

Studying Health Services Research in Ireland

HRB PhD Scholars Programme in Health Services Research

Presented by: Sheena Mc Hugh, 4th year
Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College
Cork



HRB PhD Programme in HSR

- 4 year structured programme
- Established in 2007
- Cross-institution initiative: RCSI, UCC & TCD
- 37 students

*“Integrated Health Care:
from research to policy and practice”*



Steering Committee

- Professor Hannah McGee (RCSI co-director) (Health Psychology)
 - Professor Charles Normand (TCD co-director) (Health Economics)
 - Professor Ivan Perry (UCC co-director) (Public Health/Epidemiology)
 - Professor Tom Fahey (RCSI) (General Practice)
 - Professor Ruairí Brugha (RCSI) (Global Health/Health Policy)
 - Professor Jane Grimson (TCD) (Health Informatics)
 - Professor Helen Whelton (UCC) (Oral Health)
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Academic Programme Co-ordinator: Dr. Niamh Humphries (Core/RCSI)

Administration: Sheena Cleary (TCD), Vicky Murphy (UCC), Fiona Wright (ChRAIC – global health)

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Aims & Objectives

Aim

- To improve health through quality healthcare delivery and management in the Irish system. This to be achieved by:

Developing a critical mass of HSR expertise through PhD scholars who will excel in research, policy evaluation and translation of evidence into practice

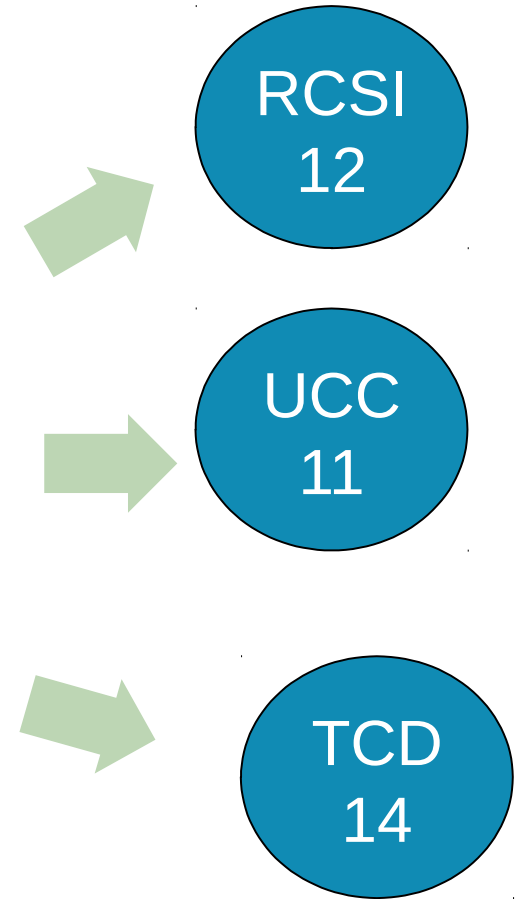
Objective

- To graduate PhD scholars with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to design, conduct and effectively disseminate nationally and internationally competitive health services research.

My objectives

- Broaden knowledge of HSR
- Develop and enhance research skills
- Specialise in a core HSR topic: quality improvement
- Supported by a structure and experts across 3 academic institutions.

Students



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Structured PhD over 4 years

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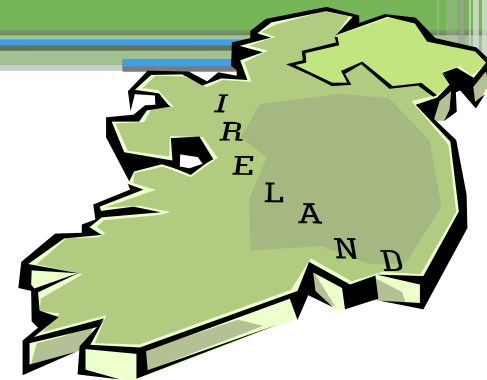


Taught Component (Year 1)

- Population and Individual Health
- Health Systems and Policies
- Evidence Synthesis and Clinical Trials
- Applying Research Methods
- Data Analysis with STATA
- Health Economics and Econometrics



National Placements



- National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork
- HIQA
- Tobacco Free Research Institute
- Economic and Social Research Institute
- TILDA (the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing) Research Group
- Dept. of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, St James Hospital

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My National Placement

- Haematology Department, Cork University Hospital
 - Activity Analysis of Haematology Unit in CUH
 - HIPE Data from CUH, Galway & St. James
- Diabetes Interest Group, Cork
 - Audit Report of Diabetes Interest Group for 2008
 - Data management and analysis of data from 12 GP practices.
 - Process and outcome data for >1000 patients

Year 2-4 Continuing Development

Workshops

- Code of Good Practice in Research
 - Completing Ethics Committee Applications
 - Project Management in Health Care
 - Measuring and Improving Quality of Care
 - Research into Policy
 - Change Management
 - Grant Preparation and Writing
 - Teaching Methods
 - Leadership and Team Skills in Research
- 2nd yr
- 3rd yr
- 4th yr



International Placements



- International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France
- WHO Department of Communicable Diseases, Surveillance and Response, Lyon Office, France
- Tornblad Institute, Lund University Sweden
- General Practice Research Database, London
- Nijmegen University, Netherlands

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“We had a rough plan to write a paper together before I went so the focus was clarified in advance i.e. to get an overview of the Swedish long term care system for older people. That work is still ongoing one year later. It provided a great opportunity to network with researchers from a range of disciplines (law, social policy, health care, social care) related to the core theme and that was very useful for me.”

Catriona; Lund University, Sweden

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My International Placement

- Department of Public Health & Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
 - To developed a proposal for a policy analysis study in Ireland.
 - HSR Unit & Health Policy Unit
 - Expertise in policy analysis, organisational research and quality improvement.
 - Attended lectures, seminars and networking with other staff and PhD students.

Research Component



- Multidisciplinary supervisory team.
- Opportunities to attend and present at conferences
- Funding for training courses tailored to your research needs
- Student Liaison in each university.
- Structure to encourage consistent progress: progress reports, deadlines, evaluations.

My Thesis

“Quality of Diabetes Care in the Community: Practice Policy & Culture”

1. Survey of diabetes care delivery in General Practice
2. Standard of primary-care led diabetes management compared to national & international standards.
3. Barriers and facilitators to optimal care delivery and quality improvement from the GP perspective.
4. Policy analysis of the recommendations for high quality diabetes care in Ireland.

Benefits of the Programme



- Peer support
- Funding: scholarship & project expenses
- Access to supervisors & staff across 3 institutions.
- Opportunities to network and collaborate
- Continuous development of knowledge and skills

Gaps in Irish Health Services Research

- Lack of unique patient identifier
- Quality of care
 - Quality of provision both within Ireland & comparing to international standards
 - Routine data collection to facilitate quality assurance
- Evaluation research: long-term outcomes, cost effectiveness, comparative effectiveness
 - Some work on innovations in healthcare regionally
- Policy analysis: implementation phase
- Develop a HSR Network: integrating researchers and health care professionals

Thank You

Further Information:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/epid/postgrad/phd-scholars/>

http://www.medicine.tcd.ie/health_policy_management/postgraduate/phd/

<http://www.rcsi.ie/index.jsp?p=254&n=539>

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