



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity School of Medicine
Policy and Civic Engagement Report 2024

Advancing engagement for better health impacts

September 2024





“Civic engagement, at Trinity, refers to the active involvement of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in their communities to address societal issues, promote democratic values, and foster positive social change.

This commitment to civic responsibility and the cultivation of associated knowledge, skills, and attitudes enriches the academic experience, delivers impactful research and scholarship, and fosters collective action for the public good.”

Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers,
Associate Dean of Civic Engagement
for Societal Impact

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Professor Susan Smith
Director of Health Policy
and Engagement,
School of Medicine.



Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers
Associate Dean of
Civic Engagement for
Societal Impact

Foreword

Civic Action plays an important role in Trinity College Dublin's Strategic Plan 2020– 2025¹ as reflected in its mission statement: "Through our teaching, research and public engagement, we courageously advance the cause of a pluralistic, just and sustainable society".

In 2022, Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers, from the School of Medicine was appointed as Trinity's first Associate Dean of Civic Engagement for Societal Impact. Under her leadership, Professor Ivers published the Civic Engagement for Societal Impact (CESI) Action Plan 2024-2026² which sets out to support and celebrate civic engagement and societal impact across Trinity.

As Director of Policy and Engagement for the School of Medicine, Professor Susan Smith is deeply committed to integrating societal engagement into the university's core activities, particularly in the field of Medicine. Professor Smith also believes in the transformative power of involving our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in addressing societal challenges, promoting democratic values, and fostering positive social change.

This Trinity School of Medicine policy and civic engagement report 2024 showcases a diverse selection of civic engagement activities taking place across the 21 Disciplines in the School of Medicine. By celebrating the achievements of a number of our civic engagement champions, both within Trinity and among our external partners, we are fostering an ecosystem that advances collective knowledge and expertise, leading to innovative solutions for societal impact.

While other civic activities are also taking place, this report provides a starting point for capturing and celebrating the difference that the School of Medicine is making in the lives of patients and communities.

The report focuses on work under four main areas of civic engagement:

- **Supporting disadvantaged local and global communities**
- **Promoting community health through creative engagement**
- **Learning Together – Teachers, Students & Global Communities**
- **Influencing health and social care policy**

By celebrating Trinity School of Medicine's contributions to local, regional, national, and international communities, this report is testament to the dedication and impact of both Trinity staff and our external stakeholders in driving meaningful societal change.

1 Trinity College Dublin's Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025.

2 Civic Engagement For Societal Impact Action Plan 2024 – 2026



Supporting Disadvantaged Local and Global Communities



Equity in healthcare is a core tenet of Trinity's School of Medicine. By actively engaging in initiatives that support groups who are underserved or disadvantaged by health services, the School of Medicine aims to address critical health disparities. This demonstrates its commitment to ethical leadership in Ireland and addresses its responsibilities around global citizenship. Such engagement provides examples of what is possible, proving that health services can make a difference in the complex lives led by some members of our society. It also creates new infrastructure that can deliver targeted and dedicated services to those who struggle to access them through traditional routes.

This work also provides students with the opportunity to learn about diverse patient populations and complex health challenges to equip them as future medical professionals with a deeper understanding of global health issues, cultural competence, and compassionate care.



Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme for Homeless Adults

Ireland has led the way in developing and deploying inclusion health practices in primary and secondary care over the last five years. At Dublin's St James' Hospital, the Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme is a vital resource for otherwise socially excluded groups, including people experiencing homelessness. This acute health service is led by Professor Clíona Ní Cheallaigh, a consultant at the hospital and a Trinity academic. The programme is deeply influenced by Professor Ní Cheallaigh's expertise built up over years of working in HIV medicine and the groundbreaking work of Dublin-based GP, Dr Austin O'Carroll, who established the medical charity, Safetynet, that collaborates with the Health Service Executive to combat healthcare inequalities for people who are homeless and the Roma community.

In 2016, the world's first hospital-led Inclusion Health team was established at St James' Hospital with a half-time consultant and a full-time nurse manager. Following a successful 2017 pilot, the programme evolved into a person-centred, multi-disciplinary initiative that included two multidisciplinary Inclusion Health hospital teams based at St James' and at the Mater Hospital.



Both teams are made up of doctors, nurses, social workers, and case workers who collaborate closely with a number of other specialties within the two hospitals. The team work in conjunction with partners in homeless services in the Health Service Executive and voluntary services.

Patients are referred to the team by community-based health and social care providers or by hospital staff. The team reviews patient cases during their inpatient admission and continue to be involved in care co-ordination after the patient's discharge through weekly inter-agency integrated care meetings. The team manages approximately 360 homeless admissions a year.

Inclusion Health is an innovative approach to clinical practice, research and advocacy for health and wellbeing that seeks to address the profound health inequity seen in socially excluded individuals, such as people who are homeless, members of the Travelling community and minority groups, people with severe and enduring mental illness, people who inject drugs, refugees, sex workers and prisoners. Inclusion medicine takes the view that it is the healthcare providers' responsibility to make sure that everybody feels included, can come into clinic.

The Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme is a model of what is feasible and acceptable and offers benefits to patients and health care providers. Its pilot programme reduced the need for costly unscheduled healthcare.

For more information: [Inclusion Health Research Group](#)

Drop-In Exercise Programme for Homeless People

A Trinity study has examined how a targeted exercise programme combined with protein supplementation can help combat frailty in people experiencing homelessness, leading to improvements in both strength and fitness. The programme was a collaboration between Merchants Quay Ireland and Dr Julie Broderick, Assistant Professor at the Discipline of Physiotherapy. The programme, coordinated by Research Physiotherapist Fiona Kennedy, was delivered at Merchants Quay Ireland's Riverbank Centre. TCD study collaborators included Trinity's Professor Clíona Ní Cheallaigh and Professor Roman Romero-Ortuno.



The study comprised of the roll-out of a 16-week ‘drop in’ exercise programme designed to have a low involvement threshold to facilitate maximum engagement and participation. The programme, which focused on general physical fitness, included an exercise circuit of 20-30 minutes. It was individually tailored to suit the unique needs of each participant. Music, selected by participants, was used to motivate and facilitate a relaxed yet stimulating environment. Following each exercise session, a nutritional supplement called Fresublin, which consisted of 20g of protein, was offered to participants, to build muscle after the exercise. Those who attended were encouraged to return each week.

The intervention’s main findings revealed a moderate but consistent recruitment rate to the programme as well as high retention rates, especially among women and older people experiencing homelessness. Participants stated how exercise improved their mental health and their sleep, with some also reported how it reduced or delayed their use of drugs or alcohol.

Programme outcomes were shared with Merchants Quay staff and featured in their 2022 Annual Report, along with a feature on the Merchants Quay blog.

The impact of the programme has been that Merchants Quay is funding a follow-on exercise class with approximately 5 participants benefitting from this class each week. The programme has also been adapted and expanded to two other locations, forming the basis of a PhD thesis for Fiona Kennedy, with funding from the Trinity 1252 Scholarship Program, an Advance Ballyfermot Project Initiative, and an Irish Research Council New Foundation Grant. A peer-led ‘Park Walk’, led by a former participant, has been continued in Ballyfermot and a boxercise class is due to commence in September. The real impact is that exercise programmes and initiatives are continuing in these settings. People with homelessness issues and addiction are availing of these services that are having a positive and holistic impact on their health and wellbeing.

The Brain Health Village Project

Brain health is not simply the absence of disease but the sum total of our physical, emotional, social and cognitive health. Our brain health is strongly influenced by our social and physical surroundings, and by the conditions into which we were born as well as the conditions that we live in, including the quality of our housing. However, there is little awareness about the impact of housing on brain health and how we can improve brain health through better housing and community design and planning. The Brain Health Village project is a groundbreaking initiative to integrate brain health principles seamlessly into housing design and community development. The Village is the result of an ongoing partnership between the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) and Respond Housing Association, both of whom are united in a shared commitment to advancing social justice and equity in their respective fields. Faculty and staff at Trinity, including Professor Brian Lawlor, Professor Ian Robertson, Dr. Tom Grey, Dr. Eoin Cotter, have been active in this collaboration.

The Brain Health Village project aims to apply brain health informed approaches in an existing development managed by Respond and located in Rathcoran, Baltinglass, County Wicklow. The development includes 56 homes next door to a primary healthcare centre that caters to individuals, families of all ages, and refugees from Iraq and Syria under the Refugee Resettlement Programme. With a mix of dwelling types, sizes, and tenures, Rathcoran offers diverse housing options, providing for an inclusive community. Communal areas promote the opportunity for social interactions and encourage a sense of belonging among residents.

Beginning in late 2023 this project has included a number of stages. Firstly a 6-pillar conceptual framework for a brain health friendly community was developed with an international group of contributors (see Fig. 1). This framework helped inform a series of needs assessment and co-development workshops with Rathcoran tenants. The workshops ran in parallel with survey evaluations. The outputs of this process have informed an implementation plan – which includes a number of ongoing initiatives such as healthy eating programmes, community arts projects, a social walking club, and development of education and awareness approaches for Respond residents and Staff. A robust evaluation strategy will ensure all learnings from this project are documented and will capture its impact on tenant brain health and wellbeing.



The Village has already received a *Chartered Institute of Housing Award for Excellence in Health and Wellbeing 2024*.

The potential reach of the Brain Health Village model is exciting. Respond alone currently has 2,095 social and cost-rental homes in construction nationally. Through GBHI's global network of Alumni and collaborators the BHV initiative will also have a much wider impact, as learnings and models from this pilot are adapted across diverse communities and settings in other countries and regions.

For more information please visit: <https://housingireland.ie/innovative-housing-for-wellbeing-responds-brain-health-village/>
<https://www.brainhealthandhousing.ie/digital-technologies-housing-and-brain-health/>

Supporting General Practice in Disadvantaged Communities

Deep End Ireland is a national collaboration between GPs working in disadvantaged communities across Ireland. Coordinated by Professor Susan Smith, Professor of General Practice, the group addresses existing health inequities and identifies opportunities to improve patient health outcomes and wellbeing. The key focus is to address the Inverse Care Law, which recognises that the availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for it in the population served.



The idea of the Deep End originated in Glasgow and there are now more than 12 Deep End groups internationally. Deep End Ireland was formed in 2012 and has continued to develop. It received formal funding from the Department of Health in 2023. This funding supports a GP Lead, Dr Brid Shanahan, and an Academic GP lead, Dr Patrick O'Donnell, from the University of Limerick. There are over 80 practices – in excess of 200,000 patients – involved across Ireland.

Current Deep End Ireland projects include analyses of GP distribution in Ireland with a view to determining if this distribution is appropriate based on patient need. Preliminary work indicates that there are fewer GPs in disadvantaged areas despite there being considerably higher health needs as people living in these communities develop multiple chronic conditions approximately 11 years earlier than their peers in affluent areas. The group is also reviewing distribution of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease care, which is one of the leading causes of emergency hospital admissions, and distribution of mental health care services for children and adolescents.

Deep End Ireland contributes to health and social care policy and was recently invited to make a submission to the Department of Health's Strategic Review of General Practice in Ireland. The group has focused on mental health and disability care for children. Current waiting lists of up to 3-4 years for assessments and services in this area disproportionately affect those who cannot afford to pay for private services.

Trinity Assistant Professor in General Practice, Dr Muireann O'Shea, led a study evaluating the impact of the new GP Urban Deprivation Grant. This study was published in BJGP Open (link here: <https://bjgpopen.org/content/8/2/BJGPO.2023.0195>) and reported that the recently introduced grant enabled Deep End practices to develop new services for their patients, such as the provision of counselling services and link workers delivering social prescribing.

Deep End Ireland reports and publications are available at www.deepend.ie

North South Community and University Partnerships

A new partnership initiative is exploring ways to improve public health, educational, and economic outcomes for children, young people and families in communities facing challenges in Dublin and Belfast. The North South Community and University Partnerships initiative is bringing stakeholders in children's health together to consider new ways of working.

The Trinity input to the partnership is led by Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers, Associate Professor in Addiction, and Professor Noel McCarthy, Professor of Population Health Medicine, in collaboration with the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI), the Queen's Innovation Zones at Queen's University, Belfast, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Shankill Children and Young People Zone.

Recently, Jackie Redpath MBE, Chief Executive Officer, Shankill Children and Young People Zone hosted a Partnership event in the Shankill Road's Spectrum Centre which explored novel North-South collaborations and shared insights about potential ways forward.

Marian Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, and Jonathon Doyle, Business Development Manager, from Tallaght Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) detailed the extensive child development work they are supporting in Tallaght and across Ireland. Annie Armstrong, Neighbourhood Renewal Manager at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, described the prevention and early intervention work they are conducting with families in the Poleglass and Twinbrook areas.

Professor McCarthy described the Tallaght in-situ Institute of Population Health and Professor Ivers described her work as the first Associate Dean of Civic Engagement for Societal Impact at Trinity. The Queen's Innovation Zones Directors, Dr Liam O'Hare, Dr Laura Dunne and Dr Karen Galway, provided some background on the Innovation Zones approach and examples of the projects they are engaging in with the Colin and Shankill communities.

The meeting inspired much debate and discussion about the work already happening in local communities and stimulated ideas about future potential in what can be achieved through community and university partnership. The group has submitted a bid, led by the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) and Shankill Children and Young People Zone and supported by university partners, to the Shared Island Civic Society Fund (August 2024) to share learning on integrating the voices of young people in community development.



Exploring North South Community and University Partnerships: Innovation Zones, Colin, Shankill, Tallaght and Trinity College Dublin

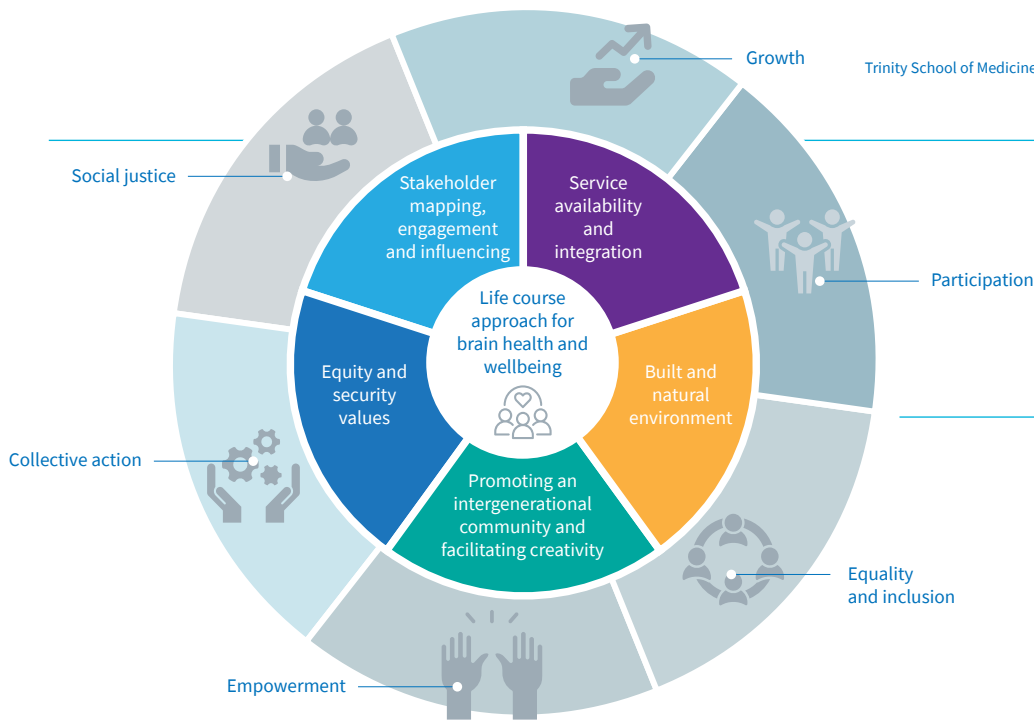


Fig 1.
The Brain Health Community Framework Model

Mapping Health Data to Inform Improved Health in Dublin 8

Optimising Data to Integrate Health and Social Care in Dublin 8 is a project that aims to maximise health and wellbeing for a local population by interpreting what their collected health data says about them. This project addressed concerns of 395 households in the Oliver Bond House community. The majority of residents have medical cards.

Although Ireland developed effective data-guided responses to COVID-19, it lacks an overall structured and integrated approach to ensure that neighbourhoods can benefit from data that is routinely collected from and about them.

The initiative aims to bring Dublin 8 health and social care services staff, Trinity academics, and a wide network of national and international expertise together to define priority information needs and feasible approaches to meeting the needs of the Dublin 8 community. The combined efforts of all will aim to propose specific initiatives that could be further developed to improve population health management in the area. Funded by Smart D8 with support from Dr Darach Ó Ciardha, GP and Assistant Professor in Primary Care, and Austin Campbell, Executive Director of the Robert Emmett Community Development Project, it brings together local and national partners to identify approaches to generating and jointly using data to respond better to community needs for current and future patients.

The results of the collaborative work to date have resulted in the identification of four emerging areas for future development and evaluation. They include

- Mapping of Services in D8
- Expanded Use of Healthlink Project
- Clinical Pathways for Respiratory Disease
- Health Data to Support Local Communities

Given the scale of investment and change in community and integrated healthcare delivery at present and in the coming years, optimisation through better use of data can offer substantial benefits through improved efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system. Pilot data from the project’s consultations is detailed in a published [report](#).

As a result of the project report a representative group (the Robert Emmet Community Development Project) and residents were able to put a very strong case to the local authorities to expedite a programme of renovation. In addition, a delegation met with Minister Darragh O’Brien to discuss the implications of the report findings and this meeting underpinned a renewed focus on renovation works. Plans are now in train to replicate this data-gathering approach across a number of mid-century housing complexes.



Promoting Community Health Through Creative Engagement



Engaging creatively with community health can break down barriers, making health education more accessible and relatable, while simultaneously encouraging community participation and trust. Instigating conversations through the use of art, design, heritage, and traditional and social media, can create new ways of thinking and talking about health and wellbeing, as well as tackling topics, such as dementia, where taboos may still exist. Trinity School of Medicine wishes to find creative ways to broaden the horizons of its own faculty, staff, and students. It also wishes to explore ways to enhance their empathy, communication skills, capacity for innovation, and understanding of social and structural determinants of health. Creative engagement also seeks to develop and sustain a collaborative environment where knowledge exchange can be multi-directional, benefiting all involved while also providing a chance for participants to contribute.

Medicine and Humanities

The CL hub has designed an Arts and Health module within “Medicine and Humanities” in conjunction with Trinity School of Medicine and delivers this to first year medical students as part of their undergraduate training.

Creative Life initiatives

Creative Life initiatives have resulted in shared learnings and new collective goals that highlight the positive role of creativity in healthy ageing across the life course. These initiatives include:

- Art exhibitions and showcases
- Participatory art and music workshops, and choirs
- Music performances in the atrium of MISA, including the hospital staff choir series
- Artist-in-residence programme where artists work with older patients within the hospital, alongside families and hospital staff
- Professor Roman Romero Ortuno (Trinity Medical Gerontology) co-funded an International Music and Ageing event in MISA.
- Integration of music therapy in a hospital setting
- Collaborations with Dublin Story Slam – storytelling/performances
- Creative Life provides context education for artists and healthcare professionals
- Collaboration with Dr. Evangelia Rigaki, from the Music Department, Trinity School of Creative Arts.
- A new professional diploma in Arts and Health co-designed by Creative Life MISA with the Creative Futures Academy and NCAD
- Creative Life MISA contribution to EU networks

Creative Life MISA will continue to develop its participatory programmes and work in areas in the development of education and national policy in Arts and Health to enhance wellbeing, and people’s experiences with ageing.

For more information:

<https://misa.ie/creative-life-centre/>

Creative Brain Week

Creative Brain Week is an intriguing and vibrant festival of events, discussions, performances and exhibitions, exploring the intersections of neuroscience, brain health, arts and creativity, policy and equity. It has rapidly established itself to become an important public engagement event in Trinity’s calendar.

An innovation of the Global Brain Health Institute, it celebrated its third year in 2024 with the theme of ‘Attention, Connection and Love’. By showcasing innovation at the intersection of neuroscience and the arts, Creative Brain Week helps raise national and international awareness of the powerful relationship between brain health and creativity and stimulates research into how creative practice might mitigate the negative effects of poverty, low education, and disease on brain functioning and quality of life.

Highlights of the 2024 Creative Brain Week programme, featuring 67 speakers and a 6-day creative exhibition, included:

- “My Brain Robbie” - an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at GBHI led initiative to help keep young brains healthy. Children from three Dublin primary DEIS schools, the first to pilot the program in Ireland, presented their brain health learnings through drama, a short film and visual art.
- Susan Magsamen, founder and executive director of the International Arts + Mind Lab (IAM Lab), Center for Applied Neuro-aesthetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and New York Times bestselling co-author of “Your Brain on Art”, explored how our unique response to aesthetic experiences can amplify human potential.
- Living with an Acquired Brain Injury panel discussion featuring clinicians who acquired brain injuries while working in the field. Panelists shared their unique clinician-patient perspectives, the personal and systemic challenges faced by brain injury survivors in Ireland, and the role of neurorehabilitation supports in rebuilding lives.
- Creative Brain Week 2024 also saw the awarding of the inaugural [Pratchett Prize](#). The award went to actor Bryan Murray, who is living with dementia, and playwright Deirdre Kinahan, for their play *An Old Song, Half Forgotten*.



The impact of Creative Brain Week has been demonstrated by rising levels of public engagement in the 2024 programme, with 626 in-person participants and 5,800 unique online users (up from 800 in 2023). The participants came from around the world with audience reach across 23 countries. Creative Brain Week has also evolved into a series of satellite events that are thematically connected but locally informed. Satellite events in Australia, Botswana, Egypt, and India, all backed by local or national universities, connected with cultural organisations and were led by an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health and the Atlantic Institute.

For more information: [Creative Brain Week](#)

Theatre Workshops for Dementia

A new initiative in Dublin 8 called the Brain Health Pilot will use theatre workshop to create an educational and awareness program for people affected by dementia.

Led by Professor Nicholas Johnson, Associate Professor of Drama, and his collaborators within Trinity and GBHI, the pilot aims to significantly raise awareness about dementia and encourage activities that are preventative of cognitive decline. A key goal of this initiative is to destigmatise dementia and encourage people to feel empowered to take control of their own cognitive health and wellbeing.

This initiative is one of a number that has received funding and support from Smart D8, a project committed to promoting urban health through innovation. The project will be run in collaboration with OT Platform along with Smart D8's other extended partners.

One of the main aims of the pilot will be to position the Dublin 8 area as a pioneer in dementia prevention. It also hopes this approach can serve as a replicable model for brain health initiatives that can be trialled throughout Dublin.

Smart D8 focuses on the use of innovation to improve and sustain community health and wellbeing. Using the Dublin 8 area as a testbed, it is also bringing value and benefit to the area's residents. To date, Smart D8 projects have reached over 6,000 citizens in and around Dublin 8. These projects have evolved from community-led research that has been instrumental in identifying the unmet health and wellness needs of the local population. By focusing on local needs, Smart D8 has been able to engage effectively with the Dublin 8 community and to implement solutions that address specific health challenges. This approach has fostered strong community ties, promoted better health outcomes. The potential for the success of the Brain Health pilot has increased significantly as it aims to develop and trial innovative approaches that will have real impact on the brain health of those living in the community to tackle stigma around this often-hidden condition.

For more information <https://www.gbhi.org/> <https://hih.ie/> <https://smartd8.ie/>

Broad-based health promotion campaign for childhood diabetes

A health promotion initiative, the 'TEST' campaign, aims to raise awareness of childhood type 1 diabetes, highlight presenting symptoms, and encourage earlier diagnosis.

This broad-based health promotion campaign was developed by a team from The Irish Childhood Diabetes National Register led by Professor Edna Roche, Professor in Paediatrics at Trinity and a consultant paediatrician and paediatric endocrinologist at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght University Hospital. The team also included Design, Advertising and Marketing Communication students of TU Dublin. The campaign was launched as a collaboration with Diabetes Ireland and was supported by Novo Nordisk.

The impetus for the campaign came from the fact that, despite the high prevalence of childhood diabetes in Ireland, there remains a lack of awareness of the condition both in the community and among many healthcare practitioners. This can often result in children being subjected to unnecessary tests. More seriously, it can also contribute to the development of the potentially fatal complication of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) with adverse disease outcomes and increased complication rates in adulthood.

The campaign first launched in May 2021 and a refreshed campaign was re-launched in September 2023. It used a wide variety of strategies, including webinars, interviews, and presentations on media sites such as the Diabetes Ireland website, various print brochures, posters, medical journals, print media interviews, radio and TV interviews, and social media. The initial campaign reached almost four million people with its message, far exceeding its target of one million. It successfully targeted health professionals, parents, and teachers as well as having a reach into the general population. Key achievements included a webinar attended by over a thousand GP practices, radio interviews on the key morning, lunch and drive-time shows, interviews on the lunchtime and 6pm TV news, as well as extensive social media engagement. Over two million people have been reached to date.

The impact of the campaign is indicated in the fall in DKA diagnoses. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic of delayed health-seeking behaviours and a reduction in the accessibility of healthcare services, the initial campaign showed an impressive 3% reduction in DKA at diagnosis.

More Information is available from [Diabetes Ireland](#)





Learning Together – Teachers, Students & Global Communities

Civically engaged learning is an important component of health professional education that extends beyond the classroom. For the School of Medicine, promoting this type of learning is essential to fostering a sense of social responsibility among teachers, students, and the broader global community. By integrating civic engagement activities into learning experiences, the School of Medicine empowers future healthcare professionals to understand and address the diverse needs of the communities they serve. This approach enriches the educational experience, encouraging students to apply their clinical knowledge in real-world contexts as well as cultivating empathy, cultural awareness, and ethical decision-making based on a better knowledge of the wider experiences that patients and communities can face.

Furthermore, civically engaged learning strengthens trust and partnerships between the university and global communities, promoting a collaborative approach to health challenges and ensuring that medical advancements benefit society as a whole.



Online seminars to improve radiation therapy knowledge across Africa

Radiation therapists across Africa can improve their radiation therapy knowledge of cancer patients through online educational seminars, thanks to AFRONET-RT. This project is led by Professor Michelle Leech, Professor in Radiation Therapy and Mary Coffey, Adjunct Associate Professor in Radiation Therapy with the involvement of Dr Sandra Ndarukwa in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Radiation therapy-specific education is often lacking in many African countries and the aim of this action is to bridge this educational gap. AFRONET-RT consists of monthly online educational seminars with topics decided on by the participants to ensure that what is taught and discussed is useful for clinical practice in African health systems. There is a joint European-African faculty which is led by Professor Leech, and each session has both a European and African co-chair.

The content of the seminars is a co-creation between faculty and participants, with a participant from a different country presenting each month, together with a faculty presentation. This is followed by discussion and analysis of the content in an African context.

To date, 15 monthly seminars have been delivered to average numbers of 65 per session. Participants represent between 25 and 43 radiation oncology institutions from 13 to 15 different countries. Topics to date have included cancer site specific sessions on breast, and head and neck cancers, to organisational level topics on challenges with radiation therapy equipment breakdowns, procurement procedures, and the role of radiation therapists when a new radiation oncology service is starting in the country.

The activity has highlighted the disparities in radiation oncology service provision as well as gaps in the education and training of radiation therapists that exist across Africa. There are several countries without any access to radiation therapy facilities whatsoever. Those that do exist are faced with constant issues such as equipment breakdown, lack of necessary service contracts and expertise to provide a continuous service.

Professor Leech is leading the revision of the IAEA global curriculum for radiation therapists. The experience of AFRONET has framed this work, ensuring that the curricular framework is flexible to facilitate radiation therapy programme development for all jurisdictions, especially those with particular challenges, such as those from different African contexts.

‘Books Are Good for You’

‘Books are Good for You’ is an annual celebration that brings the joys of reading to third-class schoolchildren from St Anne’s Primary School in Fettercairn, Tallaght. Hosted by Tallaght County Library, this fun, interactive reading and learning jamboree is facilitated by Trinity researchers and volunteer medical students. This work is supported by the Academic Primary Care Collaborative, a partnership between Trinity academics, Tallaght University Hospital, and HSE CHO7 Primary Care.





The event is led by Associate Professor Catherine Darker, Assistant Professor Darach Ó Ciardha, both from the Discipline of Public Health & Primary Care and Lena Doherty, the Faculty Administrator in Trinity's Faculty of Health Sciences. It is run in association with St Anne's Primary School, Fettercairn and is supported by County Library, Tallaght in South Dublin County Council.

Accepting the role that social determinants have on health outcomes, one way to improve health in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities is to encourage young people to remain in the education system and to strive for higher levels of educational attainment. Events such as 'Books are Good for You' provides an occasion for primary school aged children to visit a public library, to be issued with a reader card, to take out books, and to sign up for future library-related activities. It is also a creative opportunity for children to write and illustrate their own stories and a chance to learn more about their own health, including their brain health, and the positive impacts that reading can have on their wellbeing. In 2023-24 the event was expanded to include the fourth classes from St Anne's in

Fettercairn. Their session was coordinated by the APCC and hosted by the School of English in Trinity.

A number of medical students volunteer to be part of the event which provides those students with the opportunity to interact with young people from the Tallaght community. This highlights the value of education to the students and how it interacts with socio-economic status and impacts health outcomes in these populations. It also teaches students that some children may be coming from environments where education and reading are neither valued nor encouraged as much as they may have been in their own environment growing up.

The event continues to offer payback to the local community and South Dublin County Council for hosting Trinity's Discipline of Public Health & Primary Care in the Russell Centre in Tallaght within their jurisdiction. In different ways, this event highlights the importance of accessible healthcare and the wider determinants of health for all community members.

‘Germs & DNA’ - Trinity Access Programme

Primary schoolchildren experienced a preview of university life through an engaging science session on ‘Germs and DNA’ organised by Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI). The initiative was led by Dr Nollaig Bourke, Ussher Assistant Professor in Inflammation, along with a team of scientists that included Matt McElheron, Conor Reddy, Ailbhe Herity and Jordy Smith. Their work was supported by the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) which aims to inspire young people to consider university as an option and foster a love for science.

TAP is an outreach programme aimed at introducing schoolchildren who attend Dublin schools that fall under the DEIS (Delivering Equality of opportunity In Schools) scheme to experience Trinity and to engage with third-level teaching approaches. This work, in turn, can make university seem less enigmatic and can foster a sense of familiarity with, if not belonging to, Trinity and third-level education.

‘Germs and DNA’ invited children from St Anne’s Primary School, Fettercairn in Tallaght and from Drimnagh Castle Primary School to the Trinity workshop. Both schools are designated DEIS schools. The workshop, dedicated to those classes, took place on Trinity’s campus and was facilitated by the TTMI team.

The workshop served to familiarise children who experience educational disadvantage to the benefits of further education, with the hope that it will make university a more attainable goal for their future.



Academic Primary Care Collaborative, Public Lecture Series

The Academic Primary Care Collaborative at Tallaght (APCC) builds on the co-location of the Trinity College School of Medicine’s Discipline of Public Health and Primary Care, Tallaght Cross General Practice, and HSE primary care services in the Russell Centre; along with the adjacent Tallaght University Hospital, the expanding range of health and related services in this area, and engagement with community-based groups and projects in the Tallaght area. The APCC facilitates the innovative service Delivery, Advocacy, Research and Education for health and wellbeing in Tallaght. Its vision is *Tallaght as a community where everyone shares good health and no one is left behind*. The APCC is chaired by Professor Susan Smith of the Discipline Public Health and Primary Care, and managed administratively by Lena Doherty, Faculty Administrator.

The APCC public lecture series is co-hosted by Trinity and An Cosán, one of the APCC community partners. These public events bring academic staff from Trinity, as well as their research partners, to the local community in Tallaght. These high-quality, accessible talks are aimed at stimulating debate and community engagement about current health-related topics and always conclude with a panel discussion. The topics are often proposed by our community partners, and previous lectures have included The Science of Happiness, Exercise and Healthy Ageing, Menopause, LGBTQ+ Health, Addressing Inequity in Healthcare for People with ID, Sustainability in Healthcare, Addiction Recovery, Positive Ageing, Cancer Care, Confidence, and Healthy Eating. Local media coverage is usually





provided via the Tallaght Echo and Tallaght News, with social media coverage managed by our community partner and co-host, An Cosán. Feedback from regular attendees has been that they feel empowered to discuss topics, they feel listened to, and they have felt welcome to attend other Trinity events such as inaugural lectures, which have been very impactful on the cohort. From an early stage, the public lecture events were extended to include tea & coffee as is the tradition at An Cosán events, and Trinity staff often comment on the positive and vibrant atmosphere at the public lectures, as we continue to grow the community spirit through the IPH. Full details of the lecture series can be found here: www.tcd.ie/healthsciences/events/apcc2122.php

Trauma and Resilience” Tutorial Course and Hong Kong Protest Art Pop-up Exhibition

In April 2024, during the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) Graduation Day, Mandy Lee, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Health Policy and Management, and Professor Nicholas Johnson, Associate Professor of Drama, organised a pop-up Hong Kong protest art

exhibition at the Samuel Beckett theatre. Large format reproductions of famous Hong Kong protest art images were specially mounted for display, with QR codes that allowed viewers to access artists’ own commentary on their artworks.

The pop-up exhibition aimed to introduce secondary school students from Marian College Dublin to concepts of collective social trauma and communal resilience displayed by the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement, based on the works by seven Hongkonger artists. The pop-up exhibition was modelled on an exhibition funded by the Trinity Long Room Hub in 2022. (https://padlet.com/Hongkonger30624300/HongKongArt_at_Trinity). The involvement of the Marian College students in the pop-up art exhibition is the culmination of a TAP/Scholars’ Ireland seven-session tutorial course on trauma and resilience in the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement. A 33-page coursebook was developed to accompany the tutorial course, which introduced students to concepts of collective social trauma and communal resilience and to social justice and democratic movements around the world. The tutorial course, designed and taught by Mandy Lee, was aimed at increasing knowledge of, and fostering solidarity with, international social movements and causes as

well as learning about non-violent communication techniques. The students also learnt to advocate for themselves and their own chosen causes as part of the in-class presentations, which saw them advocating on a range of causes from Black Lives Matter to bullying and the environment.

A sample of students' tutorial homework was shown afterwards at a Hongkonger symposium and art exhibition event (www.artandculturehk.com) that was held in May 2024 in the Hague, Netherlands. In this exhibition, the students' own commentary on Hong Kong protest art was placed alongside works by those Hongkonger artists whom they have chosen to comment on. Students were very proud that their homework was displayed at an international art exhibition, and members of the Hongkonger community in Europe who saw the display were very heartened by the solidarity shared by Irish students for their cause.

'Asylum: Inside Grangegorman'

The book 'Asylum: Inside Grangegorman' provides a social history of Dublin's historical 'mental hospital' at Grangegorman. Through the lens of individual case histories, it paints a broader picture of the institution and the lives of those who were once its residents.

The book was researched and written by Professor Brendan Kelly, Professor of Psychiatry, and published by the Royal Irish Academy. It is part of the 'Grangegorman Histories' programme of research and shared discovery of the Grangegorman site and surrounding communities including Dublin City Council, Grangegorman Development Agency, the Health Service Executive, the National Archives of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy, TU Dublin and local community partners. Professor Kelly has been involved in this project for several years.

The building itself dates back to 1814, when the Richmond Lunatic Asylum at Grangegorman in Dublin was at the forefront of an extraordinary programme of asylum building across Ireland. These buildings were aimed at alleviating the suffering of people with mental illness who were homeless, in prison, or confined in appalling circumstances. By the mid-twentieth century, Ireland had proportionately more people in 'mental hospitals' than any other country in the world. On a given night, the number of people in Ireland's

psychiatric hospitals was more than double those in all of Ireland's other institutions put together including prisons, laundries, mother and baby homes, industrial schools, and orphanages.

'Asylum: Inside Grangegorman' explores what the life of a patient in Grangegorman was actually like. It provides a detailed exploration of individual case histories from Ireland's historical mental hospital at Grangegorman. Through letters, medical records, and doctors' notes, this book explores the world of Grangegorman and the lives of those who lived and worked there.

The book provides a valuable contribution to the public discussion of the historical treatment of mental health issues and its connection to the wider approach of institutionalisation as a response to social issues. In Family & Community History, Peter Nolan described 'Asylum: Inside Grangegorman' as "an engaging book, meticulously researched, highly informative and written with compassion and sensitivity [...] Kelly has admirably achieved his aim of giving a voice to those who suffered. His book makes a valuable contribution to our current knowledge".

Down Syndrome Conversation Café: Advancing Mental Health and Well-being of Children with Down Syndrome

In October 2022, Trinity's Down Syndrome Research Group which is led by Professor Eleanor Molloy hosted a Down Syndrome Conversation Café at the Naughton Institute. The objective of this civic event was to inform the extended Down Syndrome community – consisting of people with Down Syndrome, their parents and advocates, and professionals who work with them – of current research developments in the field.

The event had a brilliant turnout of 90 people, including 70 parents and advocates. The Café hosted four academics who discussed their research in the field of Down Syndrome, a parent who shared her experience of being involved in research, and an inspiring interview with a young woman, Mei Lin Yap, about her experience of living with Down Syndrome. An interactive discussion session enabled the audience to voice their opinions and ask questions about Down Syndrome research.



Speakers included Professor John Gormley who spoke about *Physical Activity and Exercise Prescription for Children and Adults with Down Syndrome* and Professor Eleanor Molloy who explained her research on *Inflammatory Biomarkers in Children with Down Syndrome*. A key developmental challenge for most people with Down Syndrome is language development and Professor Jean Quigley spoke about this while Dr Mary Canavan gave an insight into her research on Down Syndrome Associated Arthritis (DA).

Beth Corcoran, mother to a little girl, Rosa, gave *A Parent's Perspective*. Mei Lin Yap was the star of the show. She is an experienced public speaker and an inspiration to parents and professionals working with people with Down Syndrome.

A post-event survey indicated that the audience found the talks informative and engaging, and they were delighted to hear the advancements in the relevant areas of Down Syndrome research. They enjoyed the collaborative aspect of the event with researchers, clinicians, and parents of children with Down Syndrome coming together to express their enthusiasm and partnership in the development of research. Parents appreciated the opportunity to network with scientists, health professionals, and other parents of children with Down Syndrome to discuss concerns they had for their children. Those who attended expressed an interest in attending future public events.

European Researchers' Night 2023

The Academic Primary Care Collaborative at Tallaght (APCC) hosted an event in the Russell Centre, Tallaght Cross, as part of European Researchers' Night 2023. European Researchers' Night is a Europe-wide public event which displays the diversity of science and its impact on citizens' daily lives in fun, inspiring ways.

The ethos of European Researchers' Night aligned perfectly with that of the APCC, so we showcased multiple research projects, a mixture of completed and ongoing projects, which have very tangible impacts on the lives of the local community. 102 secondary school (Transition Year and 5th Year) students from across five schools in the Tallaght area came to the IPH to learn about these research projects and to get hands-on with the interactive displays.

The APCC linked with the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) which acted as the conduit into the schools with whom they have longstanding, established relationships. The event aimed to engage and empower over 100 students, providing them with a unique opportunity to cultivate their aspirations to thrive in higher education settings like Trinity in the future. It also aimed to give them an idea of the amazing research happening within their own communities such as projects tackling health problems.



Influencing Health and Social Care Policy



Trinity is proud of its long-standing reputation in shaping health policy and system reform. The combined expertise of two dedicated centres of excellence – the Institute of Population Health and the Centre for Health Policy and Management both situated in the Discipline of Public Health and Primary Care – advances the equity, efficiency, and sustainability of the funding, management and delivery of health systems and informs policy and public debate through a wide-ranging portfolio of activities. The School of Medicine has built constructive relationships with policymakers, influenced national policy, and contributed to understanding about health and care policy and performance in Ireland and globally. This policy influence has proved central to informing better health policy, practice and performance, bridging the gap between excellent research and knowledge translation.

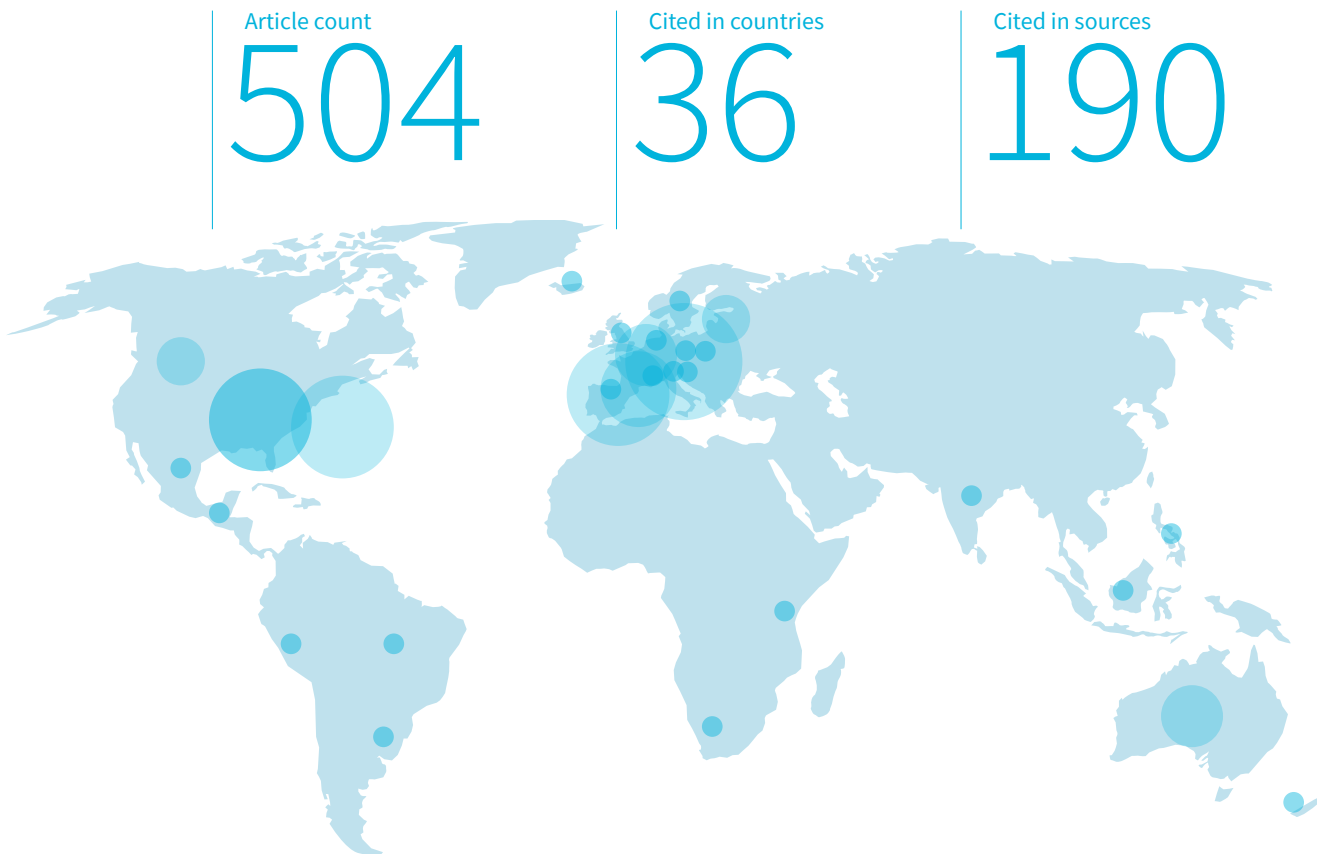
This academic input for the policy process comes in a variety of forms from published research and fellowships to expert panel and advisory board memberships.

Policy Impact at International Level

The high-quality of the school's clinical and scientific outputs, built around constructive relationships with policymakers and knowledge users, has proved central to advocating for better policy changes at a national and global level. It is possible to gain some insights into how the School is facilitating positive health policy changes at a societal level by tracking how our researchers' outputs are being cited and how knowledge users and health services are using the research to inform improved clinical guidelines and health policy.

For the purposes of this report, we conducted an analysis of health policy performance for Trinity School of Medicine by analysing citation metrics and trends of scholarly research outputs for the last four years. Using the specialising search engine, [Overton](#), we ran a search for policy citations by inputting the identifiers of 7,500 research documents (peer-reviewed papers, reviews, letters, editorials) published during the period 2019-2024 by medical researchers affiliated to Trinity College Dublin. The Overton search found that 500 of the 7,500 research papers (or 7%) had been cited at least once by almost 200 international and national policy sources. These policy sources are located across 36 widely dispersed countries including the Americas, Australasia, Africa, Japan as well as Ireland, the UK and Europe.

Medical Research Policy Citations by Region



Informing International Health Policy and Clinical Guidelines

On the international stage, among the key government organisations, healthcare agencies, research centres, think tanks and regulatory authorities citing the School's research are the World Health Organization,

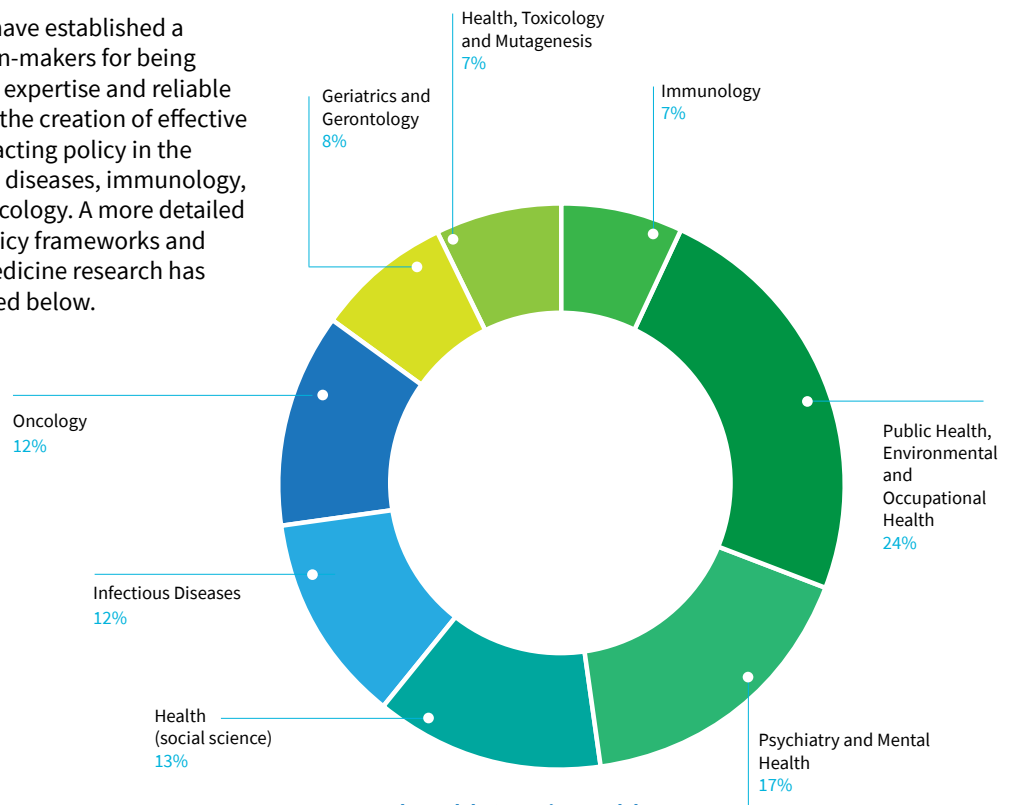
The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), NHS Trusts and Guidelines in PubMed Central. The table below shows the list of international sources who are citing articles authored by medical researchers in Trinity during the period 2021-2024.

International Sources of Health Policy - Citing School of Medicine Research

 AHRQ	 Haute Autorité de Santé
 Analysis and Policy Observatory	 Institut national de santé publique de Québec
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften (AWMF)	 Institute of Development Studies
 Australian Government Department of Health	 IZA Institute of Labor Economics
 Belgian Federal Services	 Joint Research Centre
 Brookings Institution	 NHS Trusts
 Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health	 NICE
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	 OECD
 Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia	 Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)
 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	 Province of Québec
 European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies	 Publication Office of the European Union
 European Parliament Committees	 Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu
 French Government Ministries	 Robert Koch Institut
 Generalitat de Catalunya	 State of New South Wales
 Government of Finland	 State of Queensland
 Government of Japan	 State of Western Australia
 Government of Portugal	 Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos
 Government of Switzerland	 The UK Government
 Guidelines in PubMed Central	 UK Parliament Research Briefings
	 UK Parliament Select Committee Publications
	 United Nations
	 World Health Organisation

School of Medicine Health Policy Strengths

School of Medicine researchers have established a reputation among policy decision-makers for being highly responsive to requests for expertise and reliable research evidence in supporting the creation of effective legislation. This expertise is impacting policy in the fields of public health, infectious diseases, immunology, geriatrics, mental health, and oncology. A more detailed look at a selection of specific policy frameworks and programmes where School of Medicine research has had a shaping influence is detailed below.



COVID-19 Response

Faculty members played a crucial role in advising the Irish government on COVID-19 policies, contributing to the [National Public Health Emergency Team \(NPHET\)](#).

- Conducting research on COVID-19 transmission, treatment, and vaccination, which informed public health strategies.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the Irish health system, the Government's response to the pandemic and how the HSE can prepare for the next crisis are evaluated in a study, titled the [PRESTO Report](#), published by Trinity's Centre for Health Policy and Management on 29 March 2023.

Mental Health & Brain Health

- Collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) on approaches to deliver dementia assessments and services e.g. [Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals 2020](#) followed by the recent [Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland](#) published in 2023,
- Leading public awareness campaigns on mental health issues and promoting destigmatisation. The Model of Care supports our clinicians by providing detailed information on the patient and their family.

Health Economics and Health Inequality

- Faculty input on Irish Government policy for the introduction of a universal primary healthcare system as a priority e.g. [Universal Primary Care in Ireland: Cost and Workforce Implications](#) published by The Economic and Social Research Institute in 2022 followed by [Towards universal healthcare in Ireland what can we learn from the literature?](#) published by The Economic and Social Research Institute in 2023.

- Devised workforce planning model, advice, and costing structure for roll out of Government's Free GP care for under six year olds and over seventy year olds.
- Supporting the HSE Clinical Programme in Palliative Care - What is known about the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of palliative care?

Public Health Promotion & Advocacy

- Policy Brief generated from study findings and future recommendations for [We Can Quit2](#), A Research Study on a Community-Based Stop Smoking Programme for Women.
- “[Growing up in Ireland Study](#)”, as co-lead on the longitudinal national study, our research has provided a wealth of survey data and research findings to inform national policy under the three broad domains of health, education and socio-emotional well-being.
- Studies on health disparities in Ireland, focusing on marginalized communities, include the findings from the [Health Assets and Needs Assessment in Tallaght \(HANA project\)](#) which have been used by a number of key stakeholder groups to advocate for improvements within the Tallaght area.

Cancer Research

- Faculty involvement in the [HSE National Cancer Control Programme \(NCCP\)](#), influencing cancer prevention and treatment policies.
- Faculty provides input to [The National Cancer Registry](#) which informs the planning and management of cancer services to deliver the best cancer care to the whole population, with findings impacting national cancer strategies.

Drug Treatment

- Faculty role informing policies on treatment and prevention for example [HSE Drug Treatment in Ireland - Key Patterns and Trends - 2014-2021](#)
- Collaboration with the Irish government on developing strategies to combat substance abuse and improve rehabilitation services for example [HSE Safer Nightlife 2022 Programme](#) and [HSE Report: Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland. Alcohol's Harm to Others \(AH2O\)](#)

Ageing Well















- [The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing \(TILDA\)](#) – the world leading, large scale, nationally representative, longitudinal study on ageing in Ireland has had a significant impact on our understanding of population ageing in Ireland and continues to provide a sound evidence-base for policymakers and practitioners. Examples of policy impact include [The effect of smoky coal bans on chronic lung disease among older people in Ireland](#) published by The Economic and Social Research Institute in 2023.

Clinical Guidance

- Extensive provision of evidence-based recommendations for Clinical Guidelines issued by a number of international sources such as NICE and Guidelines in PubMed Central around treating and managing specific conditions and diseases such as Oesophageal Cancer, Ovarian cancer, Renal cancer, Cardiovascular disease, stroke, head injury, dermatitis, COVID-19, ADHD Diagnosis and Treatment in Children and Adolescents, to name a few. The full list of Clinical Guidance organisations citing School of Medicine research is outlined in the table below.



Clinical guidance citing sources

 AHRO	 Medicare Coverage Database
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften (AWMF)	 National Centre for Disease Control
 Australian Government Department of Health	 HHS Trusts
 Belgian Federal Services	 NICE
 Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health	 Public Health Scotland
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	 Robert Kock Institut
 Gezondheidsraad	 Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network
 Guidelines in PubMed Central	 SESPAS
 Haute Autorité de Santé	 Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of social Services
 Health Information and Quality Authority	 Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos
 Health Service Executive	 Zorginstituut Nederland
 Institut national de santé publique de Québec	

At a national level, the school has close collaborative ties with the main architects of health policy including the Department of Health, the Health Information and Quality Authority, the National Cancer Registry Board, the Health Service Executive, The Economic and Social Research Institute, and Oireachtas Éireann. The Institute of Population Health and the Centre for Health Policy and Management both situated in the Discipline of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medicine have been involved in research tackling major health and health system challenges and programmes over the last number of years such as smoking cessation, Covid, Sláintecare to name but a few.

Assessing The Implementation of Sláintecare Reforms

In March 2023, a group from the Centre for Health Policy and Management addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health on the implementation of Sláintecare.

The group was headed up by Professor Sara Burke, Associate Professor of Public Health & Primary Care, with Professor Steve Thomas, Professor of Health Policy, Public Health and Primary Care and Dr Bridget Johnston, Research Assistant Professor, all based in Trinity's Centre for Health Policy and Management.

The objective of the invitation was to present and discuss 'Consideration of issues relating to the implementation of Sláintecare reforms'. Professor Burke had led a project, funded by the Health Research Board, which explored how best to harness lessons learnt from Ireland's health system's response to COVID-19 to inform best and effective implementation of Sláintecare. In the opening statement, Professor Burke spoke to the challenges and lessons for the health system reform process during the COVID-19 period, emphasising the need for a clear governance and oversight structure to drive the implementation of

Sláintecare. Professor Thomas's input to the committee drew on his research on health system resilience which is funded under the Health Research Board's Research Leader awards and is entitled RESTORE.

This appearance before an Oireachtas Committee was an important opportunity to present evidence-based academic research to influence public policy and political processes. The fact that the Committee hearing generated a lot of media coverage was a very effective way to disseminate research findings, through the media, to the broader community, to politicians and the public.

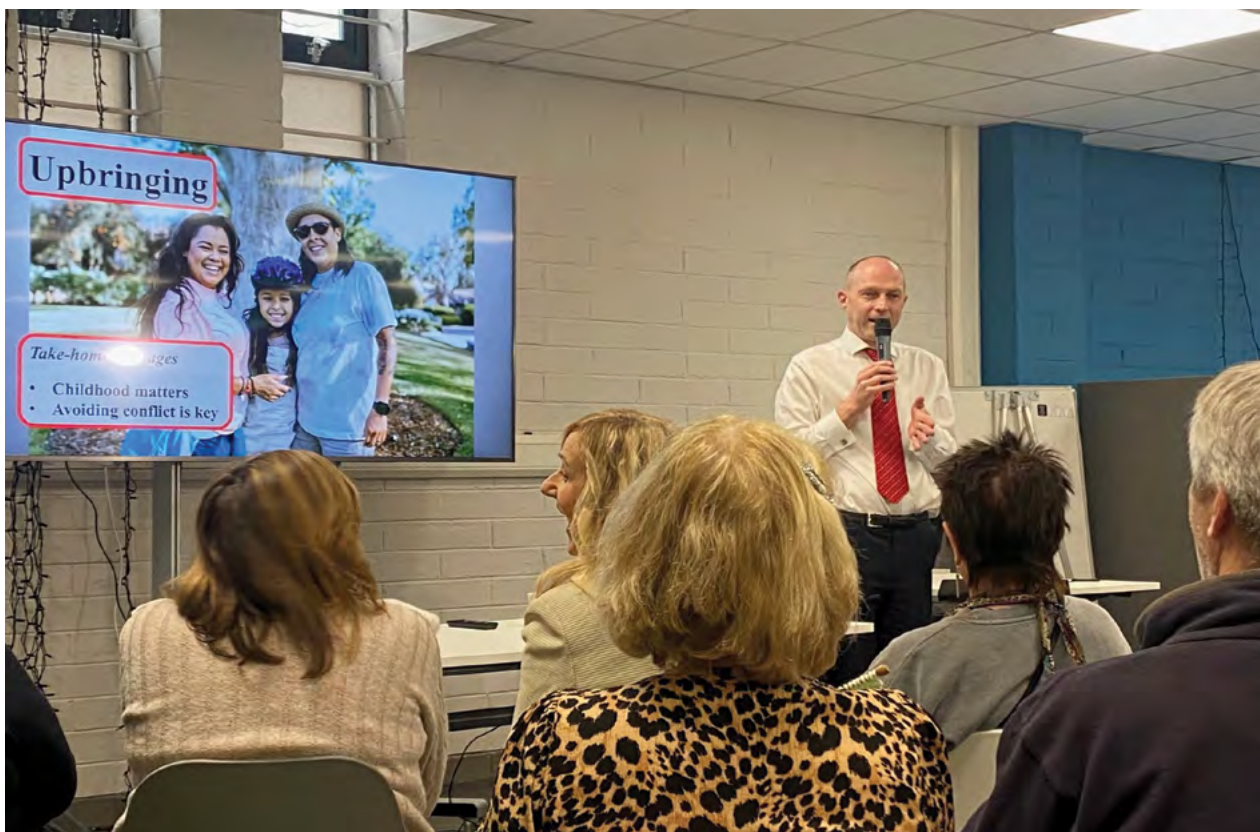
For all three, this built on earlier work by the Centre, led by Professor Thomas, which provided technical support to the Committee on the Future of Healthcare, chaired by Deputy Róisín Shortall, which led to the development of Sláintecare.

The contribution became a prelude to a further meeting of the Joint Committee on Health later that month where senior figures such as the Secretary General from the Department of Health and the CEO of the Health Service Executive were brought before the Committee to explain the situation regarding Sláintecare.

The full committee hearing can be viewed here [Joint Committee on Health debate - Wednesday, 1 Mar 2023 \(oireachtas.ie\)](https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/joint-committees/committee-on-health/2023-03-01/).

Advancing Universal Healthcare: Governing The Contribution of The Private Sector.

In March 2024, Professor Sara Burke spoke to a global summit of World Health Organisation (WHO) Member States about the contribution of the private sector to the advancement of universal healthcare. The presentation drew on the work of SPHeRE PhD scholar Luisne Mac Conghail, who Professor Burke is supervising. This work originated in Luisne Mac Conghail's MSc Dissertation which was subsequently published on HRB Open. Professor Burke is the Associate Professor of Public Health & Primary Care and a co-director of the national SPHeRE (Structured Population Health, Policy and Health-services Research Education) PhD programme. She used the Irish experience of private health service providers' role in providing extra bed capacity as a 'safety net' during the first three months of Ireland's COVID pandemic measures.





She also pointed out the speed with which agreement was reached without pre-existing rules of engagement to negotiate such agreements between the public and private services and how there is an opportunity to develop such rules going forward. The research explored the policy dynamics at the intersection of public and private healthcare which imparts lessons for health system reform. The insights have the potential to contribute to long-term goal alignment, robust governance practices, and trust-building mechanisms for effective public-private collaborations in a two-tier health system, offering valuable guidance for future healthcare policy and implementation.

Being invited to present research to the 193 national representatives of the member states was a considerable opportunity to disseminate both her own Trinity research findings as well as those of a PhD candidate at a global level. Since the presentation, Professor Burke has engaged in follow-up meetings with WHO Geneva and Europe and has received requests to participate in further WHO global and European work. Given that all health systems include private and public components, better understanding of how the private

sector can contribute to public health and health system goals is central to better policy making and implementation.

Luisne Mac Conghail's MSc work is on HRB Open Examining universal access to acute hospital.

[HRB Open Research https://hrbopenresearch.org/articles/7-4](https://hrbopenresearch.org/articles/7-4)

Engaging the private sector in delivering health care and goods: Governance lessons from COVID-19 - YouTube - <https://www.who.int/activities/strengthening-private-sector-engagement-for-uhc>

Financial Incentives to Stop Smoking?

The Health Service Executive commissioned a Trinity team to explore whether and how financial incentives might help people to stop smoking. The work was carried out by Dr Rikke Siersbaek, Dr Sarah Parker and Professor Sara Burke in collaboration with Dr Paul Kavanagh in the HSE's Health Intelligence Unit.

It is accepted that people with a lower socioeconomic status are more likely to smoke, more likely to suffer the harms associated with smoking and more likely to find quitting difficult. The team brought together the international literature to study how, why, in what circumstances and for whom financial incentives might work to improve the success of ‘stop smoking’ interventions. On examination of the evidence in this realist review, they provided recommendations for how to best use financial incentives in efforts to promote smoking cessation. The study findings provided a solid evidence base for the Health Service Executive regarding the kinds of conditions in which financial incentives may provide motivation for someone to stop smoking.

[How and why do financial incentives contribute to helping people stop smoking? A realist review | BMC Public Health | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\) https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-024-17967-3](https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-024-17967-3)

As a result, the Health Service Executive are currently planning to offer financial incentives as part of Tobacco Free Ireland’s suite of services as this should benefit people who smoke but for whom traditional ‘stop smoking’ programmes have not led to success in giving up smoking. It is likely to benefit those individuals who no longer smoke, along with their families through reduced exposure to tobacco. It is also likely to reduce healthcare costs due to fewer people experiencing the health-related problems related to smoking.

Following on from the research, a team led by Professor Frank Doyle in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) with Trinity collaborators has successfully secured funding from the Health Research Board to co-design and test the feasibility and acceptability of an evidence informed Financial Incentive to Stop Smoking (FIS) implementation strategy in the Irish context. Also, another team in RCSI has utilised the realist review in Trinity to produce a study exploring the potential cost of a variety of financial incentives in smoking cessation programmes in Ireland.

Informing Need for More Accessible Accommodation for Homeless People

A new study is aiming to capture the extent of physical disability experienced by people who access homeless services in Dublin and Cork city centres, and how suitable those services are to their needs.

Commissioned by the National Disability Authority, this study brings together a multidisciplinary expert team of health practitioners, policymakers, researchers and advocates including Jess Sears, Inclusion Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, St James’ Hospital, Professor Cliona Ní Cheallaigh, Consultant Doctor and Lead of Inclusion Health Service St James’ Hospital, Sara Quinn, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, Dr Leonie Boland, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist, Homelessness and Mental Health, Health Service Executive Programme for the Homeless and Aoife Wilmott, Senior Occupational Therapist, Cork Region Housing First Team.

Anecdotally, people working in homelessness services have reported the need for more accessible accommodation for a number of people they serve. For example, some services lack basic accessibility features like lifts and wheelchair-accessible beds.

In order to investigate the scale and experience of physical disability in people experiencing long-term homelessness, the researchers will undertake a survey among people living in homeless accommodation in Cork and Dublin city centres who have a physical disability and people who work with this population.

The study aims to provide baseline information to policymakers. Once there is a better understanding of the prevalence of physical disability among this population and how it affects their use of services, the National Disability Authority will be better placed to identify what policymaking actions are needed to provide appropriate levels of accessibility and to draw together stakeholders who can create societal change in this field.



Training Key Knowledge Users About Health Policy Reforms

A series of webinars explored the mechanisms for furthering the reform agenda of Ireland's health services. The series of five new information and training webinars in 2024 have been designed by Professor Sara Burke and Professor Steve Thomas of the Centre for Health Policy and Management. Their aim was to facilitate knowledge exchange and interaction between key knowledge users and knowledge producers working in the Health Service Executive.

The webinars built on the work of a 2023 series of five Department of Health seminars which, in turn, were a direct outcome of the Health Research Board -funded Foundations research.

The series of five online webinars and discussions, moderated by senior Health Service Executive staff, were informed by findings generated through the RESTORE research programmes. The details of each of the webinars are:

1. [Assessing Ireland's Health System Resilience During the First 18 Months of Covid-19: Learning for Health System Reform](#). February 23, 2023. Participants: 152
Speakers: Professor Sara Burke and Professor Steve Thomas
Moderator: Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, National Director Operations Planning, HSE
DOI <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepi.2021.100223>
2. [Workforce Resilience and Implications for Health System Reform – Learning from Austerity and Covid-19](#). March 30, 2023. Participants: 79
Speakers: Professor Steve Thomas, Dr Padraic Fleming, Professor Sara Burke
Moderator: Dr Philippa Ryan Withero, Assistant National Director Human Resources, Strategic Workforce Planning and Intelligence, HSE
DOI <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-022-00747-83>.
3. [Complexity-Informed Lessons from the Pandemic Response for Universal Health System Reform](#). April 27, 2023. Participants: 75
Speakers: Professor Sara Burke and Dr Sarah Parker
Moderator: Martina Queally, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare East, HSE
DOI <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1088728>
4. [Highlights from the Presto Report: An Analysis of Resilience and Sustainability in the Irish Health System with Particular Focus on the Covid-19 Era](#). May 25, 2023. Participants: 65
Speakers: Professor Steve Thomas, Dr Padraic Fleming, and Catherine O'Donoghue
Moderator: Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, National Director, Operations Planning, HSE
Link: [WEF_PHSSR_Ireland_report_2023.pdf \(tcd.ie\)](#)
[Analysis of the governance of Regional Health Area policy design \(youtube.com\)](#)
5. [Power, Policy and Politics – Analysis of the Governance of Regional Health Area Policy Design as Part of Sláintecare's Implementation](#). June 29, 2023. Participants: 270
Speakers: Professor Sara Burke and Dr Carlos Bruen
Moderator: Liam Woods, Director, Regional Health Area Implementation, HSE

The 2024 HSE live webinars, also open to the public, were attended by over 100 health service staff. The audience who most benefitted from the dissemination were those HSE staff interested and working in healthcare policy, Sláintecare objectives and those rolling out new services and patient care pathways across the country. The fact that each seminar was chaired by a different HSE senior leader was an important element in the high level of engagement demonstrated by the audience of health system leaders and decision-making personnel.

Collaboration

This report features details of a wide and diverse range of Public, Civic and Community partners who Trinity College Researchers are collaborating with to advance Civic Engagement and Societal Impact. These partners include:

Civic & Voluntary Organisations

An Cosán
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Cork Simon
Crosscare
Depaul Ireland
Diabetes Ireland
Fatima Centre
Focus Ireland
Good Shepherd Cork
Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA)
The Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI)
Merchants Quay Ireland
Peter McVerry Trust
The Queen's Innovation Zones
Robert Emmet Community Development Project
Salvation Army
Shankill Children and Young People Zone
SMART D8
Tallaght Childhood Development Initiative (CDI)
Tallaght Library

Arts & Cultural Organisations

Arts Council of Ireland
Bealtaine festival
Creative Aging International
Creative Ireland
Creative Life Hub at Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing
Dublin International Film Festival (Picture House)
Irish Museum of Modern Art
Jameel Arts and Health Lab
National Archives, Ireland (NAI)
Réalta

Academic & Clinical Partners

National College of Art & Design
Trinity Access Programme
Technological University Dublin
St James' Hospital
Royal Irish Academy
Children's Health Ireland, Tallaght
Novo Nordisk
Tallaght University Hospital
Trinity's School of Creative Arts
Global Brain Health Institute
Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience
Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Primary & Secondary Schools

St Anne's Primary School, Fettercairn
Drimnagh Castle Primary School
Marian College, Dublin

Government and Non-Government Organisations

Atlantic Institute
Department of Health
Dublin City Council
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
Health Pathways
Health Service Executive
Health Service Executive Programme for the Homeless
Health Service Executive Community Healthcare East
Health Service Executive Health Intelligence Unit
Health Service Executive Healthy Ireland
Health Service Executive Regional Health Area Implementation
National Disability Authority
Oireachtas Committee on Health
Respond Housing Association
World Health Organisation

Audience Reach

News And Social Media

Inclusion health: an Irish answer to the homelessness crisis – The Guardian
A health programme for the socially excluded is reaping benefits – The Irish Times
Homeless people often ‘fall through cracks’ of health system – The Irish Times
‘Asylum: Inside Grangegorman’ – RIA News
Files from inside the Grangegorman Asylum: ‘We cannot take him home. Please contact us again when he has died’ – Irish Independent Book Review
Asylum: Inside Grangegorman - Taylor & Francis Book Review
Powerful people will have to ‘give away’ power for Sláintecare to proceed, Oireachtas committee hears – The Irish Times
‘I’d give Sláintecare four thus far’: Healthcare reforms not happening fast enough – Irish Examiner
Piecemeal reform prohibits Sláintecare, committee hears – RTÉ
Engaging the private sector in delivering health care and goods: Governance lessons from COVID-19 - YouTube
Strengthening Private Sector Engagement for UHC
www.artandculturehk.com
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people - Interview with Dr Julie Broderick RTE Drive Time 05.06.24
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people - Interview with Dr Julie Broderick on Newstalk (The Moncrieff Show) on 09.07.24
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people – [Irish Times Article 08.07.24](#)
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people - Merchants Quay Annual Report in 2022
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people – [Blog on Merchants Quay Blog](#)
Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people - Interview with Dr Julie Broderick 2FM 26.08.24 (The Laura Fox Show)

Podcast and YouTube

Asylum: Inside Grangegorman - Today with Claire Byrne
Asylum Grangegorman Three Castles Burning is a social history podcast
Asylum: Inside Grangegorman – Tommy Tiernan Show
Strengthening Private Sector Engagement for UHC
“ImagiNation: Hong Kong in Exile”
Nobody left behind: Exploring new ways to tackle smoking inequalities conference 2023 (HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme dissemination event 28 Feb 2023)
Diabetes Prevention Stories (a) Danny & Eva (b) Jay
Professor Edna Roche discusses childhood type 1 diabetes

Outputs

Reports, Studies, and Policy Briefs

Financial incentives for stopping smoking (HSE Research brief) March 2023
Joint Committee on Health debate - Wednesday, 1 Mar 2023 (oireachtas.ie)
Co-designing and testing the feasibility and acceptability of a theoretically-informed Financial Incentive to Stop Smoking (FISS) implementation strategy.

Academic Publications, Conferences and Books

The Development of an Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme for Homeless Adults in Dublin, Ireland. 2018 Oct 23 Ní Cheallaigh C, Lawlee AM, Sears J, Dowds J. [cited 2023 Nov 22];18(s2):184.

Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people – Presented orally at the Pathways From Homelessness Conference, London 2022 and 2023

Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people –Focused Symposia in the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Conference in Manchester October 2024

Drop-in exercise programme for homeless people –World Congress of Physiotherapy Tokyo, Japan May 2025.

The Development of an Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme for Homeless Adults in Dublin, Ireland – Conference Abstract International Journal of Integrated Care (IJIC) Oct 23, 2018

The Unmet Rehabilitation Needs in an Inclusion Health Integrated Care Programme for Homeless Adults in Dublin, Ireland – Scientific Paper Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Aug

How and why do financial incentives contribute to helping people stop smoking? A realist review
Rikke Siersbaek, Paul Kavanagh, John Ford, Sara Burke & Sarah Parker
BMC Public Health volume 24, Article number: 500 (2024)

Financial incentives to stop smoking: Potential financial consequences of different reward schedules.

Outcomes of the LEAP feasibility trial - a low-threshold, exercise programme with protein supplementation to target frailty and poor physical functioning in people experiencing homelessness and addiction issues, Kennedy F, Ní Cheallaigh C, Romero-Ortuno R, Doyle SL, Broderick J, PLOS ONE, 19(5): e0301926, 2024

Bringing brain health home: the importance of housing and the urban environment for building this generation's brain health. Cities & Health, Lawlor, B., Grey, T., Cotter, E. J., Espina Diaz, M., & Robertson, I. H. (2024). 1–6.

Creative Brain Week – Knowledge Making book, with contributions from artists, health professionals, and neuroscientists on understanding the brain and applying this knowledge. Available in English, Irish, Portuguese, and Spanish. Published by Creative Aging International. ISBN 978-1-7384345-1-0

An evaluation of the social deprivation practice grant in Irish general practice
Muireann O Shea, Bridget Kiely, Patrick O'Donnell and Susan M Smith
BJGP Open 2024; 8 (2): BJGPO.2023.0195. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/BJGPO.2023.0195>

Trinity Policy & Engagement Champions

Ailbhe Herity, Research Assistant, Inclusion Health Research Group
Alison Baker Kerrigan, Arts Officer, Tallaght University Hospital
Conor Reddy, IRC Enterprise PhD Scholar
Dr Darach Ó Ciardha, Assistant Professor in Primary Care and General Practitioner
Dr Evangelia Rigaki, School of Creative Arts, Trinity College Dublin
Dr Julie Broderick, Assistant Professor at the Discipline of Physiotherapy
Dr Kevin Mc Carroll, Clinical Senior Lecturer, Medical Gerontology
Dr Matt McElheron, PhD Student, Inflammageing Research Group
Dr Rikke Siersbaek, Research Fellow (Clinical Medicine), School of Medicine,
Dr Sarah Parker, Centre for Health Policy and Management
Dr Sinead Moriarty, Teaching Fellow in Children's Literature, School of English
Dr Tom Grey, Research Fellow, School of Engineering
Fiona Kennedy, physiotherapist and PhD student, Trinity College Dublin
Helen Murray, Communications Manager, Trinity Inst. of Neurosciences (TCIN)
Jordy Smith, Research Student, Medical Gerontology
Lena Doherty, Faculty Administrator, Faculty of Health Science
Mandy Lee, Assistant Professor, Centre for Health Policy and Management
Mary Colclough, Community & Enterprise Engagement Manager, Trinity Unit18
Matt McElheron, PhD Student, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin
Professor Brendan Kelly, Professor of Psychiatry
Professor Brian Lawlor, Conolly Norman Chair in Old Age Psychiatry at Trinity College
Professor Catherine Darker, Associate Professor & Health Psychologist, Public Health & Primary Care
Professor Clíona Ní Cheallaigh, Trinity College Dublin
Professor Desmond (Des) O'Neill, Consultant in geriatric and stroke medicine at Tallaght Hospital
Professor Edna Roche, Professor in Paediatrics
Professor Ian Robertson, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Co-Director Global Brain Health Institute
Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers, Associate Professor in Addiction
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Associate Professor of Drama, School of Creative Arts
Professor Noel McCarthy, Professor of Population Health Medicine
Professor Nollaig Bourke, Ussher Assistant Professor in Inflammageing
Professor Roman Romero-Ortuno, Professor and Consultant Physician in St. James's Hospital
Professor Sara Burke, Associate Professor, Centre for Health Policy and Management
Professor Steve Thomas, Centre for Health Policy and Management
Professor Susan Smith, Professor of General Practice, Discipline of Public health & Primary care
Regius Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Principal Investigator of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)
Sara Quinn, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, Trinity College Dublin
Warren Farrell, Education Coordinator, Trinity Access Programme

Our Civic Engagement Colleagues

Annie Armstrong, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Austin Campbell, Executive Director of the Robert Emmett Community Development Project
Dr Leonie Boland, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist, Homelessness and Mental Health, Health Service Executive Programme for the Homeless
Paula Byrne, Merchants Quay Ireland
Jonathon Doyle, Tallaght Childhood Development Initiative (CDI)
Dr Suzanne Doyle, Technical University of Dublin
Laura Dunne, The Queen's Innovation Zones
Karen Galway, The Queen's Innovation Zones
Karl Gough, TAP liaison teacher at Marian College, Dublin
Professor Hilary Hoey, Chair of Diabetes Ireland
Amanda McKenna, Diabetes Awareness and Awareness Campaign
Roisin Nevin, Creative Life Coordinator, Creative Life Hub at Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing
Dr Liam O'Hare, The Queen's Innovation Zones
Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, National Director, Operations Planning, Health Service Executive Planning and Intelligence, Health Service Executive
Martina Queally, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare East, Health Service Executive
Marian Quinn, Tallaght Childhood Development Initiative (CDI)
Dr Jackie Redpath, Shankill Children and Young People Zone
Dr Philippa Ryan Withero, Assistant National Director Human Resources, Strategic Workforce
Kerry Ryder, Programme Manager, The National Electronic Research Management System, Health Service Executive Dublin
Jess Sears, Inclusion Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, St James' Hospital
Aoife Wilmott, Senior Occupational Therapist, Kinvara House, Cork Region Housing First Team
Liam Woods, Director, Regional Health Area Implementation, Health Service Executive

Report Production Team

Professor Susan Smith, Director of Health Policy and Engagement, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin
Bridget Gavin, Research Impact Officer, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin
Michael Foley, Civic Engagement for Societal Impact Manager, Trinity College Dublin
Jerry Huysmans at Creative AD

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School of Medicine
Trinity College Dublin
Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute
152 - 160 Pearse St, Dublin 2
D02 R590, Ireland

Phone: +353 1 896 1000
Email: research.medicine@tcd.ie

Web: www.tcd.ie/medicine/research/

Twitter: [@TrinityMed1](https://twitter.com/TrinityMed1)

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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
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