



EQUIPS

EVIDENCE-BASED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH NETWORK

EQUIPS update

Thank you for registering your interest in the EQUIPS Research Network, and welcome to our second member update!

EQUIPS is the acronym for the **Evidence-Based Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Research Network** which brings together researchers, knowledge users like healthcare professionals, and patient and public partners to collaborate and accelerate QPS Research in Ireland.

September and October were busy months for EQUIPS and its member network, attending many events including the **National Patient Safety Office World Patient Safety Day conference** in Dublin and ISQua, Istanbul. EQUIPS also hosted its **Inaugural In-Person Event** on 2nd October at Trinity Business School. This provided a unique opportunity to bring together many stakeholders to discuss QPS research in Ireland.

We are always interested in sharing details of research, events, and progress updates in our newsletter. Please contact the EQUIPS Network Manager, Dr Jill Poots, at pootsj@tcd.ie if you'd like your work or opportunities to be featured.

We hope you enjoy this update,
EQUIPS Ops Team

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Inaugural In-Person Event

On 2nd October, we held our first in-person event at Trinity College Dublin. The aim of the event was to provide a networking space for a diverse set of stakeholders interested in Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) research in Ireland.

Principal Investigator, Prof Sam Cromie, and Lead Knowledge User and co-sponsor, Dr Orla Healy, opened the event, setting the scene for the day, by detailing the vision for, and their role in EQUIPS.

Prof Paul Bowie from University of Staffordshire delivered a keynote talk on Human Factors applied to healthcare quality and safety.

One of EQUIPS' Patient Partners, Anne Lawlor, shared her journey as a patient advocate, and the role research has played in it to date.

The day was such a success that it became one of TCD's top news stories! Read the article [here](#).

Many thanks to those in the Ops Team and wider network who helped pull the day together!



The Practicalities of QPS Research

At the Inaugural In-Person Event, a panel discussion was held on 'The Practicalities of QPS Research'. Joining the earlier speakers of the day on the panel were Dr Teresa Maguire (HRB), Dr Olga Cleary (HSE Research & Development), Dr Pdraig Carroll (PPI Ignite, TCD).

We hope to continue this theme in a series of **'Winter Webinars'** – keep an eye on your emails, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn for more details.

Barriers, Enablers, Values, and Visions

Attendees took part in a networking task on the day with a 'cards on the table' activity. Attendees introduced themselves to one another using a 'motivations' card, then worked with their small group to discuss and rank important barriers and facilitators to QPS research. Some used 'Wild Cards' for those which may have been missing. Finally, after reflecting on the activity, the groups constructed their vision for the network. The most frequently used words in the vision statements are in the wordcloud below.



Missed the event?
View the slides on our [webpage](#).

Inaugural In-Person Event: Gallery

Did you attend the Inaugural In-Person Event? See if you can spot yourself in our gallery!



Event feedback

Don't miss your chance to give us valuable feedback on the day. Use [this link](#) to complete the feedback survey before **Wednesday 6th November**. It takes on average 4 minutes!

Here are some of the things delegates had to say:

The event was really enjoyable, worthwhile, and provided excellent suggestions for additional information. I look forward to future events.

Great venue and variety in attendees
Really enjoyed Thank you

The discussion sections would be longer, the presentations would include different roles, and we could develop and share the pathways for the future.

A great opportunity for networking with others with a shared perspective. The platform presentations were really helpful for framing the discussions. The Human Factors Framing is really useful.

NETWORK UPDATES

Strand Meetings

Strand meetings took place between 9th and 16th September. These meetings give strand members an opportunity to discuss the EQUIPS work programme and report on updates.

Common themes across each strand meeting were:

- The importance of **co-design** in research and improvement work
- The need for **collaboration** within the EQUIPS network
- The need for research to be usable, to foster **implementation**

There is a **vacancy** for Task Lead for Work Strand 1, Task 4 - 'Community'. Email equips@tcd.ie for more information.

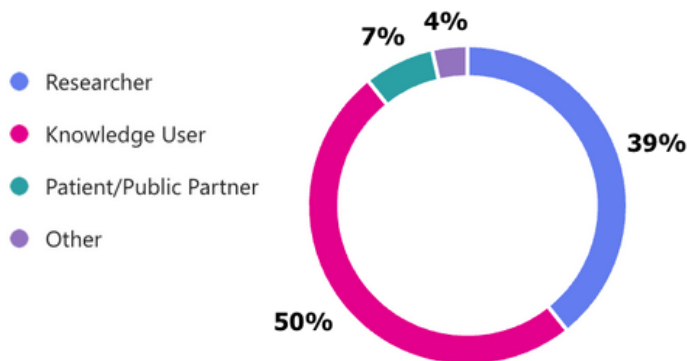
Strand 3 showcase

For the recent **Strand 3 meeting, an Implementation Science and Sociotechnical Systems Clinical Design Showcase** was organized by cluster leaders, Profs Siobhan Corrigan and John Brown and Network Manager.

At this event Nickola Pallin discussed her recent PhD research conducted as part of the SPHeRE Programme in the School of Public Health, UCC. Drawing on her interests in cancer survivorship and implementation science, she investigated **factors influencing access to SMS services for people living with and beyond cancer in Ireland**, and proposed an intervention. Nickola now works as a Post-doc in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy, TCD.

What do members want to see?

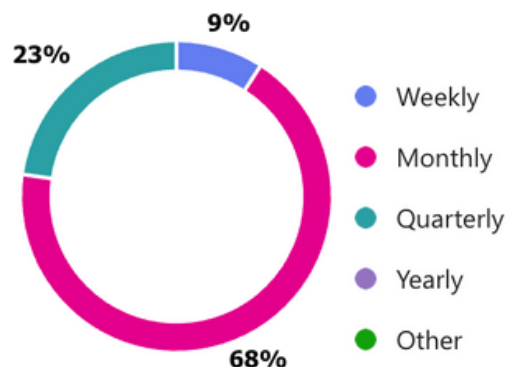
EQUIPS launched a membership survey in September, to determine the type and frequency of activities members want to see from EQUIPS. Below are some headlines.



50% of respondents so far considered themselves '**knowledge users**'.

Most respondents want to use the **EQUIPS website** (in development) and attend **networking events**.

Most respondents want to receive communication from the EQUIPS Network on a **monthly** basis.



The membership survey is still open and available using [this link](#). We encourage everyone to contribute, to inform 2025 planning.

Membership Matters

Patient Partner spotlight

Maureen Nolan is an EQUIPS Patient Partner. Maureen is a member of Patients for Patient Safety Ireland (a World Health Organization initiative), and employee of HSE North West Region.



Maureen was motivated to join EQUIPS to bridge the divide between patients and researchers. She wishes to bring the patient voice to the fore - and keep it there - by asking questions in layperson terms, and advocating for patient involvement in research as the norm. She is looking forward to learning more about research and pushing herself outside her comfort zone, whilst sharing her experience to help others.

Patient Partners needed!

We are recruiting for more patient partners. If you, or someone you know is a patient or patient advocate with an interest in QPS research, please get in touch with Network Manager Dr Jill Poots (pootsj@tcd.ie).

Find us on social media!

EQUIPS is now on [X](#) (formerly Twitter) as [@EQUIPSIrl](#) and has a [LinkedIn page](#). Be sure to follow, and tag us in any relevant posts.

Register your interest

Did you receive this newsletter from someone else? Make sure you **register your interest in the network** on www.tcd.ie/cihs/equips

Member Research

Recent research from EQUIPS Research Network Members:

- Dr Tom Foley (Inishowen CAMHS) co-authored a BMJ article on **learning health systems**. Read [here](#).
- Ciara Kirke (National Medication Safety Programme, HSE) has been involved in an EU-funded project to implement a model of service to address a patient safety need. Read about the **iSIMPATHTY** project report [here](#) and the first of the research papers [here](#).
- Dr Anna Chatzi (University of Limerick) recently co-authored a scoping review examining existing research on **safety attitudes and their predictors**, like personality. Only two papers were identified in healthcare. Read the article [here](#).

Share your updates

If you have a recent research paper, or QPS improvement project to share in future newsletters, we would love to hear from you. Please contact equips@tcd.ie with 'newsletter' in the subject line.

Conference news

EQUIPS members have had a busy few months of conferences, both at home and further afield. In this section, read about members' experiences of the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua), National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) World Patient Safety Day Conference, and the Patient Partnership Conference. Don't forget to check the QPS diary at the end of this update to register for information on upcoming conferences!



RCSI's Dr. Siobhán McCarthy, Programme Director for the MSc Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management, made numerous contributions to the **ISQua conference**.

Siobhán presented on "Enablers and Barriers to After Action Review (AAR) and Identification of Behaviour Change Techniques to Support Implementation". This research, published in [Safety Science](#), describes AARs as an important tool for team learning and improvement following patient safety events, and has the potential to significantly inform AAR implementation strategies in healthcare. The research was supported by a HRB Applied Partnership Award, with co-funding from the HSE.

Siobhán also chaired several sessions at ISQua. She noted "*there were many implementation and behaviour change science research studies of quality improvement initiatives*" and that "*this helps to grow the evidence for how to encourage up-take of best practices in settings*".

Following a successful and busy time at ISQua, Siobhán also delivered a keynote lecture on the research to **Health Managers Institute of Ireland Annual Conference** in Dublin, in October, which focused on leading positively in complex change in health and social care.

Siobhán is a member of the Internal Journal for Quality in Healthcare (IJQHC) Editorial Board. She encourages EQUIPS members interested in reaching a global audience to submit their research articles to [IJQHC](#) or its sister journal, the [Internal Journal for Quality in Healthcare Communications](#).

In case you missed it... Catch up on the [highlights](#) from the hybrid **Patient & Public Partnership Conference** which took place at Printworks, Dublin Castle on 24th September 2024.

Well done to all EQUIPS members involved in organising and presenting on the day!

Erika Carroll (Trinity College Dublin) writes about her experience at the **ISQua conference** where she presented a poster on 'Learning from Incidents: An Insight into the Experience and Wellbeing of Healthcare Staff Involved in Patient Safety Incidents'.

"Attending the ISQua Conference in Istanbul was an incredible experience that provided an opportunity to present my research on a global stage and also to connect with delegates and change-makers from around the world.



The research that was undertaken as part of the MSc in Applied Psychology in Trinity College Dublin, under the supervision of Dr. Adele Grazi and Dr. Samuel Cromie explored the experience and wellbeing of Irish healthcare staff involved in patient safety incidents.

The presentation was well received and sparked some engaging discussions and insightful feedback from healthcare staff and patient safety advocates from all around the world.

I was very impressed with the huge variety of talks and workshops scheduled and was particularly inspired by the workshop lead by Siri Wiig on the role and importance of leadership within resilient organisations.

World Health Organization (WHO) World Patient Safety Day 17th September, 2024

How did you mark the WHO World Patient Safety Day?

The theme for this year was 'improving diagnosis for patient safety'. It's never too late to raise awareness. View the WHO [campaign page](#), as well as the HSE resources on diagnosis [here](#).

Some EQUIPS members attended the **NPSO World Patient Safety Day conference**.

Members of the EQUIPS Ops Team submitted a poster entitled 'Building an Evidence-Based QPS Research Network in Ireland' to the poster competition outlining how our local initiative can contribute to the global aim of reducing avoidable harm in healthcare.

View the poster in full on our [webpage](#).

Building an Evidence-Based QPS Research Network in Ireland

Dr Jill Poots, Prof Siobhán Corrigan, Dr Germa Moora, Dr Orla Healy, Dr Louise Hendrick & Prof Sam Cromie
1. Centre for Innovative Human Systems, Trinity College Dublin
2. HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate

Background
Research evidence is important to inform and improve the quality and safety of patient care. The body of research globally is growing (St Pierre et al., 2022), but is relatively limited in Ireland (O'Connor et al., 2022).
A longitudinal study of adverse events in Ireland found no reduction in their number between 2009 and 2015 (Connolly et al., 2021), making it imperative to conduct meaningful research in Ireland, to address challenges and facilitate improvement.
Research networks promoting collaboration between different institutions and stakeholders are growing (Adams, 2012). Such networks may increase knowledge transmission (Adams, 2012) and trustworthiness (Nyirenda et al., 2020). In Great Britain, patient safety research collaborations addressing strategic priorities are believed to have impacted patient care positively, by informing evidence-based change (NIHR, 2022). However, there is little knowledge about how to make research networks successful, with most evaluations being anecdotal case studies (e.g., Wright, 2002).

Methodology
A new Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (EQUIPS) Research Network has been established. This project is funded by HRB and HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate. The Lead Knowledge User on the award is Dr Orla Healy (NPSO) and the Principal Investigator is Prof Sam Cromie.
The aim of EQUIPS is to coordinate and accelerate quality improvement and patient safety research in Ireland. It will do this through fostering collaboration with **academics, knowledge users, and patient and public partners**.

Background
EQUIPS has three activity strands:
1. **Enabling:** Puts in place **resources and events** to foster **collaboration** between members
2. **Understanding & Informing:** defines **priorities and strategies** for QPS research in Ireland
3. **Focusing:** The research "engine" of the network, comprising clusters of priority research areas, starting with **Implementation Science and Sociotechnical Systems**
Each strand has a **patient partner**
EQUIPS also aims to collaborate with **international QPS networks**, to share knowledge and improve capability elsewhere.

Discussion
It is hoped EQUIPS can serve as a **blueprint for building and sustaining similar research networks elsewhere**. For example, a particular strength of EQUIPS is its **inclusion of patient and public representatives**, which international QPS groups could model. Patient and public representatives are embedded within strands and in a separate **advisory board**.
Monitoring and evaluation activities can inform successful establishment of new groups by identifying activities which enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration. For example, a social network analysis study is planned to **identify knowledge brokers and thought leaders** in the network, to enhance information sharing.
Ultimately, the EQUIPS network aims to contribute **new knowledge** to both the Irish, and the global patient safety research landscape, to improve outcomes for patients.

Join EQUIPS at our Inaugural In-person Event
2nd October, 2024
Trinity College Dublin

Register your interest in EQUIPS

Get involved

Research and funding opportunities

Reminder: Applications are open for the **HRB Applied Partnership Award** until 18th December, 2024. Applications are welcome from teams of knowledge users and researchers. For details of the award see the details on [this page](#).

HRB have an open call for **Summer Student Scholarships (SS) 2025**. These scholarships help undergraduate students in health or social care-related disciplines to complete short research projects in the summer months. See the information and apply [here](#) by 12th December, 2024.

Frontline healthcare workers are eligible to apply for **HSE Spark Seed micro-funding and design tools** to start a project. Spark Seed enables frontline healthcare workers to apply for micro funding (up to €5,000 per individual or group) for innovative projects that have the potential to improve our health service. Applications are always open. Read more about the application process [here](#).

The HSE National Research and Development is inviting **proposals from Public Sector Bodies to lead on a project entitled 'Development of Guidance to Implement the HSE National Policy for Consent in Health and Social Care Research'**. The aim is to develop case studies and resources illustrating best practices for obtaining consent, supporting researchers in applying the Policy, and assisting Research Ethics Committees and participants in understanding best practices. Deadline for submission is 22nd November, 2024. Application forms are available from HSE Research & Development.



QPS diary dates

Are you a member of Q Community? A **Q collaboration event** is being held on 5th November at the Gibson Hotel, Dublin. Members are welcome to bring a colleague. Details available [here](#).

Call for posters is open until 11th November for the **IHI/BMJ International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare** being held in Utrecht from 21st to 23rd May, 2025. Read more [here](#). The Forum will also be held in [Singapore](#) in August 2025 and a call is now open for speakers until 20th November.

The Healthcare Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) conference will be held in Dublin on 16th to 18th June 2025. Calls for abstracts are open until 15th November. More information, and the submission portal can be accessed [here](#). Note: Early bird registration will close on 31st January.

Submissions are open for the **Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors' conference** in April 2025. Deadline for abstract submission is 1st December.



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