



Health Promotion Research Centre Annual Report, 2013

Welcome

We are pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report of the Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC) at the National University of Ireland Galway. The year has seen a consolidation of our research activity with longer term international studies to the fore, with HPRC leading on some and participating as partners in others. There is a discernible increase in all dissemination activities and information on all research projects can be accessed on our web site (www.nuigalway.ie/hprc).

We have begun to further develop our established network links with researchers and research centres both nationally and internationally. This will ensure we are well positioned to take advantage of collaborative funding opportunities in 2014. Our successful collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the WHO Geneva Office is set to continue with the re-designation of our WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research. This is a major achievement and we look forward to an innovative and exciting four year programme of work led by Professor Margaret Barry.

The HPRC's position in Europe as a leader in the field of Health Promotion and our re-designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research is due in no small part to the combined efforts and dedication of all those working in the Centre, as ever my thanks to all involved.



Dr. Jane Sixsmith

17th Annual Health Promotion Conference



Speakers at the Health Promotion Conference, May 2013.

The 17th Annual Health Promotion Conference 'Health in All Policies: Strengthening Multisectoral Health Promotion in an Irish Context' took place on 29th May 2013. Its focus stemmed from the need to target the key social determinants of health through integrated policy responses across relevant policy areas with the ultimate goal of supporting health equity.

The plenary speakers were Dr Erio Ziglio, Head European Office for Investment for Health and Development, Regional Office for Europe, World Health Organization; Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, Director of the Health and Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health and Professor Margaret Whitehead, WH Duncan Professor of Public Health, University of Liverpool. They presented an international and national perspective of Health in All Policies, as well as practice and research evidence of cross-sectoral work.

Conference presentations are available on our website (www.hprconference.ie). The annual Health Promotion conference is an important national platform for policy makers, practitioners and researchers to discuss and debate contemporary public health issues of national and international significance. The 2014 conference will take place in Galway on 11th June.

Spotlight on Research: IROHLA

IROHLA - Intervention Research On Health Literacy among Ageing population, is a three year European research (FP7) collaborative project with 21 partners from across the European region including the HPRC. The purpose of IROHLA is to introduce in European Member States evidence-informed guidelines for policy and practice for a comprehensive approach to improving health literacy in the ageing population.



It is anticipated by the end of the year 2015, the project will have identified and validated the most promising interventions for improving health literacy in the aging population. These identified interventions will be based on good practices from the health, social and private sectors.

innovative policies for healthy ageing

Further information can be found on the IROHLA website (www.irohla.eu/home).

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Detailed descriptions of our other current projects, publications, presentations and research grants are available on the HPRC research webpage (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/health-promotion/research>) or by clicking the titles below.

- [Translating Health Communication](#)
- [Agency & agencies: The dynamics of agency working arrangements in social care](#)
- [Adolescent sexual health behaviour in Ireland](#)
- [Young people's awareness of alcohol marketing](#)
- [Children's views on understanding their lives: A participation initiative involving children](#)
- [Mainstreaming Health Promotion: Rapid Review](#)
- [Evaluation of the Longford/Westmeath Triple P parenting intervention](#)
- [Evaluation of the Real U intervention in Foróige](#)
- [Developing Competencies & Professional Standards for Health Promotion Capacity Building in Europe \(CompHP\)](#)
- [SPAN: Science for Prevention Academic Network](#)
- [The Injury & Violence Secondary Data Analysis Project.](#)

Profile: Dr. Audrey Alforque Thomas



Dr. Audrey Alforque Thomas is working in the HPRC as a postdoctoral researcher on the research project, [Cancer Survivorship – costs, inequalities and post-treatment follow-up](#). This programme of research is centred around building capacity for the health service and society to meet the challenges of supporting cancer survivors. The fellowship is a Health Research Board Interdisciplinary Enhancement Award, in collaboration with researchers at the National Cancer Registry Ireland and Dublin City University. Over the course of three years, Dr. Thomas will explore urban-rural variation in incidence, stage at diagnosis, treatment, survival, and quality of life of those diagnosed with cancer. The fellowship includes placements in the Cancer Council Queensland, Australia, and University of Bristol, UK.

Spotlight on Research: Youth Engagement

A group of Irish young people were recently invited to represent the country at the 30th anniversary of the World Health Organization's collaborative Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey. This is the first time young people have been involved in the survey at an international level, and the purpose of their involvement was to help direct and inform the study from the point of view of young people.

The young people came from Galway, Sligo, Cork and Dublin and were joined by other youth groups from England, Wales, Scotland and Canada. Held at St. Andrews University in Scotland, the conference ran until Friday 21st June (<http://www.hbsc.org>).

You can find out more about this work by viewing the [HBSC Youth Video Report](#). An overview of the session from the meeting with links to other resources is available to [download](#). Further details on the Irish research is available at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc.



The Irish youth participants at St Andrews, June 2013

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN HEALTH PROMOTION

We have active and dynamic **postgraduate programmes** in Health Promotion as described by one of our current PhD students below.

Tuuli Kuosmanen



After graduating from the MA Health Promotion course, I was very fortunate to get a post as a research assistant in the HPRC. I worked on a project called [Bridging the Digital Disconnect](#) focusing on the use of online technologies for the promotion of young people's mental health and wellbeing. This is a three year project being carried out in collaboration with the Inspire Ireland Foundation and the Australian Young and Well Co-operative Research Centre (YAW-CRC). This experience strengthened my interest in a research career, developed my research skills and aided me in formulating the proposal for my PhD. I am now in the first year of a structured PhD programme funded by the Hardiman Scholarship examining the use of online technologies for promoting the mental health of young men. The research staff and students, from a diversity of academic and cultural backgrounds, are extremely welcoming and along with my supervisor, Professor Margaret Barry, have offered me continuous support. Doctoral research requires continuous development of knowledge and skills as well as reassessing one's values and attitudes, making it a challenging yet an incredibly rewarding journey



World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research

In October 2013 we received re-designation as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research for a further four year period up to 2017. The overall aim of the Collaborating Centre is to support the WHO work programme in building health promotion capacity through the translation of health promotion research into policy and practice. Under the leadership of Professor Margaret Barry, we look forward to working with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and WHO Geneva Office on the programme of research activities, further details of which may be found at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hpr/research/whocentre.html>

In May 2013, we hosted a WHO Partnership Working Meeting with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Directors of 10 WHO Collaborating Centres in the European region. This meeting focused on WHO priorities and collaborative actions in Europe and was addressed by Health Promotion experts from; the WHO Regional Office for Europe, EuroHealthNet, International Union for Health Promotion and Education, and the Department of Health, Health Service Executive and the Public Health Institute in Ireland.

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