



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMH  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

2025

# Health Promotion Research Centre Annual Report



# Contents



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Title page photo:  
Professor Chaosheng Zhang

## Welcome Message

*Page 4*

## Our People

*Page 6*

## The Teams

International Advisory Board

*Page 7*

## WHO Collaborating Centre

*Page 8*

## Research projects

National Funding

*Page 10*

International Funding

*Page 12*

## Collaborations

*Page 13*

## Annual conference

*Page 16*

## HPRC in the Media

*Page 18*

## Awards

*Page 22*

## Our Students

*Page 24*

## Dissemination

Peer-reviewed Publications

*Page 26*

Others

*Page 29*

Conferences

*Page 30*

Press

*Page 32*

## Memberships

*Page 33*

## Contact

*Page 35*

Welcome to our 2025 annual report of our research activities in the Health Promotion Research Centre. We have had a busy year delivering on our work programme as part of our World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre status, meeting our research project milestones, growing our international research grant awards, organising and delivering our annual conference, building networks and research opportunities, disseminating our work internationally, nationally and locally and mentoring students and staff in health promotion research.

Our Annual Conference in 2025 was entitled 'From Awareness to Action: Advancing Sexual Health Promotion'. The conference was a hugely successful event, with keynote presentations from Professor Kaye Wellings, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, Dr Fiona Mansergh, Department of Health, Ireland, Professor Fiona Lyons, St. James's Hospital Dublin and HSE Sexual Health Programme, Ms Sally Aquilina, Rape Crisis Network Ireland and Dr András Költő, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway.

Our work as part of our designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research involved the successful delivery of evidence reviews and briefing papers on effective strategies for enhancing subjective wellbeing, a technical paper on best practices for

enhancing health literacy and wellbeing of vulnerable communities, evidence-based guidance to promote healthy environments in partnership with the Healthy Cities and Communities network, and participation in a range of WHO activities and networks. In 2025, the WHO/UNICEF European Child and Adolescent Health and Well-being strategy was approved by member states, which was a significant milestone that many of our staff contributed to.

This year also brought another successful redesignation of our Centre as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research (2025-2029). We will continue to contribute our expertise to achieving population mental well-being, promoting healthy environments and sustainable lifestyles, promoting health literacy across healthcare organisations and communities, implementation of the European Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Well-being, and supporting youth participation in WHO EURO activities.

We continue to work with our colleagues in the Health Behaviour Change Research Group, the HRB Primary Care Clinical Trials Network, and the PPI Ignite project, in the delivery of a 'population health' seminar series. The centre also hosted many undergraduate and graduate students and academics from around the globe, making the centre a

focal point for learning, collaboration and knowledge exchange. We are always open to hosting researchers and students, as we are committed to sharing best practices and policies in the promotion of health to the next generation of researchers. Notably, our projects and staff received a number of awards this year which is testament to the quality of our research, its impact and our people.

All staff in the centre have worked hard to deliver high-quality research that impacts health promotion policy, practice and education. In particular, I would like to thank our early and mid-career researchers who have managed complex, cross-national projects with limited resources and delivered excellent outputs despite significant challenges. We look forward to another year of collaboration and continued research excellence.



*Bill Kelly*

The HPRC is bringing together researchers from the discipline of Health Promotion. The Centre has a dynamic multidisciplinary research team with expertise in Mental Health Promotion, Community Health, Health Literacy, Bullying, Nutrition, Child & Adolescent Health, Sexual Health Promotion and more.

All projects are managed within the Centre from start to finish in relation to finance, staffing, scientific progress, ethics, integrity and quality.



**Principal Investigators:** [Prof. Colette Kelly](#) (Director, HPRC), [Dr Martin Power](#) (Deputy Director, HPRC), [Prof. Margaret Hodgins \(Head of Discipline\)](#), [Dr Lisa Pursell](#), [Prof. Margaret Barry](#), [Prof. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn](#), [Prof. Máire Connolly](#), [Dr Verna McKenna](#), [Dr Catherine Anne Field](#), [Dr Victoria Fallon-Hogan](#), [Dr Mary Jo Lavelle](#), [Dr Lhara Mullins](#), [Dr Allison Dunne](#).

**Researchers:** [Dr András Költő](#), [Dr Saintuya Dashdondog](#), [Dr Carmen Kealy](#), [Dr Aoife Howard](#), [Dr Laurie Décarpentrie](#), Dr Bianca van Bavel, [Dr Jessica Hayes](#), [Dr Ana Ivanovska](#), [Ms Aoife Gavin](#), [Ms Patricia Harte](#), Ms Tosca Keppler, [Ms Louise Lunney](#), [Ms Ruchika Tara Mathur](#), [Ms Lorraine Walker](#), [Ms Katie Howell](#), Ms Esther Mercado-Garrido, [Mr Adam O'Callaghan](#), [Ms Ellie Patterson](#), [Ms Tania Jahir](#), [Ms Ciara Mulgrew](#), [Mr Connor Hogan](#), Ms Tara Brogan, Ms Carmel McGarr, Ms Ruth Heffernan.

**Research Management** Dr Elke Rink and Ms Fiona McInerney

## The Teams

The Centre's work is overseen by our internal Management Team, a Research Team and an International Advisory Board.

The **Management Team** is comprised of the Director, Deputy Director, Head of Discipline, Research Manager and representatives from each staff category and meets tri-annually. They take overall responsibility for the governance of the HPRC, support the sustainability and growth of the centre, oversee the budget, and liaise with the University in relation to research misconduct, research integrity and research ethics, among other things.

The **Research Team's** roles are to guide and facilitate the research programmes, to assist in the implementation of the research agenda and to ensure best practices in research. The members meet bi-monthly and coordinate the teamwork among researchers.

## International Advisory Board 2025

Our **International Advisory Board** represents the diversity of health promotion stakeholders including government, researchers and the University's research management. The members of the Board provide strategic assistance and advice on current trends and developments, advise on the effective dissemination of the centre's research outcomes and technologies and they help to raise the profile of the centre nationally and internationally.

**Dr Sophie Jullien**, Technical Officer, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe.

**Ms Biddy O'Neill**, National Policy Lead, Health and Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health.

**Ms Helen Deely**, Assistant National Director Health & Wellbeing, Access & Integration, Healthcare Strategy, Health Service Executive.

**Prof. Hannah McGee**, Division of Population Health Sciences, RCSI.

**Prof. Caroline McIntosh**, Head of the School of Health Sciences, University of Galway.

**Prof. James Livesey**, Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Galway.

**Prof. Martin O'Donnell**, Executive Dean, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Galway.

# 03 WHO Collaborating Centre

Following our re-designation as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre in 2021, we have worked to support the WHO work programme at WHO Headquarters in Geneva and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The core focus of our work plan is on the development of health promotion capacity through the translation of health promotion research into policy and practice. An application for re-designation from 2025-2029 was successfully submitted in 2025.



**World Health Organization**

## Our Terms of Reference for 2021 - 2025 are:

1. To support implementation of the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 (GPW), with particular reference to the recommendations from the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on “Health Promotion for Wellbeing, Equity and Sustainable Development”.
2. To support the WHO in the development and implementation of the Health Across the Life Course Strategy.

During 2023-24, this constituted the following activities:

### 1.1 Activity: Briefing paper on effective strategies for enhancing subjective wellbeing:

Prof. Margaret Barry

- Conducted a review of the scientific literature on the development and implementation of strategies for promoting subjective well-being at the population level.
- Produced a Briefing Paper on effective strategies for enhancing population mental well-being, outlining the implications for policy and programme development.

### 1.2 Activity: Produce a technical background paper on best practices for enhancing the health literacy and wellbeing of communities, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable communities:

Dr Verna McKenna and Dr Jane Sixsmith

- A scoping review has been completed, the findings from which will feed into the development of the technical paper.

### 1.3 Activity: Develop evidence-based guidance to promote healthy environments in partnership with the Healthy Cities and Communities network:

Dr Mary Jo Lavelle

- Protocol developed for a scoping review of the international literature on the

evidence-base on promoting healthy environments through built and green environments within the framework of Healthy Cities.

- Briefing document produced, based on the findings of a review of reviews on the role of the built and green environments within the Healthy Cities framework.

### 2.1 Activity: Provide technical support to incorporate the European Child and Adolescent Health strategy into the Health Across the Life Course strategy:

Prof. Colette Kelly and Prof. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn

- Contributed to the development of the European Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) Strategy including youth involvement in developing, revising and advocating for the strategy.

### 2.2 Activity Title: Support youth participation in WHO EURO activities:

Prof. Colette Kelly

- Participated as a Steering Group member of the child and adolescent mental health quality of care programme to guide and support the involvement of youth in the quality of care programme.

### 2.3 Activity: Contribution to the international leadership of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study:

Prof. Colette Kelly, Prof. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn and Dr András Költő

- Continued contribution to the development of the International Network of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study.

We also contribute to the work of the WHO on an ad-hoc basis by providing advice and support for emerging projects, attendance at WHO meetings, membership of Technical Advisory Groups and reviewing WHO documents during the drafting phase of development. For example, our centre is represented in the pan-European Mental Health Coalition of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Global Expert Group on Adolescent Well-being Measurement and the Technical Advisory Group for Schooling during COVID-19.

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH**

**ACTIVITIES 2021-25**

- 1 PROMOTING MENTAL WELLBEING**  
Produce a briefing paper on effective strategies for promoting population mental wellbeing
- 2 ENHANCING HEALTH LITERACY**  
Produce a technical background paper on best practices for enhancing the health literacy and wellbeing of communities, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable communities
- 3 PROMOTING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS**  
Support WHO's work in the development of an evidence-based technical paper to promote healthy environments in partnership with the Healthy Cities and Communities network
- 4 TECHNICAL SUPPORT**  
Provide technical support to incorporate the European Child and Adolescent Health strategy into the Health Across the Life Course strategy
- 5 SUPPORTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION**  
Support WHO's work on youth participation and the development of resources for youth engagement and participation initiatives.
- 6 INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP**  
Contribute to the international leadership of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study.

# 04 Research Projects

Researchers at HPRC have successfully applied for international, national and local research funding of 10,467,251 Million Euros of which 3,106,993 Million Euros have been allocated to the Centre.

Listed below are projects active in 2025. Please click on the titles in the list below for more details.

NATIONAL	Total Grant €	HPRC €	Funder
<a href="#"><u>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 7, Ireland (2022-25)</u></a>	718,951	718,951	Department of Health
<a href="#"><u>Irish National Survey of Sexual Health (INISH)</u></a>	711,822	711,822	Health Service Executive (HSE)
<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Communications During Patient Discharge Processes</u></a>	240,000	240,000	Health Research Board (HRB) & HSE
<a href="#"><u>A Realist Evaluation on Social Prescribing in HSE-funded services in Ireland</u></a>	180,000	180,000	Applied Partnership Awards (APA 2022) HRB and HSE-cofund
<a href="#"><u>Stronger Together ABC Feasibility Study ABC Evaluation Study</u></a>	155,000	155,000	Health Service Executive (HSE)
<a href="#"><u>Atlantic Future Project: Mental Health as a Public Good</u></a>	3,839,637	183,327	North South Research Programme
<a href="#"><u>Food provision and the homeless population</u></a>	110,000	110,000	Irish Research Council (IRC)
<a href="#"><u>Occupant Behaviour on Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality in Irish Energy-Efficient Homes (BE-VENT)</u></a>	588,209	-	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
<a href="#"><u>Improving the mental health and wellbeing of priority population groups</u></a>	240,000	240,000	Applied Partnership Awards (APA) 2025. HRB and HSE cofund

<a href="#"><u>Urban Raingarden Project: Examining co-benefits of a nature-based urban intervention</u></a>	10,000	10,000	College of Science & Engineering SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Support Fund
Propoosal Coordination for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Standard Doctoral Network (MSCA-DN) for the Amplifying Quiet Sustainability Doctoral Network (AQS-DN)	10,992	10,992	Enterprise Ireland Horizon Europe Co-ordinator Proposal Preparation Support Scheme
<a href="#"><u>Fostering community wellbeing: Higher Education Institutions and parkrun partnerships in Ireland</u></a>	2,360	2,360	FutureCare Seed Fund 2025. College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Galway
<a href="#"><u>Review of Evidence and Policy Updates for Creating Healthier Food Environments in Irish Healthcare Setting</u></a>	26,237	-	HSE Healthy Eating Active Living
<b>Total National Funding</b>	<b>6,833,208</b>	<b>2,562,452</b>	



**European Research Council**  
Established by the European Commission



**Enterprise Ireland**



**An Roinn Sláinte**  
Department of Health



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



**CLÁR TAIGHDE THUAIDH THEAS**  
**NORTH SOUTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME**  
HEA



**Health Research Board**



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## Collaborations

INTERNATIONAL	Total Grant €	HPRC €	Funder
<u>Simulation Game for Health Professionals to Develop Skills for their emotional Self-Regulation (Simply4emotions)</u>	400,000	59,110	EU Erasmus+
<u>Mental health support for young adults with cancer (MELODIC)</u>	1,439,379	145,928	EU Horizon Europe
<u>Retrofitting for Improved Air Quality: promoting sustainable and healthy homes (RIAQ)</u>	1,496,164	289,503	EU Interreg
<u>Building Bridges to Resilience: Identifying International Good-Practice Principles in Applying Health Promotion to Emergency Preparedness and Response</u>	298,500	50,000	IANPHI (International Association of National Public Health Institutes) International Health Grant Programme of Canada
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>3,634,043</b>	<b>544,541</b>	

### EUROPEAN NETWORKING

**FESET** (Formation d'Éducateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educator Training) is a European association of training centres for socio-educational care work. Besides promoting education and training, it aims to participate in programmes of European bodies and to ensure that the training centres are represented at the institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organisations. FESET supports exchanges between training centres by linking those in EU member states with those from the Council of Europe or other European states and promotes terms for the mutual recognition of diplomas. FESET also publishes the journal *European Journal of Social Education*.



**Dr Martin Power** is a newly appointed member of the FESET board. He participated in the FESET conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr Mary Jo Lavelle** participated in the **IANPHI** Europe Regional Network Meeting, which was hosted by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI) on October 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Oslo, Norway. This year, the main theme of the meeting was "Sanity, solidarity and security: For an active role of European NPHIs in times of uncertainty". The IANPHI Europe Annual Meeting is for NPHIs' Directors (or their representatives) and IANPHI partners and guests only. Dr Lavelle was an invited speaker and presented findings from the international project Building Bridges to Resilience - Identifying International Best Practices in Applying Health Promotion to Emergency Preparedness and Response. This research is funded by the International Health Grants Program of the Public Health Agency of Canada, in partnership with IANPHI, University of Galway and Public Health Wales.



### UNFUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

A Scoping Review of Staff Bullying and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions

A Scoping Review of Bullying and Harassment in Voluntary Organisations

The Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC) continued collaborating with colleagues in the **Health Behaviour Change Research Group**, the **PPI Ignite Network**, and the **HRB Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland** to offer a joint Population Health Seminar Series to showcase our staff and visitors' research.



## Population Health & Health Service Research Seminar Series 2025



**Dr Sally Whelan, Dr Jamie Reilly, Ferdia Ó hEadhra, and Mary Patricia Corrigan:** Collaborative Autistic Research Empowerment (CARE): Building a Community Panel for Inclusive and Impactful Research Partnerships.



**Dr Carmen Kealy:** Megatrends of Migration and Urbanization - Impact on Health and Well-being.



**Ms Noirin Fitzgerald** (GP and Lecturer in General Practice): Future careers in general practice – the influence of the general practice experience in medical school.



**Ms Divya Ravikumar-Grant** (Health Promotion): Food Provision & Homelessness: Working Together to Enable Solutions.



**Ms Alba Madrid Cagigal** (Health Psychology): Digital Mental Health Interventions for university students with mental health difficulties.

Further HPRC collaborations span over other international countries. For example, our Irish National Survey of Sexual Health (INISH) has a strong connection with UK's National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (**Natsal**), one of the largest and longest-running national population health surveys in the area of sexual health. **Professor Kaye Wellings** from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, one of the keynote speakers at this year's Health Promotion Annual Conference, co-founded Natsal in 1998. The INISH Steering Group includes **Dr Soazig Clifton** (University of Glasgow), whose advice and help were invaluable in developing the INISH Feasibility Study survey instrument.

## HOSTING VISITORS



HPRC Lunchtime Seminar  
Understanding the population prevalence of violence and exploring why it matters for physical and mental health  
Prof. Janet Fanslow  
University of Auckland

**Janet Fanslow** is a Professor at the University of Auckland, and Chief Advisor of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. She teaches in the areas of violence prevention and the promotion of mental health. Her work is transdisciplinary, and she collaborates with colleagues in sociology, social work, psychology, public policy, and mental health. In 2018, Janet was awarded membership of the New

Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the research and prevention of family violence.

In collaboration with our mental health promotion research under Professor Margaret Barry, Janet Fanslow visited us from March 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



**Dr Caroline Residori** is a Sociologist and Research and Development Specialist at the Centre for Childhood and Youth Research (CCY) at the University of Luxembourg. Caroline visited us from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and contributed to many fruitful discussions on health behaviour in school-aged children in Luxembourg. She also gave a presentation at our lunchtime seminar series about the cross-sectoral youth policy in her country.

**Dr Ana Luísa Patrão** from the Centre for Psychology at the University of Porto (CPUP), Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, was hosted from March 7<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Ana Luísa presented on the "Sexual Health Assessment of Practices and Experiences" (SHAPE) study in Portugal and on her "Global Sexual Health Promotion in Universities" project. Whilst in HPRC, Ana Luísa also drafted a theoretical paper on intersectionality that HBSC and INISH team members are contributing to.



HPRC hosted three Portuguese scientists **Ana Taxeira**, **Francisca Pinto** and **Sara de Lima**, from the Nursing School of Tâmega & Sousa, Health Sciences Innovation in Health and Well-Being Research Unit of CESPU (Cooperativa de Ensino Superior Politécnico e Universitário) from May 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Prof. Margaret Barry, Prof. Margaret Hodgins and Dr Verna McKenna provided insights into HPRC's training and outreach projects in health literacy and mental health promotion, staff well-being and the role of organisational culture in higher education institutes. The visiting scientists, in turn, gave presentations of CESPU's training initiatives within the iHealth4Well-being Unit, including activities on student mental health literacy and community engagement.



"ON BEHALF OF OUR TEAM, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYONE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY – IN PARTICULAR, THE SCHOOL OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY AND THE HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH CENTRE – FOR THE WARM WELCOME, GENEROSITY, AND SUPPORT WE RECEIVED DURING OUR ERASMUS MOBILITY."



"WE ARE TRULY THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH, NURSING EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH. THE EXPERIENCE WAS DEEPLY ENRICHING, BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY, AND WE RETURN INSPIRED BY YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK IN THESE AREAS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO STAYING IN TOUCH AND TO EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION."



# 06

# Annual Conference

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 **From Awareness to Action:  
Advancing Sexual Health Promotion**

The topic of this year's conference was of interest to many people. The number of registrations was high with 160 participants in attendance and the event was used to discuss innovative, effective and sustainable approaches to promoting Sexual Health and Wellbeing. [More information here](#)

Over the last few decades, there have been important positive and negative changes in sexual and reproductive health, in Ireland and globally. Our keynote speakers and all presenters gave vital insights into these phenomena and trends.

## Keynote Speakers



### Professor Fiona Lyons

Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine at the GUIDE clinic, St. James's Hospital, Clinical Professor in Genitourinary Medicine at the School of Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin and the National Clinical Lead at the HSE Sexual Health Programme.

### Professor Kaye Wellings

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). after holding posts at the Open University, the Family Planning Association, the Health Education Authority, and St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Imperial College.



### Professor Elizabeth Saewyc

Director at the School of Nursing, and Executive Director, Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

### Dr Fiona Mansergh

Assistant Principal Officer, Health and Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health.



We were honoured that **Prof. Peter McHugh**, Interim President of the University of Galway, opened the conference and that **Ms Jennifer Murnane O'Connor**, Minister of State at the Department of Health, addressed the delegates via a video message.

**Prof. Philip Dodd**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health, gave the welcome address in person and acknowledged the work of the conference committee in putting together this fantastic programme.

Additionally, we were delighted that our event was chosen as a platform for the launch of the new **National Sexual Health Strategy 2025–2035**, the strategic framework for the sexual health and wellbeing of the Irish population.

Many of the speakers agreed to have their presentations available on our [website](#).

The conference and this year's topic were well perceived within the scientific community, the general public, and the **University**. This was also reflected in the high demand for exhibitors' space. Representatives from several organisations were present, for example, GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV), Sexual Health West, EDI: Consent Champion, and HIV Ireland. They were approached by many conference attendees, and we hope new connections and collaborations were initiated.

The conference evaluation revealed that many participants welcomed the chosen topic and appreciated the quality of the presentations and the organisation.

## Workshop leaders:

**Dr Éadaoin Butler**, National Research Programme Officer at South East Technological University, Ireland.

**Moira Germaine**, HSE Sexual Health Programme's (SHP) Education and Training Manager, leading on many of the promotion and education actions within the national strategy.

**Catherine Byrne**, Health Promotion and Improvement Officer based in HSE South West.

**Lorraine O'Connell**, West of Ireland Sexuality Education Resource (WISER) Coordinator for Sexual Health West.

**Dr Martin Power**, Lecturer in the Discipline of Health Promotion, School of Health Sciences at the University of Galway.



Left to right: Dr Fiona Mansergh, Prof. Kaye Wellings, Prof. Fiona Lyons, Dr Andrés Költő.



Left to right: Dr Andrés Költő, Prof. Colette Kelly, Prof. Peter McHugh, Prof. Philip Dodd.

# 07 HPRC in the Media

## Energy- & Soft Drinks

Professor Colette Kelly joined [Radio 1's Drive-time](#) @23.35 to discuss the health risks linked to energy and soft drinks, and the need for regulations to prevent the marketing of these products to young people, following the recent announcement of a ban on energy drinks for under-16s in England.



## Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)

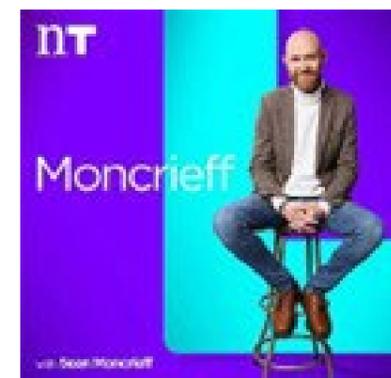
Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (**HBSC**) is an international study and it has been repeated seven times, every four years since 1998. As a long-term project, it has established, monitored and shaped national indicators of child health.

Professors **Saoirse Nic Gabhainn** and **Colette Kelly** are leading the University's **HBSC Ireland team**. Through the Irish HBSC team's leadership, this study has significantly enhanced youth participation in European policy making.

Findings of the latest HBSC study in Ireland from 1998-2022 were **launched in June 2025**. The report received nationwide media attention.

The HBSC Report was **launched in Dublin by the Minister of State** at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Well-being and the National Drugs Strategy, **Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD**, highlights notable changes in the health behaviours and wellbeing of Irish children over the past 25 years.

[Watch here](#)



## Sexual Health

Dr András Költő (2025) joined Fionnuala in the studio to discuss the Centre's sexual behaviour survey in Ireland and called for action to address sex education in Irish schools, with the drop in contraception use. Listen to [Newstalk's Moncrieff](#) from 00:42.



Professor Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, spoke to [RTÉ News](#), which featured key findings from the HBSC Trends Report. See also the [RTÉ News report](#).



## Sexual & Reproductive Health Services



PhD student **Ms Ruchika Tara Mathur** discussed with [Rashtadroot](#), a daily newspaper in Rajasthan, India, a new study by the Health Promotion Research Centre. This highlights how important adolescent participation is in shaping the sexual and reproductive health services that are designed for them. The findings from the study stress how young people's ideas can drive real improvements and can make mean-

ingful contributions to the services when given the opportunity. Ruchika is supervised by Professors Colette Kelly and Saoirse Nic Gabhainn.

## THE IRISH TIMES [Health News 03 Jun 2025](#)

Almost 50% of children and teenagers struggling with 'feeling low'.



## Irish Examiner

[News 03 June 2025](#)

Irish teens drinking and smoking less — but mental health concerns continue to rise.

## The Journal

[Behaviour trends 03 June 2025](#)

Decrease in alcohol, cigarette and cannabis use among school-aged children in Ireland.



[Health News 03 June 2025](#)

## Irish Independent

Irish schoolchildren are now more 'clean living' but prone to feeling mentally low.

# SOCIAL MEDIA



Our presence on LinkedIn (1,730 Followers) and Bluesky (226 followers) provides a key channel for communicating our research activities and about our academic achievements. We regularly share updates on current projects, publications, and expert talks, as well as information on webinars and career opportunities within the Centre.



These platforms enable us to engage with scholars, researchers, and the public, promoting knowledge exchange and collaborators across disciplines.

Reposted by Health Promotion at University of Galway  
**Debunking the Myths** @debunkingmyths.bsky.social · 7mo  
 Fantastic day at the 2025 Health Promotion Conference in Galway, hosted by @uniofgalway.bsky.social & @galwayhprc.bsky.social  
 Thanks to all who joined our sessions — we headed home more motivated than ever to push for inclusive, impactful sexual health education.

#hpsc25 #sexualhealthpromotion



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 3mo  
 Dr. Martin Power meets Pepper the robot, tries on the aging suit (which is really heavy), and dons a VR headset to explore supports for individuals with mental health concerns, all at the DHBW in Stuttgart, Germany.



Our #wd2023 panelists today in really forced us to consider where we are on an institutional and national level in terms of #genderequality and where we want to go. ...more

Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 3mo  
 Delegates enjoying the FESET conference (European Association of Social Educators) at the European Parliament, which looks stunning in the autumn sunshine #FESET



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 21d  
 Another fantastic day at our Postgrad Open day 🎉 If you are interested in our Health Promotion courses, please do get in touch. More information here: [www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taug...](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taug...)  
 #healthpromotion  
 @universityofgalway.bsky.social  
 @allisoningalway.bsky.social

Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 8mo  
 Fascinating talk by Dr Andras Kolto about sexual health across the life course, evidence from past and future population health studies in Ireland and findings from the HBSC study. #HPRC2025  
 #sexualhealthpromotion #hpsc @historyatgalway.bsky.social @andraskolto.bsky.social



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 8mo  
 Some of the posters presented at our conference today 📄 #HPRC2025



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 3mo  
 Huge congratulations to our MA Health Promotion graduates! Your commitment and achievements inspire us. Wishing you all the best as you take your next steps. Well done! 🎉



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 4mo  
 A warm welcome to all our new Health Promotion students!! We're thrilled to have you join us and here's to a year full of learning, collaboration and exciting opportunities ahead 📄📄📄



Health Promotion at University of Galway @galwayhprc.bsky.so... · 3mo  
 Exciting news! 🎉 The Health Promotion Research Centre (led by Profs Margaret Barry & Saoirse Nic Gabhainn) has been re-designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre, continuing our work advancing global health promotion policy & practice.  
[www.who.int/about/collab...](http://www.who.int/about/collab...)



**Collaborating centres**  
 WHO collaborating centres are institutions such as research institutes, parts of universities or academies, which are designated by the Director-General to ...  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

Reposted by Health Promotion at University of Galway  
**Pregnancy Loss Research Group** @pregnancylossie.bsky.social · 8mo  
 Professor Philip Dodd - Deputy Chief Medical Officer @roimnlaiste.bsky.social - speaking at the opening of #HPRC2025 @galwayhprc.bsky.social

New sexual health strategy 2025-2035: [www.gov.ie/en/healthy-l...](http://www.gov.ie/en/healthy-l...)



Health Promotion Research Centre · You  
 Administration  
 1d · Edited · 🌐  
 We are pleased to announce a free 8-week online training programme for doctors, nurses, & allied health professionals working in Ireland in clinical oncology, radiology, surgery. The MELODIC project is an ...more

**MELODIC MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER**

The MELODIC project is an international collaboration seeking to improve the mental health of young adults with cancer and their families/caregivers in the early stages after diagnosis.

An online training programme is being developed to provide healthcare staff with the tools necessary for integrating holistic mental health support into oncological treatment. We welcome healthcare staff interested in developing their skills and competencies through this course.

**MELODIC COURSE**

**For whom?**

- Medical doctors with interests in oncology (clinical oncology, radiology, surgery)
- Nurses working with people affected by cancer
- Allied health professionals

**Over the course of 8 weeks, you will develop skills in...**

- Understanding and assessing mental health needs following a diagnosis with validated guidelines and tools.
- How cancer affects the patient's family; how to improve their wellbeing and better integrate them into the treatment process.
- How to navigate collaborative practice with other healthcare professionals.
- How to ensure your own personal and occupational wellbeing throughout the process.

**Content**

- Module course
- Four Modules and symposium
- Modules include theoretical content, patient case studies, contact sessions, independent assignments & supporting materials

**Four Modules:**

- The Mental Health Impact of Cancer
- The Mental Health Impact of a Cancer Diagnosis on Family Members
- Interventions to Support Mental Health
- Key Elements of High-Quality Psychosocial Care

**You will receive 5 ECTS and a certificate of completion.**

**For the attention of interested participants from Ireland:**  
 Please contact Dr Sainiye Dushdonding to get more information and register your interest: [sainiye.dushdonding@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:sainiye.dushdonding@universityofgalway.ie)

The sessions will run between March - April 2026

More information on Melodic

## AWARDS

In May 2025, the HBSC Team (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children) received the **Dean's Award for its Outstanding Communication and Contribution** to the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.



The Galway HBSC team was founded in 1994 (funded by the Department of Health) following an invitation to **Prof. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn** from the leaders of the International HBSC Network to join them in their cross-national study of adolescent health and well-being. Since then, the international collaborators have grown from 27 to 50 countries in the European Region of the World Health Organization and North America.

The HBSC team produces policy reports for Government Departments, fact sheets and infographics alongside peer-reviewed journal articles. They have also developed a knowledge translation helpdesk which provides data access and bespoke analyses in short reports for all public sector and community/voluntary organisations.

HBSC activities included hosting national and international researchers and students, research dissemination, cross-sectoral data use, youth engagement and policy impact and collectively have shown a substantial contribution to the landscape of children's health in Ireland and internationally, which reflects very well on the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and the University as a whole.



**Dr Lhara Mullins** created and delivered a brand-new neurodiversity awareness training for staff to empower them in their support of neurodivergent students. For this fabulous contribution, she won the **CMNHS Dean's award for 2025 in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion category**. This work was undertaken as part of Lhara's role on the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

## A letter from the President of the University

One of our HPRC researchers, Tania Jahir, published a scientific article in **BMJ Global Health** [Impact Factor (JCR):6.1]. This was well noted by the President of the University.



Prof. David Burn

*"I was delighted to learn of your recent success in having a paper published in the highly cited journal, BMJ Global Health. In particular, I want to acknowledge and commend your contribution to the research excellence of our university. This research will be developed from lab bench to use at the clinical bedside and have a real impact on the lives of people who need medical and health care. Well done, Tania, and best wishes for your continuing research."*

*Yours sincerely,  
Professor David J. Burn"*



Ms Tania Jahir

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) contributions

**Ms Divya Ravikumar-Grant** and **Ms Mary-Pat O Malley** lead the Culture Working Group in the School of Health Sciences' **EDI Committee at the University of Galway**.

The Irish Association for Speech & Language Therapists (IASLT) has teamed up with the EDI Committee of the School of Health Sciences to record a series of podcasts on EDI in Speech and Language Therapy. They wanted to shine a spotlight on issues of diversity and the experiences of being in a minority within the Speech & Language Therapy profession. To address the topic across health care professions, they developed a series of podcasts for the IASLT In Conversation podcast. These podcasts can be used to help both SLTs in training and SLTs develop their cultural sensitivity. This is the **first episode of the podcast**; the other episodes can be accessed via the **Spotify link**.



# 08

## Our Students



### Research Master Dissertations and PhD Graduations

MA	Sinethemba Bhebhe	Explore waiting list interventions available for children and adolescents using mental health services in Europe. A scoping review.
MA	Carmel McGarr	Health-Washing in Social Media Advertisements for Protein Bars.
MA	Aileen Convery	Participation in Aquatic Activity Among Women Over 50: An Irish Perspective on Benefits, Barriers, and Enablers.
MA	Clodagh Foley	Barriers to Help-Seeking Among Men in Rural Ireland and the Role of Men's Sheds in Supporting Wellbeing.
MA	Annemaree Coady	How Individuals Perceive the Benefits and Limitations of Whole Food Plant-Based Diets for Cardiovascular Health.
MA	Katie Garvey	Exploring the perspectives of Irish primary school teachers on food education in schools.
MA	Moronke Ige	Exploring the impact of social media on social isolation among adolescents: A scoping review.
MA	Ansa Joy	Assessing eye health literacy in digital device practice among university students.
MA	Laoise Buchholtz	Are health literacy levels affected by the perceived standard of patient-entered communication among Type 2 diabetic service users?
MA	Nadia Anne Atalla	What are the perspectives and experiences of school communities regarding the implementation of the hot meals programme for school-aged children in Limerick?
MA	Dr. Nahom Megerssa Negasa	Sociocultural Barriers to HPV Vaccination of Women in Low-Income Countries: A Scoping Review.
MA	Susannah McDonagh	Food Insecurity: Do Students at University of Galway Experience Food Insecurity?
MA	Aoife McHugh	Exploring the Impact of the Gaelic for Mothers & Others Initiative in the West of Ireland.
MA	Rebekah Shields	An evaluation of the content and quality of lifestyle information on the internet for menopause.

MA	Ciara Murphy	Breastfeeding in public spaces: An investigation into Supportive Environments in Galway city.
MA	Aisling McCarthy	A Scoping Review of Obesity Prevalence and Nutrition-Based Interventions for Adults with Intellectual Disability.
PhD	Lauren Connell	Developing Health Professionals' Health Literacy Competencies to support patients in diabetes self-management.

### Research student mentorships

Awardee	Supervisor	Project Title	Funder
Mr Kyle Foo	Dr András Költő	Predictors of sexual initiation in adolescents from Ireland.	HRB Summer Student Scholarship. €3,200
Ms Carmel McGarr	Dr Laurie Décarpentrie	Developing a Youth Advisory Panel for the HBSC project: Literature review and planning of a yearly program.	ECR supervisor student-ship. €3,200
Ms Aoife McDarby	Dr Mary Jo Lavelle	Exploration of Health Promotion Strategies to Emergency Preparedness and Response.	ECR supervisor student-ship. €3,200
Ms Jumanah Al Ibrahim	Prof. Colette Kelly	Creating and optimizing an evidence-based clinical pathway for eating disorders in an Irish Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.	HRB Summer Student Scholarship. €3,200

### New Hardiman Fellow

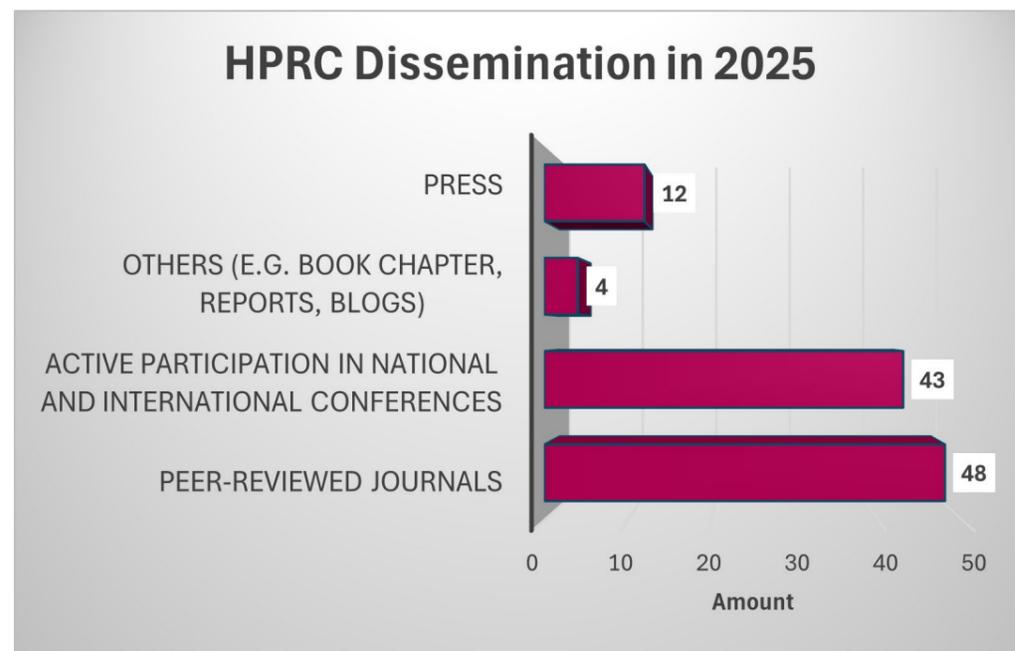
**Ms Patricia Harte** was one of the 19 scholars selected in 2025 from a large pool of applicants seeking to develop their research skills and independence through the renowned structured Hardiman PhD programmes at the University of Galway. Patricia Harte's research will evaluate the impact of a community-based mental health promotion initiative, Act Belong Commit, on the mental well-being of participants.



### Work placement Student

**Ms Ella Brose**, a Master's student from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, visited us from May 12<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. During her time at the HPRC, Ella contributed significantly to the Centre's projects and events including: including literature reviews, data cleaning, data visualisations, social media campaign planning and content development for the HBSC Ireland 1998-2022 Trends Report launch, infographics and promotional materials for various stakeholders.

# 09 Dissemination



## Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals

- Benner, A. D., Harrington, M. K., **Kealy, C.**, & Nwafor, C. E. (2025). The COVID-19 pandemic and adolescents' and young adults' experiences at school: A systematic narrative review. *J Res Adolesc*, 35(1), e12935. [doi:10.1111/jora.12935](https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12935)
- Bóthe, B. et al. (**Költő, A.**), (2025). Identification and comprehensive characterization of moral disapproval and behavioral dysregulation-based pornography-use profiles across 42 countries. *J Behav Addict*, 14(1), 131-154.
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- Décarpentrie, L.**, Bélanger, C., Rakotondramanana, B., Rakotomalala, O., Guirao, J. L., Ramarokoto Ny Aina, M. A., & Gadais, T. (2025). Art, music, and sport: Catalysts of growth for youth in extreme contexts – A qualitative inquiry. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 1–19. [doi.org/10.1080/10852352.2025.2580746](https://doi.org/10.1080/10852352.2025.2580746)
- Dunne, A. R.** (2025). Social prescribing or community referral? Either way, let's do it. *BMJ*, 389, r1062. [doi:10.1136/bmj.r1062](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.r1062)
- Fournier, L. et al. (**Költő, A.**) (2025). Evaluating the factor structure and measurement invariance of the 20-item short version of the UPPS-P Impulsive Behavior Scale across multiple countries, languages, and gender identities. *Assessment*, 32(5), 635-653.
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- Hurley O'Dwyer, R., Stout, R. C., Koum Besson, E. S., Bustinduy, A. L., & **Connolly, M. A.** (2025). Towards multilingualism in global health. *Global Health*, 21(1), 16. [doi:10.1186/s12992-025-01107-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-025-01107-6)
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## Other Publications (Book chapters, Reports, Blogs etc.)

**Költő, A.**, Adolescent Love: Epidemiological Insights. Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2025. C.-H. Mayer, E. Vanderheiden (eds.), *International Handbook of Love*. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-76665-7\\_62-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-76665-7_62-1)

**Power, M.**, & Workers Advisory Group (2025). Regulation of social care work: the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end? **CÚRAM, special edition Professionalisation and Registration**

**Lunney, L.**, **Gavin, A.**, **Költő, A.**, **Walker, L.**, **Nic Gabhainn, S.**, & **Kelly, C.** (2025). Trends in Health Behaviours, Outcomes and Contexts: 1998-2022. The Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study. Dublin: Department of Health. Report: <https://doi.org/10.13025/29602>

**McKenna, V.**, **Dashdondog, S.**, **O'Callaghan, A.**, **Howell, K.**, and **Barry, M.M.** (2025). A Realist Evaluation of HSE-funded Social Prescribing Services in Ireland. Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway, Ireland.

## Participation in National & International Conferences

**Barry, M.M.** “The Development of Ireland’s National Mental Health Promotion Plan: Pathways to Wellbeing 2024”. Keynote presentation. Canadian Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Steering Committee Meeting - Public Health Network. Online Canada, March 31, 2025.

**Barry M.M.** “Translating research to policy makers”. Invited panel speaker at Research Ireland DOROTHY CO-FUND Fellows Training Event. Dublin, 13 November 2025.

Coggins, M., Macenaite, M. **Hogan, V.** & Hassan. H. (2025). Attitudes and behaviours towards indoor air quality and ventilation in Irish energy-efficient homes (BE-VENT). [Poster presentation]. ISES Europe-Workshop 2025, 20-22 October, Lisbon.

**Dunne, A.** & Sheils, G. (2025). Cross-sector partnerships in health-promoting universities: Mapping the university parkruns in Ireland. Poster presentation, Health Promotion Annual Conference, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway. June 26th 2025.

**Dunne, A.** & Convery, A. (2025). Making a Scene: Empowering creativity within problem-based learning for health promotion education. Oral presentation. ENLIGHT Teaching and Learning conference, Uppsala, Sweden, 8th-10th October 2025.

Finn, Y., **Duffy, L., McKenna, V.** (2025). Strengthening communications during patient discharge processes: Improving patient experienced quality of care and patient safety, Verbal presentation, International Conference for Communication in Health Care (ICCH), October 2025, Toronto, Canada.

Foo, K. S., **Gavin, A., Lunney, L., Nic Gabhainn, S., Kelly, C., & Költő, A.** (2025). Sexual health across sexual orientations and gender identities among adolescents in Ireland. Presentation at the Gay Health Forum 2025, Dublin, 26 September 2025.

**Harte, P., Keppler, T., Barry, M.M.,** Walsh, O., & Clarke, A. (2025, May). Act Belong Commit – For sustainable and resilient communities in Ireland. 14th Nordic Public Health Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Hassan, H., Coggins, M., Norton, D., Mishra, A., **Hogan, V.,** Wemken, N., Macenaite, M. & Doherty, E. (2025). Energy retrofits, a just transition to better indoor air quality: findings from the Irish HAVEN study. ISIAQ Healthy Buildings Europe Conference, 8-11 June, Iceland.

**Hogan, V., Hodgins, M.,** Hogan, M., Hynes, S., O’Malley, M.P. & **Power, M.** (2025). Work-related quality of life and well-being of social care workers in the disability sector in Ireland. Social Care Ireland, Disability Special Interest Group Annual Conference, 6th November, Carlow, Ireland.

**Hogan, V., Hodgins, M.,** Hogan, M., Hynes, S., O’Malley, M.P. & **Power, M.** (2025). Work-related quality of life and well-being of allied healthcare workers in Ireland. FOHNEU Congress, 2-3 October, Cork, Ireland.

Hogan-Murphy, D., **Patterson, E.,** Kieran, N., Finn, Y., MacCarthy, R., **Jahir, T., & McKenna, V.** (2025, November 21). Strengthening Communications During Patient Discharge Processes: Focus on Discharge Medications [Presentation, poster]. Irish Medication Safety Network, Dublin, Ireland.

**Howard, A.,** Vaughan, E., Maloney, R., & **Kelly, C.** (2025, June). Policymakers’ research priorities for the next cross-governmental research programme for children and young people in Ireland [Poster presentation]. Health Promotion Conference 2025, University of Galway, Ireland.

**Kelly, C.** (2025). Nutrition and Food Behaviours of Children and Adolescents: a Health Promotion Perspective. Keynote, Nutrition Society annual meeting, Dublin, June 11th 2025.

**Kelly, C.** (2025). Overweight and obesity in childhood. Children and Adolescents’ Health and Well-being Strategy in Europe. WHO/UNICEF webinar, June 17th 2025.

**Kelly, C.** (2025). Health Behaviour in School-aged Children: Sharing the knowledge. Oide SPHE/Wellbeing, Kilkenny Education Centre, February 28th, 2025.

**Költő, A.** (2025). Adolescent sexual health in Ireland and internationally: Insights from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study. Invited talk at the “Promoting young people’s sexual health and well-being: Challenges and opportunities” conference organised by the HSE Sexual Health Programme, Dublin, 19 February 2025.

**Költő, A.** (2025). Sexual health across the life course: Evidence from past and future population health studies in Ireland. Invited plenary talk at the 29th Health Promotion Annual Conference, University of Galway, Galway, 26 June 2025. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10683.94249>

**Lavelle, M.J.** (2025). Creating context for health and corridors of consumption. International Conference on Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) 2025: Lund University, Lund (April 2025).

**Lavelle, M.J.,** Fowler, T. and Rixon, D. (2025) Building Bridges to Resilience: - Identifying International Best Practices in Applying Health Promotion to Emergency Preparedness and Response. IANPHI Global Meeting (Maputo, Mozambique). April 2025.

**Lavelle, M.J.,** Carlin, C., Finnegan W. (2025) Urban Raingardens: Examining co-benefits of an nature-based urban intervention. Conference paper. NatureWorks Conference (Sponsored by Pocket Forests and Lifes-2goodfoundation). Invited Speaker. University of Galway, (22nd October 2025).

**Lavelle, M.J.** & Fowler, T. (2025) Building Bridges to Resilience: - Identifying International Best Practices in Applying Health Promotion to Emergency Preparedness and Response. IANPHI European Meeting, Oslo, Norway. 8-10th Oct 2025.

**Lavelle, M.J.** (2025) Urban Raingardens: Examining co-benefits of an nature-based urban intervention. Conference paper. And a poster presentation at NatureWorks Event (Sponsored by Pocket Forests and Lifes-2goodfoundation). University of Galway, (22nd October 2025).

**Lavelle, M.J.** Carlin, C. Finnegan W. (2025) Co-Benefits of Urban Interventions for Climate and Health: Pilot RainGarden Project: Galway City Climathon Conference, University of Galway (Oct 24th 2025).

**Lavelle, M.J.** (2025) Continued Professional Development Showcase: Innovative health promotion projects across Ireland case studies from Ireland: Session Chair. Apr 2025. Association of Health Promotion Ireland CPD Seminar April 2025.

**Lunney, L., Gavin, G., Költő, A., Kelly, C., & Nic Gabhainn, S.** (2025, May 27). Single-sex schools in Ireland: Exploring school and wellbeing indicators [Conference presentation]. Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Network Spring 2025 Meeting, Athens, Greece.

**Mathur, R. T., O’Reilly, D., Költő, A., Nic Gabhainn, S., & Kelly, C.** (2025). In bed together: Flexible Patient and Public Involvement in the Irish National Survey of Sexual Health. Poster presented at the 29th Health Promotion Annual Conference, University of Galway, Galway, 26 June 2025. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.26281.51047>

Macenaite, M., **Hogan, V.,** Hassan, H, Hajdukiewicz, M. & Coggins, A.M. (2025). Impact of Occupant Behaviour on Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality in Irish Energy-Efficient Homes (BE-VENT). [Poster Presentation]. Healthy Buildings Conference, 8-11 June, Iceland.

Macenaite, M., **Hogan, V.,** Hassan, H., & Coggins, A.M. (2025). Impact of Occupant Behaviour on Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality in Irish Energy-Efficient Homes (BE-VENT). [Poster Presentation]. Behaviour Change for Health and Sustainability Conference, 2-3 April, Lisbon.

**McLoone, M. & Kelly, C.** (2026) “Creating healthy spaces: how a partnership project between ATU and the HSE turned a vision into art”. Student Affairs Ireland Learning Series, February 24th, Invited Speaker.

**McLoone, M., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C.** (2025) “Can walls really talk? Case study outlining the creation of a breastfeeding wall mural on a university campus in Ireland”. 29th Health Promotion Conference, University of Galway, Ireland. 26th June 2025.

**McLoone, M., Carrol, P., Cunningham, L., Kennedy, Y. & Kelly, C.** (2025) ‘Nurturing’ art and conversations: A partnership project to form a breastfeeding wall mural on a university campus in Ireland. International Health Promoting Campuses Conference. University of Limerick, Ireland, 16-19th June 2025.

**Mc Loone, M. & Kelly, C.** (2025) “From Beans to Brilliance: The World Café Method. A Masterclass in utilising the WC methodology in person and online for conversations that matter”. Parallel session paper presentation. Theme: Immersive Learning: Innovative Pedagogies. ATU DigitalEd25 Conference, May 2025.

**Mc Loone, M. & Kelly, C.** (2025) Health and Biomedical Research Centre Seminar Series. “From Beans to Brilliance: The World Café Method”. An Overview of the WC Methodology and practical tips for conversations that matter”. Atlantic Technological University, April 2025.

# Memberships 10

**Mc Loone, M.,** Carroll, P., Cunningham, L., Kennedy, Y., Murphy, F. & **Kelly, C.** (2025) “Nurturing Walls: A partnership journey to create a breastfeeding wall mural on a university campus in Ireland”. National Healthy Childhood Health Programme Conference, 27th March 2025.

**McLoone, M. & Kelly, C.** (2025) Student Affairs Ireland, Lunch & Learn Sessions 2025 Series. Workshop Title: “Spilling the beans: Using World Cafes as an innovative, engaging tool to ‘brew’ health in the 3rd level sector”. March 2025.

Negasa, N. M., & **Howard, A.** (2025, June). Sociocultural barriers to HPV vaccination of women in low-income countries: A scoping review [Poster presentation]. Health Promotion Conference 2025, University of Galway, Ireland.

Patrão, A. L., **Kelly, C., Költő, A.,** Nobre, P., Aquino, E. M. L., Alvim, S., da Conceição Almeida, M., McIntyre, T., Nogueira, C., & **Nic Gabhainn, S.** (2025). The importance of an intersectional approach to sexual health promotion: A narrative reflection for public policies. Poster presented at the 29th Health Promotion Annual Conference, University of Galway, Galway, 26 June 2025.

**Patterson, E., McKenna, V., Duffy, L. & Finn, Y.** (2025, June 26). Strengthening Communications during patient discharge processes: Improving patient experienced quality of care and patient safety [Poster session]. Health Promotion Annual Conference 2025, Galway, Ireland.

**Vaughan, E.,** Maloney, R., **Howard, A., & Kelly, C.** (2025, June). A large scoping review of policy-relevant research on children and young people in Ireland [Poster presentation]. Health Promotion Conference 2025, University of Galway, Ireland.

**Ravikumar-Grant, D., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C.** (2025). The determinants of the nutritional quality of food provided to the homeless population: a systematic review. Poster presentation at the 32nd European Congress on Obesity, Malaga, Spain, May 2025.

**Ravikumar-Grant, D. & Kelly, C.** (2025). Assessing the Feasibility of Food-based Guidelines for Homeless Services. In-person poster presentation at the Nutrition Society, Irish Section Conference, Dublin, June 2025.

**Ravikumar-Grant, D., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C.** (2025). Assessing the Feasibility of Food-based Guidelines for Homeless Services. Poster presentation at the Health Promotion Research Centre annual conference, Galway, June 2025.

## Press

**The Irish Times** 03 June 2025: Almost 50% of children and teenagers struggling with ‘feeling low’.

**Irish Independent** 03 June 2025: Irish schoolchildren are now more ‘clean living’ but prone to feeling mentally low, new report reveals.

**Irish Examiner** 03 June 2025: Irish teens drinking and smoking less – but mental health concerns continue to rise.

**The Journal** 03 June 2025: Decrease in alcohol, cigarette and cannabis use among school-aged children in Ireland.

**RTÉ** 03 June 2025: Number of schoolchildren feeling low doubles over 25 years - study.

**RTÉ News** June 2025, key findings from the HBSC Trends Report.

**Department of Health News** 03 June 2025: HBSC Trends - Launch of 2025 Report.

**University of Galway News** 03 June 2025: University of Galway study reveals major shifts in young people’s health behaviours over 25 years.

**Rashtradoot News** 07 March 2025: Sexual & Reproductive Health Services.

**Newstalk’s Moncrieff Podcast:** Sexual Health.

**RTÉ Radio 1 Drivetime** 03 September 2025: Energy- & Soft Drinks.

**IASLT In Conversation podcast** 23 Dec 2025: Promoting awareness about speech and language disorders.

## Prof. Margaret Barry

- International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE): Elected Global President (2019-2022); member of Executive Board (2022-2025).
- IUHPE Chair of the IUHPE Global Working Group on Mental Health Promotion (2020-)
- WHO European Regional Office - Pan-European Mental Health Coalition of the WHO European Region.
- Public Health Agency of Canada – Expert Reviewer for the 2025 Chief Public Health Officer of Canada Report (2024-2025).
- University of Jyväskylä, Finland: External Assessor on Health Promotion Appointment Board.
- ADVANCE Mental Health Research Done Differently. Horizon Europe programme funded project on ‘Addressing mental health vulnerabilities from adolescence to older age: innovating preventions science for times of change’. Scientific Advisory Board member.
- IRC/EPA/HRB: Member of Steering Committee of the DOROTHY COFUND Multidisciplinary Research Programme for Public Health.
- Expert Advisor on Mental Health Promotion: HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan – Stronger Together Steering Group member.
- Association of Health Promotion Ireland (AHPI): Health Promotion in Ireland Working Group.
- Higher Education Authority (HEA) Student and Staff Healthy and Wellbeing Advisory Group member.

## Grant Reviewer:

- ENLIGHT Thematic Network Call.
- NordForsk Scientific Expert Panel on ‘Children and young people in the post-pandemic Nordics’.

## Editorial Board member:

- Health Promotion Journal of Australia.
- Journal of Public Mental Health.
- Guest Editor- Health Promotion International .
- Mental Health & Prevention: Editorial Board and Strategic Advisor Role.

## Prof. Margaret Hodgins

- Secretary of the International Association Workplace Bullying and Harassment.

## Prof. S. Nic Gabhainn

- Member of the Global Expert Group on Adolescent Well-being Measurement (MCA/PMNCH).
- Member of the Research and Practice Advisory Group for Growing up in Ireland.
- Member of the International Scientific Council of the European Public Health Association.

- Member of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children International Network.
- Chair of the Policy Development Group of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children International Network.
- Member of the Research Sub-Committee, National Drugs Strategy.
- Member of the Sexual Health Forum, Galway.
- Member of Fast Track Cities Galway Committee.

#### Prof. Colette Kelly

- WHO/HBSC International study Co-ordinating Committee (member).
- Member of the Association for Nutrition R.Nutr (Public Health).
- Member of the Nutrition Society.
- Member of the Early Years Sub-committee of the Children and Young People's Services Committee, Galway.
- Chair of the Youth Engagement Group, HBSC international network.
- Steering group member, National Nutrition Surveillance Centre, Ireland.
- Research advisory group member, Growing Up in Ireland, DCED.
- Steering committee member, Health Promotion Alliance, Ireland.

#### Dr Verna McKenna

- Member of the IUHPE Global Working Group on Health Literacy.
- Member of Practice Standards Committee, International Health Literacy Association (IHLA).

#### Dr Mary Jo Lavelle

- World Health Organisation (WHO): Technical Advisory Member on Health Promotion advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- AHPI: Executive Board Committee Member, Association for Health Promotion Ireland.
- SCORAI-EU: Executive Board Member.
- Association: International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) (Role: Member).
- Environment, Development and Sustainability Cluster Group (Role: member).

#### Dr Martin Power

- Member of FESET – European Association of Social Educators.
- Editorial Board member of the Journal of Social Care.

#### Dr Andras Költő

- Chair of the Sexual Health Focus Group, HBSC international network.
- Member of the Scientific Development Group, HBSC international network.
- Vice-chair of the Section for LGBTQ+ Psychology, Hungarian Psychological Association.

#### Dr Carmen Kealy

- Member of the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA).

#### Dr Laurie Décarpentrie

- Member of the Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Research Chair Sport for Development, Peace and the Environment, Université of Québec in Montréal.
- Member of the OCCAH (Canadian Observatory on Crises and Humanitarian Action).

## How to engage with us

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