

Promoting Wellbeing through Equity: Social and Structural Determinants of Health

Health Promotion Annual Conference
25th June 2026

University of Galway



<<Full Name>>

<<Organisation Or Affiliation>>

#HPRC2026 #Equity



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With thanks to our planning committee, speakers, volunteers and funders



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HPRC
Health Promotion Research Centre

**THE BOOK OF ABSTRACTS IS
AVAILABLE HERE:**

[https://universityofgalwayhprc.clr.events/
attachment/68355c94b33a6927689883](https://universityofgalwayhprc.clr.events/attachment/68355c94b33a6927689883)



WELCOME MESSAGE

30th Annual Health Promotion Conference 25 June 2026 | University of Galway

The Health Promotion Research Centre is delighted to welcome you to the **30th Annual Health Promotion Conference**, taking place on **25 June 2026** at the **University of Galway, Ireland**. We are proud to host this landmark event in association with the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, and the Association for Health Promotion Ireland.

This year marks a significant milestone for health promotion, both globally and nationally. In 2026, we celebrate the **40th anniversary of the WHO Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion** and **30 years of Health Promotion Conferences at the University of Galway**. In recognition of these important anniversaries, the conference theme **'Promoting Wellbeing through Equity: Social and Structural Determinants of Health'**, reflects the enduring relevance of health promotion principles and the challenges facing societies today.

The social and structural determinants of health are fundamental drivers of health outcomes and wellbeing. Addressing these determinants requires a sustained commitment to social justice, equity, and collective community action. As inequalities continue to shape health experiences and opportunities across populations, there is an increasing need for robust research and evidence-informed practice to guide effective policy development and meaningful change.

We are therefore pleased to bring together academics, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educators, and advocates from across disciplines and sectors to explore these critical issues. Through keynote presentations, parallel paper sessions and lightning talks, as well as the sharing of emerging research and practice, the conference offers an important opportunity to strengthen collaboration, promote dialogue, and advance knowledge in support of healthier and more equitable societies.

As we reflect on four decades of progress since the Ottawa Charter and celebrate three decades of this conference, we look forward to engaging with both longstanding and emerging perspectives on the future of health promotion.

We warmly welcome you to Galway and hope you find the conference both inspiring and rewarding.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mary Jo Lavelle, Dr Allison Dunne & Dr Lisa Pursell
Co-Chairs, 2026 Health Promotion Conference Committee
University of Galway



Dr Mary Jo Lavelle, PhD, is an assistant professor and incoming Head of Discipline in the Discipline of Health Promotion in the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Galway. Dr Lavelle is a research project lead at the Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC), which is a designated WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion

research. Dr Lavelle's research interests are situated in the field of environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, ecological and environmental determinants of health.



Dr Allison Dunne is a lecturer in the College of Medicine and Nursing at the University of Galway. She is a clinical pharmacist with a PhD in Health Promotion from Sheffield Hallam University (2024), MSc in psychiatric pharmacy practice (Aston, 2014) and MA in Health Promotion (2019). Her research explores how community initiatives such as parkrun can

impact the social and mental wellbeing of people at high risk of poor mental health and suicide.



Dr Lisa Pursell BSc PhD recently retired from the Discipline of Health Promotion in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Galway. Her previous roles were as Lecturer, Head of the Discipline of Health Promotion and member of the Health Promotion Research Centre. She had also previously worked in the areas of antimicrobial research and veterinary epidemiology before

focusing on health equity, health impact assessments and health promotion. Lisa has published in the areas of health impact assessments, health equity and workplace ill treatment. Her ongoing interests are in human and non-human animal interactions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME – AT A GLANCE

Time	Venue: Arts Millennium Building, University of Galway	Room
8:30	Registration and coffee & networking	Foyer, Arts Millennium Building
9:00	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks (Chair Dr Mary Jo Lavelle)</p> <p>Professor David Burn, President, University of Galway</p> <p>Ms Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health, with special responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy.</p> <p>Ms Biddy O'Neill, Department of Health</p>	O'hEocha Lecture Theatre
9:30	<p>Morning Keynote Addresses (Chair: Mr Greg Straton, DoH)</p> <p>Professor Louise Potvin, Université de Montréal, Canada and president of IUHPE: <i>The times they are a-changin'</i> ... so will health promotion</p> <p>Professor Sharon Friel, ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor of Health Equity at the Australian National University, Canberra. (online): <i>Rebalancing Ideas, Interests, and Institutions: Addressing the structural drivers of health inequity</i></p> <p>Q&A period</p>	O'hEocha Lecture Theatre
10:45	Coffee Break and Poster Viewing	Foyer (see pages 16–22)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME – AT A GLANCE

Time	Venue: Arts Millennium Building, University of Galway	Room
11:15	Parallel Sessions	See pages 7 - 14
12:30	Lunch Take a walk on the campus	An Bhalann (see page 29)
13:30	Afternoon Keynote Addresses <i>(Chair: Professor Helen McAvoy, Institute of Public Health)</i> Dr Jonathan Heller , Population Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin, USA: <i>Power, Politics, and the Structural Determinants of Health: Why Public Health Must Realign Its Strategy.</i> Professor Diarmuid O'Donnovan , Director of National Health Improvement in HSE Public Health:: <i>Title: A fairer, healthier future.</i>	O'hEocha Lecture Theatre
14:40	Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony	O'hEocha Lecture Theatre
15:00	Refreshment Break Coffee & Tea (Grab-and-Go)	Foyer
15:15	Workshops (Parallel Sessions)	See page 15
16:00	Closing Session Award for best poster	O'hEocha Lecture Theatre
16:30	Conference close	

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11:15 – 12:30

Session 1: Social, economic and environmental conditions for health and wellbeing

Room: AMB-G005

Chair: Dr Martin Power, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway

Presenting author	Title
1 Professor Helen McAvoy, Head of Policy Unit, All Island Institute of Public Health	Advancing competence in Health Impact Assessment to strengthen health equity
2 Mr Niall Walsh, HSE Climate and Sustainability Programme, Health Service Executive, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, Ireland	Prescribing for Nature
3 Ms Rebecca Donnachie, HSE, Health Promotion Officer	Making Every Contact Count for Brain Health
4 Dr Ciara Reynolds, All Island Institute of Public Health	Sunbed use among children and adults in Ireland and implications for skin cancer prevention
5 Dr Orla Cotter, SpR Public Health Medicine, Department of Public Health HSE South West	Problem Gambling in HSE South West: a Regional Health Needs Assessment (HNA)

Session 2: Advancing equity through co-production and lived experience

Room: AMB-G006

Chair: Dr Nahom Megerssa Negasa, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway

Presenting author	Title
1 Ms Mary Cronin, School of Public Health UCC	Promoting Epistemic Justice through Community-Based Participatory Health Research with the Traveller Community
2 Ms Sarah O'Leary, School, Child & Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Research Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Limerick, Ireland	Co-Designing an Emotion-Focused Parenting Programme to Promote Youth Mental Health: Preliminary Findings from an Experience-Based Co-Design Study with Parents, Adolescents, and Youth Mental Health and Family Support Professionals
3 Dr Ann Marie Crosse, HSE & Health Promotion Research Centre	Community Knowledge and Policy Pathways for EcoHealth: Advancing Equity Through Co-Production, Lived Experience and Socio-Ecological Governance
4 Ms Nora O'Connor, University College Cork (UCC)	Exploring the Barriers and Facilitators to Healthy Eating and Identifying Leverage Points to Minimise Food-Related Inequalities in Cork City, Ireland.
5 Ms Veronica Conti, HSE, National Health and Wellbeing	Stronger Together: cross-agency co-production to influence policy on childhood obesity

Session 3: Advancing equity through community leadership

Room: AMB-G007

Chair: Ms Derval Gilmartin, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway

Presenting author	Title
1 Ms Fionnuala Nic Pháidín, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Practice and Policy Considerations for Health Promotion Initiatives in Gaeltacht Areas
2 Dr Marian O'Reilly, Health Service Executive	Adapting the Place Standard Tool to Explore the Food Environment
3 Ms Nicola Briggs, South East Technological University	Exploring Equity and Demographic Reach in 'Ireland Lights Up': Implications for Health-Promoting Sports Clubs
4 Ms Sandra Coughlan, HSE National Health and Wellbeing, Public Health- Health Improvement	Making Every Contact Count: Enabling Equitable Access to Behaviour Change Support
5 Mr Stefan Isbanda, Dublin Northwest Partnership/HSE	Community Food Supports and Food Poverty: Insights from the Finglas Food Club

Session 4: Lightning Talks: Research Snapshots: Rapid Perspectives on Structural & Social Determinants

Room: AMB-G036

Chair: Dr András Költő, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway

Presenting author	Title
1 Mr Brian Hickey, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway.	Music-Based Interventions for Well-being and Social Inclusion Among Adults Utilising Homeless Services — A Scoping Review
2 Ms Kathryn Meade, National Screening Service (NSS)	Peer Support Workers break barriers to screening among the Roma community in Ireland.
3 Ms Isabel Berwick, HSE	Woodlands For Health
4 Ms Caitriona Reynolds, HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme	Training inmates as peer stop smoking advisors in a medium security prison in Ireland: a peer-led approach to deliver stop smoking care in a prison setting
5 Ms Katalin Bernát, University of Pécs, Hungary	Creative expression and wellbeing: a mixed-methods study of artists
6 Ms Christine Rohan, Roscommon University Hospital	Roscommon University Hospital Rainbow Project
7 Ms Ummu A Tunis Paasewe, University of Galway	Loneliness and Associated Factors Among Adolescents in Ireland: A Secondary Data Analysis of the HBSC 2022 Survey
8 Mr David Gavin & Ms Tara Reilly, HSE.	Promoting Equitable Access to Physical Activity: Implementing a Desk-to-5K Programme to Enhance Health and Wellbeing in a Primary Care Workplace

Session 5: Health promotion and equity for diet and nutrition

Room: AMB-G008

Chair: Ms Katy Flanagan, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway.

Presenting author	Title
1 Dr Clarissa Leydon, School of Population Health, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland & School of Public Health, University College Cork	Stalling on Structural Change: Evaluating Food Environment Policy Implementation and Inequalities in Ireland
2 Prof. Colette Kelly, University of Galway	Adolescents' real-time exposure to unhealthy food marketing on social media – the CLICKBITE study
3 Mr Alan Tobin, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)	A Mixed Methods Investigation into the Barriers and Enablers to Healthy Eating in Technological University of the Shannon
4 Ms Abigail Bacon, Technological University Dublin	Healthcare Professional Bias Regarding Infant Feeding: A Secondary Analysis Exploring Maternal Perceptions of the Irish Healthcare System

Session 6: Settings for health promotion practice and health equity

Room: AMB-G009

Chair: Dr Aoife Howard, Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway.

Presenting author	Title
1 Dr David Healy, School of Psychology, University of Galway, Ireland	Co-designing a more inclusive National Inpatient Experience Survey with marginalised communities
2 Ms Amy Gibney, Irish Hospice Foundation	A National Grief in the Workplace Programme: An Ecological Systems Theory Approach
3 Dr Elaine Banville, HSE Health Promotion and Improvement	Healthy Living for Everyday Life: trusted information for better health
4 Ms Elaine Dunne, Irish Prison Service	Development of Healthy Prisons Framework
5 Mr Niall Mulvihill, University of Galway	The blind researching the blind: Experiences of a researcher with a visual impairment implementing a qualitative research study with visually impaired participants.

Session 7: Approaches & policy for health equity

Room: AMB-G010

Chair: Ms Ingrid Doyle, Department of Health

Presenting author	Title
1 Professor Janas Harrington, School of Public Health, University College Cork	From Vision to Delivery: Developing a Resilient, Community-Driven Food Policy for Cork
2 Ms Martina Blake, HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme	Removal of Barriers to Optimise Access to NRT via Stop Smoking Services in Ireland
3 Ms Katie Evans, HSE National Health & Wellbeing	Increasing Engagement in Parenting Programmes: A Practice-Based Approach in Sláintecare Healthy Communities
4 Dr Catherine Anne Field & Dr Mary Jo Lavelle, University of Galway	Building Bridges to Resilience Project: Embedding Health Promotion in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Session 8: Youth Health & Wellbeing: Social, economic and environmental conditions

Room: AMB-G012

Chair: Dr Conor Hogan, School of Law, University of Galway.

Presenting author	Title
1 Ms Jade Gill, Department of Psychology, University of Limerick; Health Research Institute, University of Limerick	Our Stories: Co-Producing 'The Connected Classrooms Project' – A School-Based Mental Wellbeing Intervention for Adolescent Girls from Migrant Backgrounds
2 Ms Anna McHale, School, Child and Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Lab, University of Limerick, Health Research Institute	Who Adolescents Use as Role Models and How They Influence Engagement in Mental Wellbeing Promotion.
3 Dr Larissa Lobo, Brock University	Exploring Canadian Adolescent Perspectives on Contemporary Risk-taking: a strengths-based qualitative approach
4 Ms Aisling Harrington, Foróige	Youth Work as a Preventative Health Promotion Response to the Social Determinants of Health

WORKSHOPS (PARALLEL SESSIONS)

15:15 – 16:00

Presenting author	Title	Room
Dr Jonathan Heller, Population Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin, USA	Power Analysis: Tools for Developing Strategy to Advance Structural Change	AMB- G036
Dr Monica O'Mullane, Sustainability Institute, School of Public Health, University College Cork	Getting Going with Health Impact Assessment: Carrying out a screening exercise on public policy	AMB- G007
Dr Laurie Décarpentrie, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway & Mr Padraic Barry and Ms Anna Adler, youth members of HAPPY (Health Advisory Panel of Passionate Youth)	The experience of HAPPY (Health Advisory Panel of Passionate Youth), a youth advisory panel established as part of the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) study.	AMB- G008
Ms Éile Quinn and Ms Qiuxia Li, University of Galway	Participatory Methods in Health Research: From Co-Production to Citizen Science	AMB- G009

WORKSHOPS (PARALLEL SESSIONS)

15:15 – 16:00

Presenting author	Title	Room
Ms Divya Ravikumar-Grant, Health Promotion, University of Galway.	Co-design of food-based guidelines for use in homeless services, a participatory study, with inherent public and patient involvement	AMB-G005
Ms Martina Blake, HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme	Practical implementation of a financial incentives programme to encourage smoking cessation among low-income populations	AMB-G006
Ms Winnie McDonnell ¹ , Mary Brigid Collins ¹ , Monica Rzepka ¹ , Kathryn Meade ² (¹ Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre; ² National Screening Service)	Bridging the Gap: Integrating Equity-Informed Approaches for Traveller Health	AMB-G010
Professor Audrey Tierney, Healthy UL, University of Limerick	Advancing Health - Promoting Campuses: Applying the Limerick Framework for Action to Transform Planet, Places and People	AMB-G012

POSTER COMMUNICATIONS

10:45 – 11:15/15:00 – 15:15

Poster numbers 1 – 18 (downstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster No.
Ms Veronica Conti, HSE, National Health and Wellbeing and Orlaith Potter, HSE Communications and Campaigns	How Parents Frame the Drivers of Child Health: Insights for Policy on Commercial and Structural Determinants	1
Ms Mags Carey, University College Dublin	Bridging the Gap: Leveraging Partnerships to Address Food Insecurity in a Third Level Setting	2
Dr András Költő, University of Galway	The Irish National Survey of Sexual Health (INISH): Feasibility, design and instrument development	3
Ms Uyen Ngo Thi Hong, Centre for Chronic Disease and Population Health, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin, Ireland	Factors influencing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination uptake in disadvantaged areas: a narrative review using the COM-B model	4

Poster numbers 1 – 18 (downstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster No.
Ms Marie Alice Randrianarisoa, Université Catholique de Madagascar, Centre de Recherche pour le Développement de l'Université Catholique de Madagascar	Psychosocial factors of medication adherence to adult high blood pressure in Antananarivo Madagascar: self-determination perspectives	5
Ms Maire O Leary, Health Promotion and Improvement, HSE South West	Embedding Making Every Contact Count in HSE Southwest – From National to Local	6
Ms Niamh Keating, Health and Wellbeing, Acute Services, HSE Mid-West	Making Every Contact Count: Unlocking the Potential of Hospitals to Address Smoking-Related Health Inequalities	7
Ms Michelle Foley, HSE	Supporting the wellbeing of Home Care Support staff in Kerry	8
Dr Allison Dunne, University of Galway	Nothing about us without us at parkrun: A participant panel approach to equity in community physical activity initiative research	9

Poster numbers 1 – 18 (downstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster No.
Ms Patricia Harte, University of Galway	An evaluation of the Act Belong Commit mental health promotion initiative in disadvantaged community settings in Ireland.	10
Ms Funmi (Olufunmilayo) Fatunbi, HSE Health & Wellbeing IHA Dublin North City & West - Tobacco Lead	Implementation of the Financial Incentive to Stop Smoking Scheme in HSE Integrated Health Area Dublin North City & West	11
Mr Paul Anders, South East Technological University	Living the Life: A Community Approach to Men's Health & Longevity	12
Ms Elisa Habluetzel Esposito, South East Technological University	Equity in physical activity support for people living with and beyond cancer in Ireland: structural determinants and implementation strategies from a multi-stakeholder qualitative study	13
Ms Ger Matthews, HSE Health Promotion	Using Existing Digital Resources to Support Staff Wellbeing: A Low Cost, Equitable Approach to Onsite Pilates and Yoga	14
Ms Charlene Young, Patient Advocate	Engaging Rare and Under-Represented Communities in Health Research: Learning from a Patient-Led Workshop	15

Poster numbers 1 – 18 (downstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster No.
Prof. Audrey Tierney, University of Limerick	Towards Integrated Digital Health Systems for Nutrition and Food Security in Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Survey	16
Ms Ellie Patterson, University of Galway	The language used around diabetes: A qualitative study focusing on the experience of people living with type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Ireland	17
Ms Geraldine Sheils, Health Service Executive and University of Galway	Equity analysis of Your Future, Your Way: an occupational therapy intervention supporting post-secondary education transitions for adolescents with neurodevelopmental conditions	18

Poster numbers 19 – 36 (upstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster no
Dr Monica O'Mullane, School of Public Health, University College Cork	Building Health Equity Strategies for Policy Change: Creating a Getting Going with Health Impact Assessment Informational Resource with Co- Produced Input	19
Ms Katie O'Neill, University of Galway	Proposal for 988 Crisis Helpline to be Established in Ireland and across Europe	20
Ms Angela King, Health Promotion & Improvement, Health Service Executive, Dublin and Midlands	The Design Standards for Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2025) Rapid Health Impact Assessment	21
Mr Keith Ryan, Health Service Executive	Kick the Vape: A community- based partnership response to highlight and address the harms of vaping in Clondalkin & Tallaght	22
Ms Christine Rohan, Roscommon University Hospital	Roscommon University Hospital Patient Passport	23
Ms Medeina Macenaite, University of Galway	Co-Design for Cleaner Air: Lived Experience Shaping Ventilation Interventions	24

Poster numbers 19 – 36 (upstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster no
Ms Sophie King, Dublin City University	Social Determinants of Cardiovascular Health in Midlife Women: A Systematic Review	25
Ms Karen Flynn McDonagh, University of Galway	To what extent do physical activity interventions improve the wellbeing of nursing home residents and, what are the barriers to effective implementation.	26
Ms Michelle Foley, HSE	Promoting Men's Health in South Kerry	27
Ms Clara Meehan, University of Galway	Enhancing Family Engagement: Building Positive Relationships in Mental Health	28
Dr Shauna Glennon, University of Galway	Strengthening Communications during Patient Discharge Processes: Experience Based Co-Design Process Evaluation	29
Ms Tara Reilly, HSE	Evaluating a Workplace Wellbeing Programme through an Equity Lens: Insights from Balbriggan Primary Care Centre	30
Ms Tania Jahir, University of Galway	Strengthening Communications during Patient Discharge Processes: Focus on Improving Communication of Discharge Plans with Service Users	31

Poster numbers 19 – 36 (upstairs)

Presenting author & affiliation	Title	Poster no
Ms Anne Marie Frizzell, University of Galway and Atlantic Technological University	A Whole Systems Approach to Promoting Higher Education Institutions as Healthy Workplaces - An Exploratory Case Study	32
Dr Conor Hogan, University of Galway	A Mixed-Method Study of Perceived Burnout in Irish Nurses Emigrating to Australia Post-Pandemic	33
Dr Sally Whelan, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway.	Exploring Frameworks and Tools for Knowledge Translation in Health Promotion Research: A Scoping Review Protocol.	34
Ms Ruchika Tara Mathur, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway.	A wholesome threesome: engaging citizens, academics and government actors in the development of the Irish National Survey of Sexual Health (INISH)	35
Professor Colette Kelly, University of Galway	More Than a Mural: Sparking Conversations and Normalising Breastfeeding on a University Campus	36

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Ms Biddy O'Neill is the National Policy Lead within Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health. She has worked in Health Promotion for over 30 years within the Department and previously the HSE. She has played a key role in shaping health promotion policy and practice across Ireland and holds an MA in Health Promotion and in Advanced Facilitation Skills for

Promoting Health and Wellbeing.



Professor Louise Potvin, School of Public Health – Université de Montréal. She is also the inaugural Scientific Director of the Centre de recherche en santé publiques, a hybrid organization affiliated with Université de Montréal and the Montreal downtown Health Authority and the president of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education

(IUHPE). Louise Potvin began teaching public health at Université de Montréal in 1988. Since 2012, she has held the Canada Research Chair in Community Approaches and Inequalities in Health. From 2004 to 2016, she was the scientific director of the Léa-Roback Research Centre on Social Inequalities in Health in Montreal, and from 2013 to 2023, she was the Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Public Health, the journal of the Canadian Public Health Association. Internationally recognized for her expertise in evaluating community health promotion programs, Louise Potvin conducts research aimed at informing public health decision-making and interventions to reduce health inequalities. Her work has contributed to changing research practices in Canada and around the world, notably through her numerous collaborations with Europe and Brazil. She is the recipient of the 2017 ACFAS Pierre-Dansereau Award, the 2021 Pioneer

Researcher Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH), and the 2021 RD Defries Medal from the Canadian Public Health Association.



Professor Sharon Friel, ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor of Health Equity at the Australian National University, Canberra. She is Director of the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, and the Australian Research Centre for Health Equity (ARCHE) at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), Australian National University. Sharon Friel is an ARC Laureate Fellow

and Professor of Health Equity. She is Director of the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, and the Australian Research Centre for Health Equity (ARCHE) at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), Australian National University. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia and the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and Principal Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University, International Institute for Global Health. Previously, she was Head of the Scientific Secretariat (University College London) of the World Health Organisation Commission on the Social Determinants of Health between 2005 and 2008. Her interests are in the political economy of health equity; governance of the social, commercial and planetary determinants of health inequities; climate change, food systems, trade and investment.



Dr Jonathan Heller is a Senior Health Equity Fellow at the Population Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin and, until recently, was also a Senior Health Equity Specialist at the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health in Canada. Jonathan's work focuses on the structural determinants of health, power, and community organizing. He is the co-founder

and until 2020 was the co-director of Human Impact Partners (now Health in Partnership), a national non-profit focused on bringing the power of public health to campaigns and movements for a just society. Under Jonathan's leadership for 14 years, Human Impact Partners became a national public health leader focused on changing policies related to the social determinants of health by: supporting community organizing groups and campaigns with research and advocacy; conducting leadership development, capacity building, and political education with public health agencies; organizing the public health community; and supporting narrative change initiatives. Jonathan received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and doctorate from University of California, Berkeley, and he served in the Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea. Jonathan is a co-founder and past president of the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA) and served on the board of Community Change.



Professor Diarmuid O'Donovan, Director of National Health Improvement in HSE Public Health. Diarmuid leads a team focused on health inequalities and partnerships to address the wider determinants of health. From 2019-2023 he was Professor of Global Health at Queen's University Belfast, and from 2005 Director of Public Health in HSE West and Senior Lecturer in

Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Galway. He trained in general practice and in public health. He has lived and worked in several countries in Africa. His main research and teaching interests relate to sustainable development and health equity and inclusion, locally and globally.

AHPI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



The Association for Health Promotion Ireland (AHPI), in partnership with the University of Galway, is honoured to present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Ms. Bidy O'Neill in recognition of her exceptional and transformative contribution to health promotion in Ireland. Over a career spanning more than forty years, Bidy has been a visionary leader,

policy innovator, and champion for population health, helping to shape many of the most significant developments in health promotion nationally and internationally. Her influence can be seen across a wide range of landmark initiatives, including Ireland's world-first National Men's Health Policy, Healthy Clubs, Healthy Campus, Healthy Workplace, Healthy Cities, and national mental health promotion programmes. Through her unwavering commitment to evidence, partnership, equity, and community wellbeing, she has helped build systems, policies, and programmes that continue to improve lives across Ireland. This award recognises an extraordinary legacy of leadership, innovation, and service that has left an enduring mark on public health and health promotion practice.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dr Aleisha Clarke, Policy Advisor: Mental Health Promotion, Health and Wellbeing Programme, An Roinn Sláinte, Department of Health



Mr Fergal Fox, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, Health and Wellbeing, Health Service Executive



Ms Aisling Doherty, Co-Chair, Association for Health Promotion Ireland



Mr Ronan Dillon, Vice Chair, Association for Health Promotion Ireland



Professor Louise Potvin, School of Public Health – Université de Montréal



Dr John Gannon, Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine, Department of Public Health, Dublin & South East HSE



Dr Geraldine McDarby, Consultant in Public Health Medicine with a special interest in health service improvement, HSE West North West



Dr Lisa Pursell, Lecturer, School of Health Sciences, Health Promotion, University of Galway.



Dr Mary Jo Lavelle, Assistant Professor,
Discipline of Health Promotion, University of
Galway.



Dr Allison Dunne, Lecturer and Clinical Tutor,
College of Medicine, Nursing and Health
Sciences, University of Galway.

Further HPRC Conference Organising Committee Members:

Dr Elke Rink, Ms Fiona McInerney, Ms Stacey Gibbons.

Our Health Promotion colleagues: Dr Aoife Howard, Dr Martin Power, Dr Nahom Megerssa Negasa, Ms Derval Gilmartin, Dr Carmen Kealy, Dr Saintuya Dashdondog, Dr András Költő, Dr Laurie Décarpentrie, Ms Katy Flannigan, Mr Brian Hickey, Dr Conor Hogan, and Professor Margaret Hodgins

We thank our staff and students at the Health Promotion Research Centre and the Discipline of Health Promotion, University of Galway, for their volunteer work in preparation and on the day of the conference.

USEFUL INFORMATION (WiFi, lunch, questionnaire, contact)

Wi-Fi Access

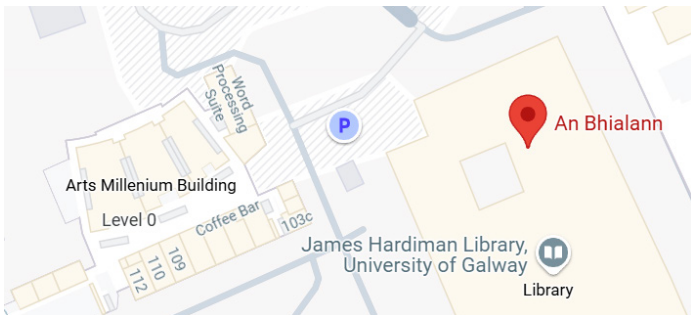
Delegates will have access to the **Eduroam** network. If you don't have an existing account, please use the link below for a guest login: https://eva.eduroam.ie/sms/ugalway?keyword=HEALTH26&date_start=2026-06-24&date_end=2026-06-25



Simply text (SMS) the given keyword to the given number on the webpage to gain access. Please note that this access is valid only on that day.

Lunch

From 12:30, lunch is served in the University's Restaurant, *An Bhialann*, directly opposite the conference venue.



Healthy Conference

In keeping with our Health Promotion philosophy, delegates can choose healthy food options and take regular stretch and exercise breaks throughout the conference day. **The back two rows of the lecture theatre are reserved for those who wish to stand during the presentations.**

There are several pleasant walks on the University of Galway campus, including the **river walk**, which you can take at lunchtime.

Please use the link for the map to our

Campus Riverwalk: [https://www.](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/humanresources/images/Riverside-Route.pdf)

[universityofgalway.ie/media/](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/humanresources/images/Riverside-Route.pdf)

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Commitment to Sustainability

This conference is committed to delivering a sustainable, inclusive, and health-promoting event experience aligned with University of Galway's sustainability values and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We aim to minimise our environmental impact by reducing waste, promoting digital resources, encouraging sustainable travel, and supporting local and responsible suppliers. We are also committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment that promotes wellbeing, collaboration, and meaningful engagement for all participants. As a health promotion conference, we recognise the close relationship between human health, community wellbeing, and planetary health, and strive to ensure this event contributes positively to people, place, and sustainable futures.

Learn more about University of Galway's sustainability strategy and policy at <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability/>



Any questions?

If you have any questions throughout the day, please ask our conference staff at the registration desk or our volunteers.

Conference evaluation

We ask all delegates to please complete our evaluation. This survey assesses whether the conference was satisfactory and if the needs and expectations of the delegates were met. Please use this survey link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/edSns4nHK6>



Stay in touch

If you would like to receive communications about future Health Promotion events and are not yet on our distribution list, please send an email to hprc@universityofgalway.ie with the subject heading 'add me to event list'.

Promoting Wellbeing through Equity: Social and Structural Determinants of Health

Health Promotion Annual Conference
25th June 2026

University of Galway



<<Full Name>>

<<Organisation Or Affiliation>>

#HPRC2026 #Equity

