



# Health Promotion Research Centre Annual Report 2014

## Welcome

We are pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report of the [Health Promotion Research Centre \(HPRC\)](#) at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). This year saw the continuation of longstanding projects, as well as the start of new and exciting projects that were funded nationally and internationally. We have continued to nourish our existing partnerships, but have also established new collaborations, further expanding our networks. Our annual conference, *Applying the Principles of Health Promotion to Population Improvement*, was a great success with a large number of participants and very positive feedback.

Our successful collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Geneva Office is continuing under the leadership of Professor Margaret Barry as we are in the second period of our designation as a [WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research](#).

Our continued success in competitively securing funding, attracting excellent researchers and in disseminating our work in various outlets, including high impact factor journals, is due to the skills, creativity, dedication and commitment of the staff: researchers, administrators and Principal Investigators. As Director of the HPRC in 2014, my sincere thanks to all involved.



*Dr. Michal Molcho*

## Current Research Projects

The HPRC is a vibrant and productive Centre. In 2014, the PIs from the Centre were involved in 20 projects across a range of topics totalling €1,628,932 of funding. Areas of research included child and adolescent health, mental health promotion, health communication for communicable disease, health literacy, cancer survivorship, prevention and Health Promotion competencies. Our projects were funded internationally (e.g., the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; World Health Organisation, European Union, UK Cabinet Office); nationally (e.g., Health Research Board, Higher Education Authority, Health Service Executive, Department of Health, Irish Research Council) and locally (e.g – Fóroige, Longford and Westmeath Parenting Partnership Programme)

The Centre puts emphasis on dissemination of research in scientific journals, reports and to the public. In 2014 alone, we have published over 21 peer reviewed publications, 12 reports, and our research appeared in the media 26 times. Through our activities, we aim to add to the existing scientific knowledge, and inform policy makers and practitioners to support them in making informed decisions. Detailed descriptions of our 2014 research projects, publications and presentations are available on the [HPRC research webpage \(http://www.nuigalway.ie/hprc\)](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hprc) or by clicking the titles below.

- [Adolescent Sexual Health in Ireland: Data, Dissemination and Development](#)
- [Bridging the Digital Disconnect](#)
- [Cancer Survivorship - Costs, Inequalities](#)
- [Developing a Quality Framework for Intersectoral Partnerships](#)
- [Evaluation of the Real U Intervention in Foróige](#)
- [Injury and Violence Secondary Data Analysis Project](#)
- [IROHLA – Intervention Research On Health Literacy among the Ageing population](#)
- [Piloting of the IUHPE European Health Promotion Accreditation](#)
- [What Works in Enhancing Social and Emotional Skills during Childhood?](#)
- [Young People's Awareness of Alcohol Marketing](#)
- [Agency and Agencies: The Dynamics of Agency Working Arrangements in Social Care](#)
- [Bullying and Incivility in the University Setting](#)
- [Children's Views on Understanding Their Lives](#)
- [Evaluation of the Triple P Parenting Intervention](#)
- [Food Environment](#)
- [Health Behaviour in School-aged Children, Ireland](#)
- [Irish Workplace Behaviour Survey 2015](#)
- [Mental Health Promotion & Prevention Evidence Briefing](#)
- [Prevention of Obesity in Children Across Europe](#)
- [SPAN: Science for Prevention Academic Network](#)
- [Updating the MINDOUT Mental Health Promotion Programme for Post-Primary Schools](#)

## Researcher Profile: Priscilla Doyle

I graduated with an [MA in Health Promotion](#) from NUI Galway in 2007. Since then I have worked on a number of projects within the HPRC as a researcher including several EU funded projects. As part of my work in HPRC I have been supported to undertake training and develop my research skills further. I have also had opportunities to travel and participate in international meetings and conferences which has also greatly improved my networking skills.



I am currently working with Dr. Jane Sixsmith on a three year European research collaborative project called [IROHLA - Intervention Research on Health Literacy among Ageing Population](#). This programme of research is centred on developing evidence-informed guidelines for policy and practice for EU Member States and regions with regard to improving health literacy in the aging population. Working in HPRC has also allowed me to be involved in teaching with the [Discipline of Health Promotion](#).

## Spotlight on Research: Food Environments

The type of food available within and in close proximity to schools can impact on dietary choices, particularly among post-primary school students who can leave school at lunch time. The Food Environment Group, led by [Dr. Colette Kelly](#) are interested in using accurate and reliable measurements of school food environments and capturing children's use of food retail outlets. This work will contribute to assessing the impact of these food environments on young people's diet, nutritional and anthropometric status.

Using tools such as a Geographic Information System, Google Street View, mapping tool exercises and focus groups, we will provide both objective and subjective data about access to, and children's use of school food environments. It is important to distinguish between what young people are exposed to and what food outlets they visit and engage with. This work will contribute to the debate on the location of food businesses around schools and the need for school food standards.



## Spotlight on Research: Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN)

The [Science for Prevention Academic Network \(SPAN\)](#) has been awarded €95,000 by the European Commission Lifelong Learning programme (LLP) to support the establishment of a network of prevention scientists and educators across Europe. The project aims to improve the integration of prevention science in the higher education sector and to improve staff and student skill mobility across Europe; develop and share best practice in prevention science education training and workforce and; support the development of innovative ICT based content for prevention science. SPAN will achieve this by bringing together experts from 32 European institutions across 25 countries to map the prevention science sector, improve education and training, build networks and run workshops with researchers, with a particular focus upon young researchers. Principal Investigators: [Dr. Michal Molcho](#) and [Professor Margaret Barry](#) from the HPRC are leading on this work in Ireland.



## PhD Profile: Maura Burke



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

In 2011 I graduated from the [MA programme in Health Promotion](#). The MA programme offers a unique and fascinating insight in relation to health, how it is created, defined and sustained. It was a really positive experience. This strengthened my interest in the area and with the great support from my supervisor, Dr. Jane Sixsmith I applied for a PhD scholarship and was successful. I am now in my fourth year of a structured [PhD programme in Health Promotion](#) investigating interprofessional teamworking within the Irish Primary Care system. My supervisor [Dr. Margaret Hodgins](#) and co-supervisor [Dr. Lisa Pursell](#) offer not only support but a great deal of experience which is helping me to develop transferable research skills. Because the Centre also encompasses a vibrant WHO Collaborative Research Centre, I have access to valuable research expertise which is a significant resource as I progress through the different stages of research. While this programme is challenging it is a rewarding process and I would highly recommend it.

## Visitors

There is a continual exchange of researchers between the HPRC and other academic institutions. In 2014, Dr. Diana Cassady, from the University of California, Davis, was a Visiting Scholar at the HPRC. She studied Ireland's approach to tobacco control, including innovative laws restricting tobacco sales in stores. During her stay at the HPRC she gave a guest lecture for our MA in Health Promotion students and presented her research in a seminar on tobacco control policy in California. Upon her return to California, she has incorporated research by [Professor Margaret Barry](#) and Dr. Jacky Jones and other work colleagues with the Centers for Disease Control to measure synergy in multi-agency health promotion collaborations.



## Annual Conference

The 2014 conference, '[Applying the Principles of Health Promotion to Population Health Improvement](#)', chaired by [Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn](#), considered the relationships and synergies between the Health Promotion principles and how they are applied in practice, the developing policy context in Ireland, and the drive for evidence generation and use.



*Front row: Margaret Barry, Louise Potvin, Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, Back row: Barry McGinn, Cate Hartigan, Antony Morgan, Kate O'Flaherty, Biddy O'Neill.*

## Contact Us

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