

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



9 Fully Funded Ph.D. Scholarships

(includes annual fees of €8,000, annual stipend of €22,000 and travel bursary of €5,000 (across the 4-year period)).

Hosted by the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery (FNM) in collaboration with the School of Postgraduate Studies and a range of disciplines across the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).

Established in 1784, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI, www.rcsi.com) is an innovative, not-for-profit, world-leading health sciences education and research university focused on driving improvements in human health worldwide. Globally, we are positioned in the Top 200 of the Times Higher Education (THE) Clinical & Health 2024, the Top 200 QS Subject Ranking in Medicine 2023, and the Top 250 QS Subject Ranking in Pharmacy & Pharmacology 2023. Ranked 251-300th in the Times Higher World University Ranking 2024, which reflects our global focus and collaboration. RCSI is also ranked number one in the world for SDG3 'Good Health and Well-being' in THE University Impact Rankings 2023. RCSI has an advanced research infrastructure providing its researchers with extensive institutional support. RCSI is committed to carrying out research to the highest standards of professionalism and scientific rigour. RCSI has been formally granted HR Excellence in Research designation by the European Commission (EC). This is an acknowledgment of the RCSI's ongoing alignment of its HR policies and practices with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code). HR Excellence in Research designation is a clear statement of the institute's commitment to providing an attractive, supportive and stimulating working environment in which to carry out research. RCSI has also been awarded Athena SWAN Bronze accreditation in recognition of its positive gender practices.



The RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery (FNM) has a long and established reputation for the delivery of nursing, midwifery and health related education programmes in Ireland. The Faculty also has a strong track record in conducting programmes of work class research.

The FNM is committed to the following objectives:

- Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our work
- Enhancing Health and Wellbeing in the Health System
- Supporting Innovation and Digitalisation in Healthcare
- Informing and transform practice through research, education and continuous professional development (CPD)
- Improving patient experiences and outcomes
- Impacting society by reducing the global burden of disease

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR TEAM

The FNM team comprises experienced educationalists and researchers.

Of relevance to this PhD Scheme Professor Mary Rose Sweeney (Executive Vice Dean for Education) and Professor Mary Lynch (Executive Vice Dean for Research) joined the Faculty in 2023 expanding the scope and scale of teaching and research activity in the Faculty. Candidates will be based in the RCSI, and relevant school or faculty depending on the specific project.



Professor Mary Rose Sweeney



Professor Mary Lynch

PROFESSOR MARY ROSE SWEENEY

is a Registered General Nurse, with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Nutrition from the University of Ulster and a Ph.D. from Trinity College Dublin. She is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE, in the UK. Mary Rose has been working in Health Systems/Public Health for over 25 years and is an experienced lecturer, researcher and mentor. Mary Rose has been leading research projects in Health Systems/Public Health since 2000 and has experience of large complex, multi-disciplinary, international projects. Her research methods can be applied to many different research questions across many areas of health and healthcare. They are by nature trans disciplinary and cut across many different diseases, health states, situations and settings. They involve the application of a set of methodological approaches (qualitative and quantitative) to answer societal questions related to health, health systems/services and public health. The methods employed in health systems/public health research are agile and can be easily adapted to new areas of interest as they emerge. This is very important in the rapidly changing "health landscape" that we are living in which is being greatly impacted by climate change causing the movement of populations globally. The health care needs of these vulnerable populations add additional challenges for health care providers already stretched by a shortage in number of nurses, doctors and other allied health professionals and the retention and attrition challenges in the system. Local health landscapes are also changing, with the rollout of Slaintecare as well as the shifting demographic profile of our population. Research is needed to scope out what the potential impacts are likely to be and how best to address them. Mary Rose has produced many research outputs (publications, abstracts, conference presentations, technical reports) and has attracted research funding from national and international sources, including the HRB, IRC and the EU.

PROFESSOR MARY LYNCH

is a Registered General Nurse, holds a MSc in Sustainable Rural Development and a PhD in Health Economics both from Queens's University Belfast. Mary is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE (SFHEA), and a trained Social Return On Investment (SROI) practitioner. Mary is an honorary visiting professor at the Faculty of Life Science and Education, University of South Wales, and the School of Health and Life Sciences, University of West of Scotland, where Mary provides health economic expertise for joint research projects and PhD studentships. Mary collaborates on research addressing health and wellbeing issues which take a life-course approach to the methodology and conducts economic evaluation of public health interventions. Mary's methodological expertise is in applying non-market valuation techniques; Stated and Revealed Preference techniques; incorporating Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), Social Return on Investment (SROI), in estimation of social value of public health interventions. Mary's specialism is in the field of social prescribing and research interests span the areas of public health, environment, behaviour change and valuing public goods and services. Mary's portfolio of research extends to health and wellbeing, physical activity, nature based social prescribing, use of community assets and rurality. Mary has successfully attracted funding from a range of sources including Welsh Government, Health and Care Research Wales, ESRC, NESTA, KESS 2, Welsh European Funding Office: Accelerate Wales Programme and European Regional Development Fund, Interreg VA 2Seas Mers Zeeën and NIHR.

CO-INVESTIGATOR TEAM

The PI team are supported by a team of experienced transdisciplinary academics from right across the RCSI.

DOCTOR JAMES LARKIN

From the Department of General Practice and School of Pharmacy
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/larkinjames>

DOCTOR CHIARA PITTALIS

From the School of Population Health
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/chiarapittalis>

DOCTOR ANDREA J DOYLE

From the RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/andreadoyle>

DOCTOR CLAIRE TIMON

From the School of Population Health
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/clairetimon>

DOCTOR TOMMY KYAW-TUN

From the School of Medicine, Graduate Entry Medicine

DOCTOR JAKUB GAJEWSKI

From the School of Public Health
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/jakubgajewski>

PROFESSOR SUZANNE MCDONOUGH

From the School of Physiotherapy
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/SuzanneMcDonough>

DOCTOR GINTARE VALENTELYTE

From the School of Population Health
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DOCTOR LORNA STAINES

From the School of Population Health

DOCTOR EIDIN NI SHE

From the Graduate School of Healthcare Management
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DOCTOR AISLING WALSH

From the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology
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DOCTOR PADRAIC DUNNE

From the Centre for Positive Health Sciences
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/padraicdunne>

DOCTOR JOLANTA BUKRE

From Centre for Positive Health Sciences
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/jolantaburke>

DOCTOR SIOBHAN MCCARTHY

From the Graduate School of Healthcare Management
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/smccarthy>

PROFESSOR HELEN FRENCH

From the School of Physiotherapy
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/hfrench>

DOCTOR CAITRIONA CAHIR

From the School of Population Health
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/caitrionaahir>

DOCTOR ANGELA FLYNN

From the School of Population Health
<https://www.rcsi.com/people/profile/angelaflynn>

Healthcare environment and the UNSDG's

Projects supervised by
Professor Mary Rose Sweeney

REDUCING HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED WASTE THROUGH INNOVATIVE MATERIAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

Healthcare facilities generate vast quantities of plastic waste (hazardous and non-hazardous) annually. This waste has a tremendous environmental impact, from the production of the plastic materials in question, to the disposal in which much of this waste is incinerated, or occupies landfill sites at length, posing considerable risks to the natural environment. The proposed Ph.D. project is in collaboration with Dr Keith Rochfort and the Grain-4-Lab team at DCU. The Grain-4-Lab team have developed an innovative and more sustainable solution for dealing with single-use plastic items such as those found in hospital waste streams, and to date, the team have developed a range of plasticware using their bioplastic that have been trialled in various laboratory settings validating their use as an alternative to petroleum-based plastics. More details of the project can be read here;

<https://www.dcu.ie/research/news/2022/oct/grain-4-lab-wins-sfi-plastics-challenge> <https://grain4lab.ie/> For this proposed Ph.D. we aim to transition this technology to test it in healthcare products/settings. The aim of the project is to use this innovative material science technology to reduce the environmental effect of hospital waste.

The objectives of the project are to

- 1) identify the most frequently used plastic based hospital waste products (e.g. syringes, gloves, aprons, incontinence pads/nappies, IV infusion bags, IV lines, O2 Masks, theatre gowns, etc) generated in Irish Hospitals and the waste streams through which these materials are disposed.
- 2) recreate a degradable version of the most commonly used plastic-based single-use products in the labs at DCU using the sustainable materials and validate their performance in line with ISO standards.
- 3) Pilot test the use of the new products in a hospital setting to explore their functionality under a range of criteria.

Candidates for this project will require a background in Biological Sciences or other cognate discipline. An interest in materials and biomedical laboratory background is desirable. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 Honours Degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

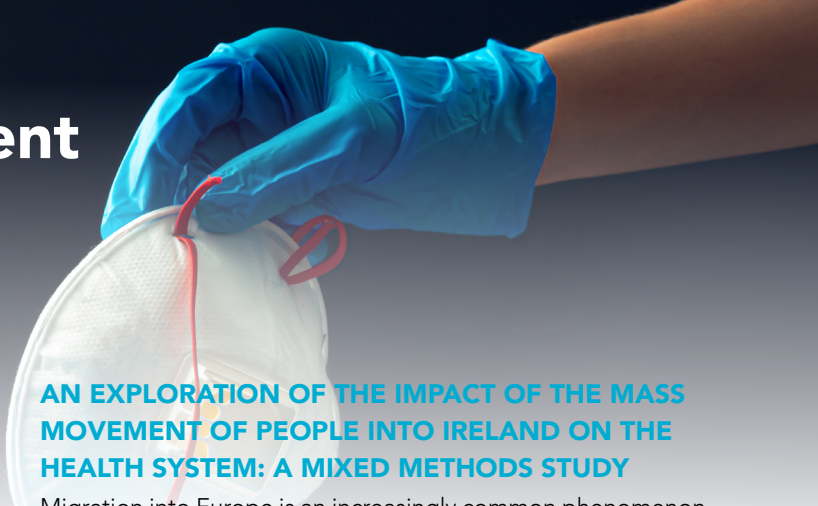
Co-supervised by: Dr Andrea Doyle & Dr Aisling Walsh

AN EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE MASS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE INTO IRELAND ON THE HEALTH SYSTEM: A MIXED METHODS STUDY

Migration into Europe is an increasingly common phenomenon. Ireland has experienced significantly higher rates of inward migration than is typical in recent years, for a variety of reasons, including political instability across the globe, the war in Ukraine, climate change etc. Based on the most recent reports, 4.7 million people migrated to one of the 28 European Union countries in 2015, compared with approximately 1.8 million people in 2005. Ireland has the ninth highest proportion of migrants in the World Health Organisation (WHO) European region. One of the challenges for Ireland is to adequately support the health of migrants while ensuring that the staff working in the health system have the resources, support structures and training that the need to provide care to this population who are diverse in needs, often vulnerable and traumatised. A recent study published in BMC Public Health explored the health status of migrants in the Republic of Ireland but there is very little research on the impact of the mass movement of people on the health system in terms of resource implications, support structures, staff training and other needs. The aim of this study is to explore the impact on the health system of the immigrant population to explore how staff can be better supported, resourced and trained to provide appropriate and adequate care. The study will employ a mixed methods approach with front line staff across the health system as well as managers and policy makers.

Candidates for this project will require a background in nursing, public health, health systems, or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals

Co-supervised by: Dr Gintare Valentelyte, Dr Chiara Pittalis, Dr Eidin Ni She & Dr Jakub Gajewski



AN EXPLORATION OF BREAST-FEEDING ENVIRONMENTS IN IRELAND AND CROSS COUNTY COMPARISON USING A CITIZEN SCIENCE APPROACH

Breast milk is a safe, natural, nutritious, and sustainable food for babies. Breast milk contains antibodies that help protect against many common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and respiratory diseases. It is estimated that inadequate breastfeeding is responsible for 16% of child deaths each year. Breastfed children perform better on intelligence tests and are less likely to be overweight or obese later in life. Women who breastfeed have reduced cancer and type II diabetes risk. Globally, the rates of breastfeeding fall well short of the target required to protect the health of women and children. Ireland has one of the lowest breast feeding rates in the world. Barriers to breastfeeding include lack of appropriate breast-feeding environments in their local community and upon returning to work. The proposed Ph.D. will explore breast-feeding environments in Ireland in local areas and in workplaces using a citizen science approach. We will compare and contrast the environments in Ireland with those available in other European Counties where breastfeeding rates are consistently higher. This project is a collaboration with Dr Regien Biesma, an Academic based in the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCG) and Professor Anthony Staines, Chair of Health Systems Research at DCU.

Candidates for this project will require a background in nursing, midwifery, nutrition, social sciences, anthropology, social geography, urban planning or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary areas outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr Claire Timon & Dr Angela Flynn

RISING AGGRESSION, HOSTILITY AND ABUSE: AN EXPLORATION OF EXPERIENCES OF SAFETY AND SUPPORT NEEDS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN IRELAND.

According to a recent Oireachtas committee hearing, at least 10 assaults happen in Irish hospitals every day. Over 9,000 assaults occurred between January 2021 and October 2022. The Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation (INMO) have called for greater supports to ensure the safety and welfare of its members. Many staff do not feel safe in the healthcare workplace.

In this study we will conduct an in-depth exploration of the experiences and support needs of healthcare staff in the context of increased levels of aggression, hostility, verbal and even physical abuse directed towards them in Healthcare Settings in Ireland.

A mixed methods approach will be adopted and include key stakeholders such as those who provide care in these settings as well as managers with responsibility to keep staff safe.

Candidates for this project will require a background in nursing, midwifery, psychology, social sciences, or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals

Co-supervised by: Dr Lorna Staines, Dr Tommy Kyaw-Tun, Dr James Larkin & Dr Jakub Gajewski





Socioeconomic evaluation in healthcare

Projects supervised by Professor Mary Lynch

COMMERCIAL DETERMINATIONS OF HEALTH: TOWARDS NEW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MODELS THAT WORK TO SUSTAIN, RATHER THAN DAMAGE, PEOPLE, AND THE PLANET.

Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH) are made up of systems, practices, and pathways through which commercial actors drive health and equity. There is an increase in commercial activity within health care and it is paramount that future health professionals understand why organisations are incentivized to perform certain actions and how they contribute to negative population health outcomes. Key concepts in economics are equity, equality, and justice and essential in determining the allocation and effective and efficient use of scarce resources. There is an intersection with Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) which are the conditions in which people are born into, grow, work, live, and age, the systems put in place to deal with illness. The SDoH are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes (WHO) which include: income and social protection, education, unemployment, and job insecurity, working life conditions, food insecurity, housing, basic amenities and the environment, early childhood development, social inclusion and non-discrimination, structural conflict, and access to affordable health services of decent quality.

Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH) are a key social determinant, and refer to the conditions, actions and omissions by commercial actors that affect health. Company choices in the production, price-setting and targeted marketing of products, such as breast-milk substitutes, ultra-processed foods, tobacco, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol lead to diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers, as well as hypertension and obesity.

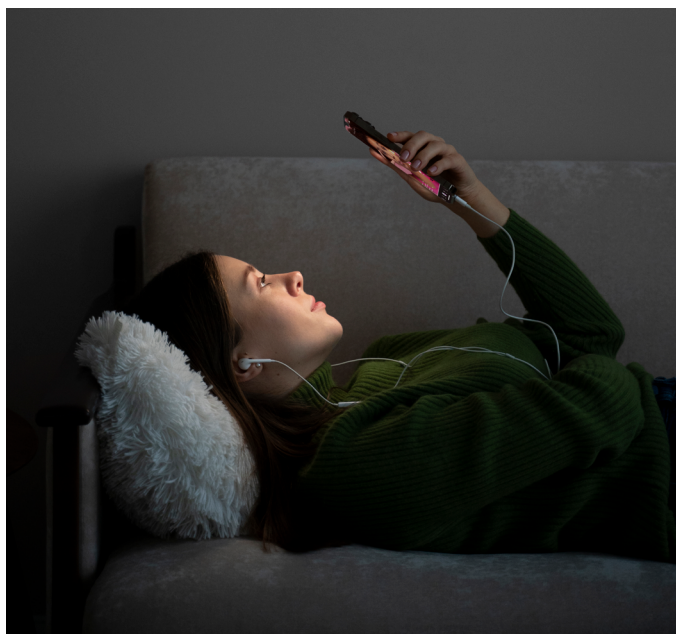
This Ph.D. will explore models in which public interests are prioritized over private interests, and where commercial organisations work to enhance global health. A mixed methods approach incorporating health economic techniques will be adopted to identify and distinguish between organisations that contribute to negative health outcomes versus those that promote positive, healthy outcomes and explore the social, economic and environmental impact of CDoH on public health in Ireland.

Candidates for this project will require a background in public health, health systems, economics, psychology, social sciences, or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr James Larkin & Dr Caitriona Cahir

THE SOCIAL COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF A 'CONNECT' AI SUPPORT COACHING APP INTERVENTION TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS IN ADDRESSING THE RISING LEVELS OF OBESITY IN IRELAND.

In Ireland 35% of the population reported that they are overweight and a further 21% of the population reported that they are obese. Men are more likely than women to report being overweight or obese (63% and 50% respectively) <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9e67-healthy-ireland-survey-2022/#weight>. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommend the use of Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Cost Utility Analysis (CUA), (NICE, 2013) and the HM Treasury advise the use of Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) for the evaluation of public health interventions (HM Treasury, 2022). SCBA is the default and preferred option to ascertain whether the benefits of a programme outweigh the costs.



SROI is a pragmatic outcome-focused framework of SCBA which takes account of the economic, environmental, and social value of interventions combining qualitative narratives as well as quantitative/ financial measurements of real-world research. Social Return on Investment (SROI) can provide meaningful insight on economic evaluation of health interventions which is beneficial for policymakers, funders, and practitioners of public health intervention to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. SROI realises in a monetised form the value of a wide range of outcomes, whether these already have a financial value or not. SROI analysis produces a narrative for how an organisation creates value for key stakeholders and provides a Social Value Ratio (SVR) that states how much social value (in £) is created for every £1 of investment.

The aim of this studentship is to conduct an SROI analysis to develop a programme-level theory of change to establish how inputs (e.g., costs, staffing) are converted into outputs (e.g., numbers of Connect users from selected community groups), and subsequently into outcomes that matter to individuals/ stakeholders affected by the Connect intervention (e.g. prevention and management of NCD's). A mixed methods approach incorporating health economic techniques will be adopted to evaluate the outcome assessments of coach-led digital health platform and evidencing and valuing outcomes for all relevant stakeholders.

Candidates for this project will require a background in public health, psychology, social sciences, economics, or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr Tommy Kyaw-Tun & Dr Padraic Dunne

VALUING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BENEFITS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE OUTDOOR ESTATE.

The aim the studentship is to develop a tool or set of tools that can quantify and value the health and wellbeing benefits and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) related to the use of the HSE outdoor estates. The purpose is to inform an understanding of the taxonomy of uses associated with HSE outdoor estates in the development of a conceptual model of the relationships between natural capital, health and well-being benefits and their beneficiaries. In addition, to conduct an in-depth review of the scientific and grey literature to reveal metrics of the physical and monetary flows of ecosystem service benefits from the outdoor estate. This PhD studentship to devise a conceptual model that sets out the relationships between the natural capital assets of a greenspace, the ecosystem services that are derived from those assets, the beneficiaries of those ecosystem services and the health and well-being outcomes experienced by those beneficiaries. A mixed methods approach incorporating health economic techniques will be adopted to estimate the CBA of HSE greenspace to improve the health and wellbeing in work for HSE employees

Candidates for this project will require a background in public health, health systems, psychology, social sciences, nursing, economics or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr Jolanta Burke & Dr Siobhan McCarthy

THE ECONOMICS OF FRAILTY AND USE OF COMMUNITY ASSETS

There is limited evidence available on the economics of frailty and Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of social prescribing interventions addressing frailty to improve health and wellbeing through the use community assets.

The aim of this studentship is to develop a system level approach to model the economic arguments of implementing interventions to prevent/improve frailty and delayed transfers of care for older people with complex and heterogeneous needs. This research will simulate the reality of supply side availability and constraints and use conventional economic theory to understand economic incentives and outcomes for patients and stakeholders such as the HSE and Social Services. A mixed methods approach will be adopted to examine the use of health and care services in elderly population and forecasting on demand and exploring equitably distribution of services. This studentship will determine the use of community assets and social prescribing interventions which could impact positively on frailty and health and wellbeing outcomes. In addition, this project will incorporate health economic techniques to estimate the social, economic and environmental impact of investment in frailty interventions.

Candidates for this project will require a background in public health, health systems, psychology, social sciences, nursing, economics or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr Suzanne McDonough & Prof. Helen French



PRICIPAL SUPERVISORS PROF. MARY LYNCH & PROF. MARY ROSE SWEENEY

WARNING SYSTEM FOR EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS, AWARENESS TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTHCARE, EQUITABLE DELIVERY, AND RESILIENCE (WEATHER)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (United Nations, 2015) places a strong focus on disaster risk management and promoting health resilience. Extreme Weather Events (EWE) cause health service disruptions, have a significant impact on health systems lacking resilience/capacity and affect vulnerable communities. It is therefore necessary to build resilient health systems to ensure effective disaster risk management and the delivery of quality healthcare (Fernandes et al, 2022).

Developing climate informed health surveillance systems can greatly enhance the capacity of health systems to prepare for and adapt to increasing climate-sensitive disease risks and outbreaks. There is a requirement that health workforces are increasingly informed and trained on the connection between climate change and health and capacity-building covers a comprehensive set of relevant skills and is routinely integrated into health workforce development (WHO, 2021). Weather patterns in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province South Africa, are less predictable due to climate change causing significant disruption in communication, severe flood damage, limited access to safe, clean drinking water and infectious disease outbreaks causing deaths. An early warning system would assist communities/ health systems to prepare/ manage risk during weather-related flooding.

This studentship will assess resilience of health systems to respond to flooding and health work force and facility assessment taking a mixed method approach. This will involve piloting a developed training programme (Policy development, risk assessment, disaster management, emergency preparedness) in tandem with a mentorship –group and individual programme to build the capacity and capabilities of healthcare workers building resilience for disaster risk management.

The evaluation will apply an overarching Realist Evaluation (RE) and Social Return on Investment (SROI) approach (focus groups, interviews and questionnaires) to evaluate the efficiency, acceptability and cost effectiveness of the impact of training and mentoring on health outcomes during flooding in KZN province. Modules will be developed and delivered over a 12-month period. Modules will focus on leadership skills, risk assessment and disaster management, using data to inform decision making and planning in the health service. Training will consist of didactic teaching, group work, case studies and workplace-based exercises delivered through a combination of in-person and online sessions. Pre and post training evaluations will be conducted to assess changes in knowledge and practice. The training of healthcare workers will go beyond the facilities in the study sites and will be extended to the relevant healthcare workers in health facilities in all 11 health districts in KZN province. An expected minimum of 200 healthcare workers will be trained.

The objectives of the project are to

1. To assess the resilience of the health system to respond in an EWE.
2. Survey of health workforce knowledge awareness and practice.
3. Risk assessment of facilities to establish climate resilience in terms of WHO Building blocks
4. To train and mentor healthcare workers on how to ensure a resilient health system and respond in extreme weather events.
5. To explore the social, economic and environmental impact of training for healthcare workers in building resilience.

Deliverables:

1. Outcome assessments disaster risk management among CHW's
2. Demonstrate the capacity in health workforce- evidenced by policies and practice.
3. Establish the percentage of facilities which are climate resilient.
4. Development of a Theory of Change
5. Establish the social value ratio for training and mentoring of healthcare workers.
6. Doctoral thesis in health economics.

Candidates for this project will require a background in public health, health systems, psychology, social sciences, nursing, economics or other cognate discipline. All candidates should have a minimum of 2:1 honours degree (level 8) in the disciplinary area outlined or in a cognate discipline. Candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals.

Co-supervised by: Dr Chiara Pittalis

SPHeRE ALIGNMENT

Students will be expected to undertake the SPHeRE structured PhD programme where appropriate for the project <https://www.sphereprogramme.ie/> and undertake a PhD by publication (subject to acceptance on the SPHeRE programme). This will enhance the rigor of the projects, expose the students to research experts across many different fields and provide a peer support mechanism for them as they undertake their PhD studies.

All students would have a supervisory panel in addition to the principal supervisor in the FNM, including discipline specific and methodological specific expertise as appropriate. This will enhance the quality of the research as well as develop partnerships internally and externally to the FNM and the RCSI.

Candidates accepted onto the funded PhDs scholarships will be interviewed separately by the SPHeRE panel prior to acceptance onto the SPHeRE structured PhD scheme.



Interested candidates can contact the relevant Project Principal Investigators (PIs) as follows

Prof Mary Rose Sweeney maryrosesweeney@rcsi.ie

Prof Mary Lynch maryalynch@rcsi.com

Please contact the School of Post Graduate Studies for queries related to entry requirements

postgraduateschool@rcsi.ie



RCSI