and Nursing Homes Ireland. Commencing in September 2011, the study will examine the essence of nursing care in long-term residential care for older people in Ireland. The study will build on previous work conducted by Professor McCormack and colleagues in the UK and

will deploy a range of methods, including observation of practice, interviews and the focus group method. It is anticipated that the study will provide a comprehensive qualitative description of nursing expertise in residential care for older people in Ireland. The final report of the study will be available through the AIGNA and NHI websites in due course.



Developing networks for research in elder abuse

Royal Irish Academy Grant



NCPOP researcher Dr Amanda Phelan obtained a Royal Irish Academy Research Grant which enabled her to travel to the United States and Canada in May to meet experts in the field of elder abuse and to develop protocols for piloting elder abuse screening tools in Ireland. Dr Phelan vis-

ited Cornell University (Ithaca), Cornell Medical School (New York City), Hartford Institute of Geriatric Nursing (New York University), McGill University in Montreal and the University of Toronto. She also met with representatives of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder

Abuse and with Dr Joy Solomon and colleagues in the Weinberg Centre for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. She also attended the New York Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the Annual NICE knowledge exchange conference on older people at the University of Toronto.

Project update: Supported Socialisation Study



Supported socialisation has a positive effect on social functioning and social networks

A Randomised Controlled Trial of Supported Socialisation for People with Serious Mental Illness funded by the Health Research Board is nearing completion. Led by Dr Ann Sheridan, the study examined if being supported to socialise results in improved social functioning, increased self esteem and extended social networks along with a reduction in social, emotional loneliness and isolation, as well as a reduction in illness related symptoms. In the study participants were allocated into two groups: an intervention

group partnered with a volunteer and a control group, not partnered with a volunteer. Both intervention and control group participants received a €20 monthly stipend. The intervention consisted of participants being requested to engage in a social activity for two hours weekly over a nine month period. A total of 125 participants recruited from services across mental health services in the Dublin- mid Leinster region and 63 volunteers commenced the study. All volunteers received training and were Garda vetted.

While some data remains to be collected from the last cohort, initial results indicate that being supported to socialise has a positive effect on social functioning and social networks and that those partnered with a volunteer fared better than those socialising alone. Early indications are that people with enduring mental health issues have significantly higher rates of social, family and romantic loneliness when compared to the general population. Final results of the study are expected in autumn 2011.

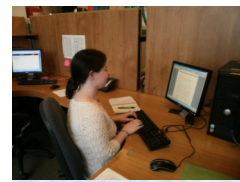
Summer Student Scholar Programme, 2011

Four Stage 3 undergraduate students were successful in obtaining a Summer Student Scholarship Award in May. The students worked at the School Research Unit for an eight-week period on a range of topics, including cervical effacement, satisfaction with care in a maternity hospital, nurses' perceptions of donor site dressings for children and the history of tuberculosis nursing in Ireland.

The four scholars worked under the direction of Professor Gerard Fealy, Dr Michelle Butler, Ms Maria Brenner and Ms Ruth Geraghty and were provided with opportunities to develop a range of new research skills, including online data retrieval, data handling using SPSS and NVivo and report writing. Workshops in library skills, academic writing and data handling were also provided.



Pictured (left to right) is Ruth Geraghty, ICNMH, with Student Scholar Michelle Burns Nursing



The Summer Student Scholar Programme provided students with a rich and rewarding learning experience

Summer student scholars



Paula Cornally



Vanessa Phillips



Jennifer Smartt

The Summer Student Scholarship scheme introduced students to the process of research at the School's Research Unit

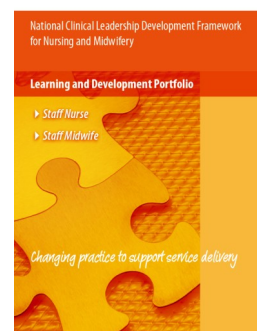
National Clinical Leadership Development Framework Pilot

A research team from the School was successful in tendering for the award of the National Clinical Leadership Development Pilot (NCLDP) Evaluation Study. Funded by the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery, and conducted under the auspices of the HSE Nursing & Midwifery Planning and Development Unit, the Pilot of the *National Clinical Leadership*

Framework commenced in June at four sites in the Cork city area with up to fifty nurses and midwives of all grades participating. In consultation with the HSE NCLDP team, the research team from UCD has developed a mixed methods evaluation strategy and data collection will commence in mid August. The findings from the pilot evaluation study will inform A National Clinical

Leadership Development Framework for Nursing and Midwifery, to be published in 2012.

The UCD project team is: Prof Gerard Fealy (PI), Dr Martin McNamara, Dr Mary Casey, Mr Tom O'Connor, Dr Declan Patton and Ms Louise Doyle (Head of Learning & Development, St Vincent's University Hospital).



Resource guide for educators

An innovative *Resource Guide* was developed in collaboration with our six clinical partner hospitals, UCD Access Centre and AHEAD, to prepare educators (clinical and academic), and managerial nursing staff, to enable them to provide additional support for students with a disability while learning in clinical practice. The Guide provides information on a range of areas, including legislation, competence, fitness to practise, disclosure, types of disabilities, reasonable accommodations and key resources relating to disability authorities and organisations. It also delineates the rights and responsibilities of students with a disability so that they are fully aware of the supports available to them. The Guide describes an integrative, collaborative model of support within which clinicians and academics can work towards ensuring a more seamless transition for the student with a disability into, and through, clinical practice. In addition, it is intended to encourage debate and exchange of information to optimise the support provided to nursing and midwifery students.

The Guide was launched at the *Annual Conference of the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability*, which was addressed by President of Ireland Mary McAleese and by Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President.

Dr Susan Fleming, PHD, MSc, BSN, RN, Lecturer at Washington State University College, Spokane, launched the *Resource Guide* at the *Annual Conference of the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability* which this year was held in association with the UCD School of Nursing Midwifery and Health Systems on 16 March. Dr Fleming, who herself has a disability, has received numerous awards of excellence in the United States, including the award of Exceptional Nurse in 2003, and was appointed honorary board member of Exceptional Nurse, a non-profit network dedicated to individuals with disabilities in the nursing profession.



Dr Susan Fleming

The *Resource Guide* describes an integrative, collaborative model of support

Project update: EuroHESC - Ireland

A team from the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems (Dr. Jonathan Drennan and Professor Abbey Hyde) in partnership with the School of Education (Dr. Marie Clarke) is undertaking a study on the academic profession in Ireland. Funded by the European Science Foundation and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the study examines the teaching, research, administrative and managerial roles of academics working in the Irish higher education sector.

The team from Ireland is also partnered with seven European countries including Germany, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Romania,

Switzerland and Finland as part of the European and Social Change in Higher Education (EuroHESC) programme.

As part of the study, a major survey of academics in Ireland has been completed and the results are being prepared for publication at the time of reporting. Two papers have been presented for publication in a forthcoming book on the academic profession in Europe to be published by Springer: *The Changing Role of Academics and the Rise of Managerialism* (Abbey Hyde, Marie Clarke, and Jonathan Drennan) and *Professional Identity in Higher Education* (Marie Clarke, Abbey Hyde and Jonathan Drennan).

A major qualitative study is also currently under way, in which sixty academics and higher education professionals from the university and institute of technology sectors are being interviewed on their perceptions of governance, academic careers and professionalisation as they pertain to their role and the higher education system in Ireland.

A major meeting of the European team was held in Vienna in May 2011. Further information about the project can be found at www.esf.org/eurohesc



EuroHESC:
Higher Education
& Social Change



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Innovations

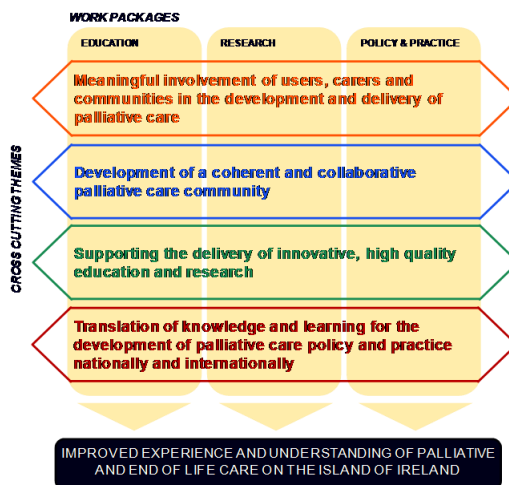
All-Ireland Institute of Hospice & Palliative Care

The need for a cohesive and strategic plan to increase Ireland's capacity to contribute to the international palliative care research agenda was part of the impetus to develop the **All-Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC)**. The Institute was also founded on the basis of a need to bring together the disparate elements of palliative care research, education and policy development and is supported by academic and clinical experts in the field from across the Island of Ireland.

In 2009, Professor Philip Larkin led a formal bid on behalf of a consortium of five academic institutions and six clinical partners to seek funding for the proposed Institute from The Atlantic Philanthropies and other key funding agencies across the island, including the Health Research Board and the Research & Development Office of Northern Ireland. Funding was agreed in early 2010 and the partners formed a Representative Management Committee, which currently manages the day-to-day working of the Institute. An Institute Director, Ms Paddie Blaney, was appointed in March 2011 and subsequent appointments will include a Head of Research, to oversee the national development research plan, and a Head of Education, to review and consolidate the academic programmes for palliative care currently on offer. Funding was agreed to a total of €10.8m, with the bulk of funding provided by The Atlantic Philanthropies, with devolved funding from other agencies, as follows: the Health Research Board will provide €1.5m for two research networks and the Research & Development Office (NI) will fund two PhD scholarships to a total value of £400,000.

AIHPC promotes four inter-linked, cross-cutting themes into a single entity in order to establish a cohesive and collaborative programme of education, research and policy for practice, allowing the activities and outcomes of each to add value to the others, through a focus on:

1. The meaningful involvement of users, carers and communities in the development and delivery of palliative care education, research, policy and practice
2. The development of a coherent and collaborative palliative care community
3. Supporting the delivery of innovative, high quality palliative care education and research
4. The translation of knowledge and learning for the development of palliative care policy and practice nationally and internationally.



Work packages and cross-cutting themes

AIHPC aims and objectives

Through committed stakeholder involvement across the sector, the AIHPC will:

1. Drive the strategic development of the palliative care workforce, through supporting high quality, accessible and transferrable learning and providing professional development opportunities
2. Foster a strategic approach to research and knowledge development, through a focused, research agenda, the development of critical mass via Structured Research Networks, and developing research capacity and capability.
3. Ensure that knowledge and learning has a real impact on service delivery, by promoting interdisciplinary working and knowledge translation.
4. Build on the history of strength and innovation in palliative care across the island of Ireland. Further information available at: <http://aiihpc.org/>