

# Health Sciences Academy Newsletter

Bringing together research, innovation and clinical practice

Issue 6 | September 2023



Annual Report  
Health Sciences Academy  
2020-2022

## WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of our newly launched Health Sciences Academy newsletter. Each month, we will share updates in the key areas of education, research and innovation.

## Three-Year Annual Report

Health Sciences Academy's Annual Report 2020 - 2022 has been published and is now available on the [Health Sciences Academy website](#).

This three-year annual report is a summary of the key projects, outputs and activities of the Health Sciences Academy.



Professor Paul Burke,  
Chief Academic Officer  
ULHG, Vice Dean  
(Health Sciences) UL,  
Miriam McCarthy,  
Health Sciences  
Academy Manager &  
national CAO  
colleagues.

## Academic Health Sciences System: Foundation of Slaintecare

The national Chief Academic Officer group designed and hosted a symposium on academic health sciences systems, with international and national experts and leaders at Farmleigh on 18th May. An Academic Health Sciences System is a fully coordinated partnership between a university and a healthcare system, designed to deliver quality care hand-in-hand with teaching, training, research and innovation incorporating the full spectrum of the health care workforce.

## Micro-credentials

Micro-credentials, often termed MicroCreds, are short certification courses that allow learning of new professional skills very quickly. These accredited, enterprise-powered qualifications allow learners to gather skills and competencies in a flexible, fast and affordable way, allowing learners to manage their own developmental pathway.

Micro-credentials can integrate critical skills into their workforce while also facilitating individuals' career growth, and can provide a stepping-stone to a Diploma or Masters in career development. MicroCreds in UL range from topics in health, AI to lean, law and business management. More information on courses and how to apply can be found [here](#)

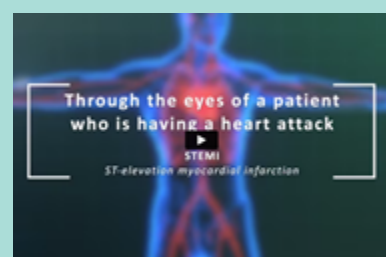


## Student Immersion to Support Innovation

The students from the [MSc Design for Health and Wellbeing](#) in the School of Design at UL worked recently with the Patient Experience Committee in University Hospital Limerick to identify needs around patient experience and information flow in the hospital. The insights led to some very exciting solutions around improved information systems and way finding portals to support patients and their families.

Students participate in immersion over three days with the focus trying to provide innovative solutions to workflow challenges, as identified by staff. The Health Sciences Academy facilitates the process to support design students, creating novel ideas and technology-based innovative solutions to staff for review and see if these can be implemented .

If you have a problem in your clinical area with tasks that are awkward, tedious, hard to do or you use 'hacks' to work around problems, then this might be the ideal opportunity for design students to observe and propose innovative and creative solutions. If you want to find out more or would like to register your interest, please contact [Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager](#) by **15 September 2023**.



### TY Students with ULHG & NAS Staff at STEMI Video Launch, CERC, UHL.

The Junior Health Sciences Academy (JHSA) is supporting second level students in early careers, health promotion and leadership through various initiatives. **“STEMI: Patient Journey”** video is one of JHSA's notable recent innovation and education initiatives. The video aims to show TY Students the journey of a patient having a heart attack, from calling 999 through to having a stent inserted and completing cardiac rehab. It showcases 7 healthcare professionals undertaking their roles, with strong health promotion messages about heart health. It is an ideal resource for any student considering a career in healthcare or anyone interested in understanding patient flow and team working. The interactive video now available as an educational resource on the website of the [Health Sciences Academy](#). TY students from Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom; Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh; Castletroy College, Staff of UHL & National Ambulance Service (NAS) involved in the production of the STEMI Patient Journey Video at CERC, UHL, 11/05/2023.



### Maura Fitzgerald Head of Nursing Integration & Development & Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager

The Health Sciences Academy recently won the award for the Equality & Inclusion Steering Committee within the Equality, Culture & Diversity category at the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards. HSA were very proud to accept the award, it was also shortlisted for an additional **two** awards in the categories of Child Health & Wellbeing Community/Outpatient Setting: **[The Care Aware Crew](#)** and Student Programme: **[Early Careers](#)** Event.

## RESEARCH

Research active health systems are associated with better outcomes for patients. It is recognised that infrastructure is needed to support health research within health and social care systems. Key national developments to support research include:

- The publication of '[HSE Action Plan for Health Research 2019-2029](#)' in December 2019.
- Ongoing reform of the HSE Research Ethics Committee landscape
- Developing HSE Research Oversight and Governance structures nationally and regionally
- Procurement of a National Electronic Research Management System
- [Updated guidance](#) is on Data Protection and Research in Health and Social Care.
- Consent for Health Research



The [HSE National Policy for Consent in Health and Social Care Research](#) provides guidance for obtaining consent for prospective participants to take part in health and social care research. This policy is of particular importance to staff conducting health research. The purpose of this policy is to set out a clear policy position for researchers on all aspects of obtaining consent for health research purposes. It aims to ensure that consent obtained for research taking place in the HSE, or in its funded organisations, is underpinned by a commitment to best practice and ethical values, complies with all relevant legal and regulatory frameworks at national, European, and international levels.

### HSELAND Resources

The HSE National Research and Development Office have resources on [HSELAND](#) to support research active staff. This includes modules on: Data Protection and Health Research, Research Integrity and Knowledge Translation.

### HSE National Research and Development Office Events

The [HSE National Research and Development Office](#) host regular online webinars and events.

### Research Ethics

[Nicola Moloney](#) is the Research Ethics Committee Manager and Nicola can be contacted if you have any queries relating to research ethics, submission dates and required documentation.

## INNOVATION

### New bespoke breast prostheses service at Symptomatic Breast Care Unit at University Hospital Limerick

A unique Limerick project team is creating bespoke breast prostheses for women post-mastectomy using state of the art digital manufacturing. The new pilot service is the result of a successful collaboration between the Rapid Innovation Unit at University of Limerick, the Symptomatic Breast Care Unit at University Hospital Limerick, and the Mid-Western Radiation Oncology Centre, Mater Private Network. It is a first of its kind service globally using 3D scanning and printing to improve the quality of life for survivors of breast cancer.

The pilot project, which was awarded funding through the Public Service Innovation Fund, has allowed women who have undergone a complete mastectomy to avail of bespoke prostheses produced onsite at the point of care.

Working collaboratively, Mr Chwanrow Baban, Senior Lecturer and Module Lead for Surgery at the School of Medicine in UL and Consultant General and Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon at UHL's Symptomatic Breast Cancer Unit, Dr Lorraine Walsh, Consultant Radiation Oncologist and Associate Clinical Lecturer Radiation Oncology Mater Private Network, and Dr Kevin J O'Sullivan, Senior Research Fellow at UL's Rapid Innovation Unit, developed a bespoke, 3D printed breast prosthesis that is suitable for production on site. As well as creating a better user experience for women who have had a mastectomy, the bespoke prosthesis can be produced for a fraction of the cost of current commercial solutions. [Click here to see the media coverage on RTE](#)






Mr Chwanrow Baban, Dr Lorraine Walsh, Professor Paul Burke & the Rapid Innovation Unit Team.



Colleagues from the Rapid Innovation Unit.

## SPARK SEED - a HSE Spark Innovation Programme Initiative

Micro funding of up to €3,000 for innovative projects to improve our health service.

-  Have you a problem or challenge that needs an innovative solution in your clinical area?
-  Do you need guidance to explore solutions?
-  Do you need funding or support to get an idea/ project off the ground?

Open to all frontline healthcare workers, NCHDs, Nursing, Midwifery and HSCPs.

Apply to Autumn Spark Seed today!



## Spark Summit 2023

Spark Summit which was held on 15th June in Dublin, hosted by HSE Spark, was a highly successful day of networking, inspiration and opportunity. Congratulations to Siobhan Meaney, Clinical Lead, Rapid Innovation Unit (RIU) Limerick, who won the National Spark Ignite Award for their 'Constant Pressure Device'

The Health Sciences Academy were delighted to present a poster at the summit showcasing the STEMI video, an innovative solution for students a interested in a career health.



Prof Leonard O'Sullivan,  
Siobhan Meaney &  
Aidan O'Sullivan, RIU

## Upcoming Events at Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC), UHL

8th September	Grand Rounds	Professor Emer McGrath, School of Medicine & Consultant Neurologist, UHG	1pm - 2pm
12th September	NCHD Careers Evening	Consultants, SpRs & Registrars presenting & one to one discussions	5.30pm -7.30pm
14th September	Stroke Research Afternoon	Clinicians & academics, UHL & UL	1.15pm - 4.30pm
15th September	Grand Rounds	Professor Mary Horgan, President of RCPI	1pm - 2pm

## Autumn & Winter Events - Coming soon:

Equality & Inclusion Conference

HSA Early Careers Event

Mid West Academic Health Science System

**If you have any suggestions for content, please contact [healthsciencesacademy@ul.ie](mailto:healthsciencesacademy@ul.ie)**