Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention
Dr Marie Cantwell  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** nutrition; cancer epidemiology; colorectal cancer; breast cancer; oesophageal cancer

Marie is a senior lecturer in Nutritional Epidemiology and has published extensively on the role of diet and lifestyle on oesophageal carcinoma risk within the Factors Influencing Barrett’s Oesophagus, Reflux Oesophagitis and Oesophageal adenocarcinoma (FINBAR) study, a population-based case-control study in Ireland. Marie is a member of the Pooling Group for the international collaboration BEACON (Barretts Esophagus and Adenocarcinoma Consortium. Marie has collaborations with researchers at the National Cancer Institute from the Prostate Lung Colorectal Ovarian screening trial, the NIH American Association for Retired Persons (NIH-AARP) cohort and the Polyp Prevention Trial and has published extensively on the role of diet and lifestyle and cancer risk. She is principle investigator on a study to develop a Northern Ireland colorectal polyp register to determine factors associated with polyp recurrence and progression to colorectal cancer. She is also principle investigator on a 6 month randomised controlled trial of a diet and physical activity intervention in prostate cancer patients treated with androgen deprivation therapy. More recently Marie has begun to examine the relationship between nutritional exposures and breast cancer survival using data from the DietCompLyf study a UK cohort of 3000 breast cancer patients.

Dr Helen Coleman  
Lecturer / CRUK Fellow  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  
Funder: QUB / CRUK (PI: Marie Cantwell)  

**Keywords:** cancer epidemiology; colorectal cancer; Barrett’s oesophagus; endometrial cancer; nutritional epidemiology

My general research interests are in cancer epidemiology, particularly risk factors for progression from pre-cancerous conditions to cancer and factors associated with recurrence or survival after a cancer diagnosis. Cancer site-specific interests include colorectal polyps and colorectal cancer, Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal cancer, endometrial hyperplasia and endometrial cancer. My research mostly investigates modifiable risk factors and cancer progression, particularly the role of nutrition, and I am increasingly interested in how these interact with molecular and genetic factors to influence cancer risk and survival. For example, I am currently investigating vitamin D receptor and vitamin D related genetic variants in relation to colon cancer survival as part of a Cancer Research UK Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowship.
Mr Conan Donnelly
Affiliated Visiting Research Fellow (secondment) and PhD student (p/t)

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Supervisors: Anna Gavin, Liam Murray
Title: Identifying targets for intervention to promote earlier diagnosis of cancer
Funder: Self-funded

Keywords: colon cancer; lung cancer; prostate cancer; cancer incidence; cancer survival; ICBP

I am currently on secondment from NISRA and in my second year of a PhD of a National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI) investigating factors associated with early death in lung and colon cancer with a view to developing early diagnosis strategies. This nested case control study involves note review of patients diagnosed with lung and colon cancer (2005-10) to identify patient, clinical, service and disease factors associated with dying within 3 months of diagnosis. I have also had a coordinating role in the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) in NI, a work programme that involves 6 partner countries and aims to explain differences in international cancer survival with the focus largely on diagnostic delay. I also have interests in other health services research including quality of life among prostate cancer patients and am part of a team about to embark on a UK wide study of quality of life among prostate cancer patients, I will lead on a normative component that will provide matched comparisons to estimate any quality of life deficits among patients. I also lead for the production of official statistics on cancer incidence and survival in Northern Ireland.

Miss Blanaid Hicks
Affiliated PhD Student

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Supervisors: Chris Cardwell, Liam Murray
Title: The effect of commonly used medications and smoking on colorectal and breast cancer progression
Funder: DEL

Keywords: pharmacoepidemiology; smoking; cancer survival; colorectal cancer; breast cancer

After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science at Queen’s University Belfast, I began a PhD programme under the supervision of Dr Chris Cardwell and Professor Liam Murray. I am currently in my second year of my PhD which aims to investigate the effects of modifiable factors on cancer progression. This includes investigations on the effects of commonly used medications and smoking on cancer survival. I have a keen interest in both pharmacoepidemiology and cancer epidemiology and I am an active member of the Cancer Epidemiology and Health Sciences Research Group.
**Mr Andrew Kunzmann**  
*PhD Student*  
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Supervisors: Marie Cantwell, Liam Murray, Helen Coleman  
Title: Risk factors (including biomarkers) for colorectal cancer development and prognosis  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  
**Keywords:** colorectal cancer; pharmacoepidemiology; nutrition; aspirin; vitamin D; fruits and vegetables; dietary fibre  

I completed a degree in Psychology at the University of York, before undertaking an MMedSci in Human Nutrition at the University of Sheffield, after becoming interested in the effects of food on health. This led to me wanting to study the impact of nutrition and other modifiable lifestyle factors on cancer. I am now in my third year of a PhD at Queen’s University Belfast studying “Risk factors (including biomarkers) for colorectal cancer development and progression” funded by the Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI. My main areas of interest are modifiable risk factors for colorectal cancer development and prognosis, particularly nutritional or pharmacological risk factors.

**Dr Úna Mc Menamin**  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*  
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Title: Pharmacoepidemiology (PI: Chris Cardwell, Liam Murray)  
Funder: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)  
**Keywords:** cancer epidemiology; pharmacoepidemiology; breast cancer; colorectal cancer  

I have recently completed my PhD in cancer pharmacoepidemiology within the Centre for Public Health at QUB, having previously undertaken a Masters in Public Health at the University in 2010. My PhD primarily investigated the association between commonly prescribed medications and cancer survival among breast and prostate cancer patients using large UK population-based databases. I was also involved in the establishment of a Northern Irish breast cancer cohort for the conduct of future population-based studies of drug exposures and cancer outcomes. My primary research interests relate to the utilisation of routinely collected data sources for the identification of modifiable factors for cancer progression. I have recently been appointed to a research fellow position within the Centre for Public Health and am currently investigating the impact of anti-diabetic medications on survival outcomes among colorectal cancer patients.

**Miss Charlene McShane**  
*Affiliated PhD Student*  
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Supervisors: Lesley Anderson, Liam Murray  
Title: Prior medical history and medication usage and risk of multiple myeloma  
Funder: DEL  
**Keywords:** cancer epidemiology; pharmacoepidemiology; haematological malignancies; immunology;
I graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences. In October 2011, I began my PhD at Queens University Belfast investigating aetiological risk factors associated with the development and progression of the plasma cell disorders, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) and multiple myeloma (MM). During this time I have utilised large population-based databases including the UK Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) and the USA SEER-Medicare datasets to explore the impact of exposure to chronic antigenic stimulation (for example, infections and autoimmune disease) and exposure to commonly prescribed drugs on the development of MGUS, MM and lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/waldenström’s macroglobulinemia (LPL/WM). I am also overseeing the AiMS (Assessing the Impact of MGUS) study, a mixed methodology project aiming to investigate the impact of an MGUS diagnosis on a patient’s psychological wellbeing and the care pathway for MGUS individuals within Northern Ireland. My general areas of interest are cancer epidemiology with a particular focus on risk factors associated with progression of pre-malignant conditions of haematological origin. I am an active member of the Cancer Epidemiology and Health Services Research Group and co-coordinate the weekly meetings and journal clubs.

**Professor Liam Murray**

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** cancer; pharmacoepidemiology; epidemiology; pre-malignant disease

Liam is a Professor of Cancer Epidemiology and has a particular interest in cancers of the upper gastro-intestinal tract, especially oesophageal adenocarcinoma. He is PI of the all-Ireland case-control study of oesophageal adenocarcinoma and Barrett’s oesophagus (the finbar study) and a cohort study of Barrett’s oesophagus - the Northern Ireland Barrett’s Register. He has strong links with the National Cancer Institute, USA, including being a member of the NCI sponsored Barrett’s Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Consortium of oesophageal adenocarcinoma and Barrett’s studies (BEACON). He also has a major interest in pharmaco-epidemiological studies in the cancer field with a focus on the impact of commonly prescribed medications on cancer incidence and progression and has recently published in this field using data from the UK Clinical Practice Research Datalink and the English National Cancer Data Repository. He is a founder member of a Europe-wide network of researchers interested in cancer pharmaco-epidemiological research.

He is also in the process of establishing, within Northern Ireland, unique tissue and databanks that will enable Molecular Oncology and Molecular Pathology Epidemiology studies to be undertaken exploring risk factors for cancer development/progression on a population basis stratified by tumour molecular characteristics/profiles.
Dr Roisin O’Neill  
*Research Fellow*  
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Title: Cancer Survivorship (PI: Marie Cantwell, Liam Murray)  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** nutrition; cancer; epidemiology

I graduated from the University of Ulster with a degree in Human Nutrition in 2009, followed by a PhD at the Centre for Public Health, QUB in 2012. My PhD focused on a Randomised Controlled Trial to evaluate the efficacy of a 6 month dietary and physical activity intervention for prostate cancer patients receiving Androgen Deprivation Therapy (ADT). I have a keen interest in nutrition and cancer epidemiology, with experience in intervention research focused on improving the quality of life of prostate cancer patients. I have recently been appointed to a research fellow position within the CoENI and currently I am assisting in the establishment of a colorectal cancer cohort, for a population-based study of markers of colon cancer progression.

Dr Michael O’Rorke  
*Affiliated CRUK Research Fellow*  
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Title: Beta Adrenergic Receptor Expression and Beta-Blocker Use: Association with Breast Cancer Survival and Prognosis (PI: Liam Murray)  
Funder: CRUK

**Keywords:** cancer epidemiology; molecular pharmacoepidemiology; breast cancer; beta-blockers

Over the past three years I have worked on a number of projects with the central theme being on common pharmacological exposures and cancer risk and progression. I’ve recently been awarded a 3 year Cancer Research UK fellowship to undertake a molecular pharmacoepidemiological study utilising province-wide cancer records, primary care drug data and tumour samples of breast cancer patients diagnosed in Northern Ireland over a 7 year period from 2009-2015, to determine if specific tumour characteristics, such as beta adrenergic receptor expression, in combination with beta-blocker therapy improves breast cancer specific survival and prognosis. Ultimately, this study will help determine whether beta-blockers would be useful additions to the standard treatments for these patients and highlight tumour characteristics likely associated with poorer prognosis.
Mr Glen Titmarsh
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Lesley Anderson, Mary Frances McMullin, Mike Clarke
Title: An exploratory case-control study of myeloproliferative neoplasms
Funder: MPD Voice (Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity)

Keywords: myeloproliferative neoplasms; rare diseases; methodology; case-control study, cancer

After undertaking a Biomedical Science degree and graduating with a BSc (Hons) from Queen’s University Belfast, I was interested in cancer epidemiology which led to my PhD program under the supervision of Dr Lesley Anderson, Professor Mary Frances McMullin and Professor Mike Clarke. I am currently nearing the third year of my PhD project ‘An exploratory case-control study of the myeloproliferative neoplasms’. I am funded by the admirable charity, MPD Voice, a specialized charity which help support people with MPNs. This novel pilot study comprises methodological aspects to develop the best protocol for a future UK-wide study investigating the aetiology of MPNs. Furthermore, this study aims to identify potential lifestyle, environmental and occupational risk factors associated with the development of MPNs. I have a strong interest in rare cancers and methodology. I am also a participating member of the Cancer Epidemiology and Health Sciences Research Group.
Knowledge Exchange and Public Health Advocacy
Professor Kevin P Balanda  
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Institute of Public Health in Ireland  

**Keywords:** epidemiology; statistics; social determinants; inequalities; chronic conditions; service planning; interventions; policy development  

Kevin completed his doctorate in mathematical statistics at the University of Queensland in 1983. He has over thirty years’ experience of applied public health research and policy development across the academic, government and semi-government sectors in Ireland and Australia. Currently, Kevin is Director of Research at the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) and Director of Ireland and Northern Ireland’s Population Health Observatory (INIsPHO). He is also adjunct Professor of Public Health at University College Cork (UCC).

His professional interests cover the development and implementation of public health initiatives that address the broader determinants of health and aim to reduce health inequalities:

- Epidemiologic research including the analysis of mortality data (health expectancies and burden of disease) and estimating and forecasting the prevalence of chronic conditions
- The development and evaluation of complex community-based, service delivery and policy interventions, and health outcomes modelling for health services planning and resources allocation
- Dissemination and application of health intelligence to support evidence-informed policy and practice at the local, regional and national level.
- He has published over 60 peer-reviewed research articles in national and international journals, and over 70 other reports and monographs.

Dr Eimear M Barrett  
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Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast  

**Keywords:** knowledge exchange; science communication; public engagement; impact; research development  

Eimear is a Public Health Intelligence Officer at the Centre of Excellence for Public Health in Northern Ireland. She is also coordinator of the Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network. She has a BSc in Applied Biochemical Science and PhD in molecular biology from University of Ulster and recently completed a Masters in Public Health from University of Manchester. She worked as Scientific Advisor for a clinical diagnostics company before joining Queen’s University in 2008 as a Research Fellow as part of the Irish African Partnership for Research Capacity Building, a project involving all nine universities on the island of Ireland and universities in Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. Her interests include knowledge exchange and health promotion.
Mr Steve Barron
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Keywords: epidemiology; statistics; social determinants; inequalities; chronic conditions; injury; policy

Steve has over ten years’ experience in analysis and management of health data. Steve is currently a Research Analyst with the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH). His work interests include the development and use of data as health intelligence to inform public health policy and practice in key areas such as social determinants of health and health inequalities, the burden of chronic health conditions, and injuries. Steve holds a BSc Applied Psychology from University College Cork, an HDip in Business and Information Systems from University College Cork and an MSc Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Ms Lorraine Fahy
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Keywords: epidemiology; statistics; social determinants; inequalities; chronic conditions; health expectancies; food poverty

Lorraine has over fifteen years’ experience in the management and analysis of data in both the public and private sector. Currently she is an Information Analyst with the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH). Her professional interests include the development and use of data as health intelligence to inform public health policy and practice in key areas such as social determinants of health and health inequalities, with a focus on health expectancies, food poverty, and the development of local health indicators. Lorraine holds a BSc (Gen) from National University of Ireland Maynooth, BSc (Hons) Applied Biology from Kingston University London, Higher Diploma in Statistics from University College Dublin and an MSc Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Mr Owen Metcalfe
Chief Executive
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Keywords: public health

Owen is Chief Executive of the Institute of Public Health in Ireland a position he has held since 2011. Prior to being Director he was Associate Director from 1998 with responsibility for health promotion, youth, elderly and gender targeted programmes, health in all policies approaches, health impact assessment, communications, governance, finance and human resources. Prior to joining the Institute, Owen worked as Chief Health Promotion Advisor for the Department of Health and Children. He has also worked as a teacher, trainer and counsellor. He has a Master’s Degree in Health Promotion, a degree in Business Studies, a Higher Diploma in Education and
a postgraduate counselling qualification. He has been involved in health education and health promotion for twenty years and is widely conversant with public health and health promotion policy, planning and implementation at regional, national and international levels. In 2009 he was awarded Fellowship of the Faculty of Public Health UK. In his current position Owen has a commitment to personal and organisational development for improving the effectiveness of public health.

**Dr Elizabeth Mitchell**  
*Consultant in Public Health and Director of Development and Capacity Building*

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Institute of Public Health in Ireland

**Keywords:** public health; tobacco control

Elizabeth is currently based in the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH), in the Belfast Office, as a Consultant in Public Health and Director of Development and Capacity Building. From 2007-2013 she was Deputy Chief Medical Officer/Director of Population Health in the Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) in Belfast, where her main areas of work included policy on health improvement, health protection and emergency planning. She was heavily involved in developing the Investing for Health in 2001-2002 and, more recently, in the development of the new Public Health Strategic Framework, “Making Life Better”. She was Chair of the group which developed the Ten-year Tobacco Control Strategy for Northern Ireland which was published by DHSSPS in February 2012.

Elizabeth graduated with Second Class Honours from Queen’s University Belfast in 1980. Following 4 years in hospital medicine she entered public health medicine training in the West Midlands region of England. She worked for 3 years at the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), Colindale, London from 1987-1990. She returned to Northern Ireland in 1990 and has worked in public health in the former Western and Eastern Health and Social Services Boards as well as the DHSSPS.

She is a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health, a Fellow of the Royal college of Physicians (Edinburgh) and a Member of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, of the Royal College of Physicians Ireland.
Nutrition
Miss Virginia Allen-Walker  
*Affiliated PhD Student*  
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Supervisors: Michelle McKinley, Valerie Holmes, Jayne Woodside  
Title: Exploring the issue of weight management in pregnancy in Northern Ireland  
Funder: DEL  

**Keywords:** pregnancy; weight management; preconception care; routine weighing; obese pregnancy; lifestyle behaviours  

I graduated with a BSc (hons) degree in Psychology from Cardiff University in July 2010, followed by an MSc degree in Health Psychology from Cardiff Metropolitan University in November 2011. Following this, I worked in the Smoking Cessation Services within Public Health Wales. I began my PhD in the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast, in October 2013, under the supervision of Dr Michelle McKinley, Professor Jayne Woodside and Dr Valerie Holmes. My research concerns weight management and pregnancy, specifically considering how to determine safe weight gain ranges during pregnancy, how lifestyle factors which influence weight management before, during and after pregnancy are perceived by pregnant women, and how to best optimise weight status in the preconception period. I have a keen interest in the perception of health behaviours and health behaviour change techniques.

Miss Sarah Bennett  
*Affiliated PhD Student*  
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Supervisors: Ann McGinty, Ian Young  
Title: 3-epi-25OHD: Assay development and measurement  
Funder: DEL  

**Keywords:** vitamin D; type 1 diabetes; pregnancy; myocardial infarction  

Having graduated from QUB in 2009 with a BSc (Hons) in Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition, I completed a masters in Human Nutrition at the University of Ulster. My research project focused primarily on the folate content of eggs enriched with folic acid after various methods of cooking. Following this, I began my PhD at QUB under the supervision of Dr Ann McGinty and Professor Ian Young. My primary research interest is in vitamin D. Throughout the course of my PhD, I have developed a gold standard LC/MS-MS reference method for the simultaneous measurement of 25OHD$_{2,3}$ and 3-epi-25OHD$_{2,3}$ and analysed these vitamin D metabolites in a cohort of pregnant women with type 1 diabetes and a well-characterised population-based prospective study of coronary events.

Dr Sarah Brennan  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*  
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Title: Part-time maternity cover: Postnatal lifestyle intervention programme for overweight women with previous gestational diabetes mellitus (PAIGE) (PI: Valerie Holmes)  
Funder: Northern Ireland Public Health Agency
Sarah is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Public Health with a background in nutrition. Research experience is in nutritional epidemiology, with a specific interest in dietary analysis, in terms of dietary patterns, quality and nutritional intake, and breast cancer recurrence and survival. Sarah has worked on data collected as part of the DietCompLyf study, a cohort of early-stage breast cancer survivors based at the University of Westminster. Sarah has worked on several dietary intervention trials at CPH and currently works on a postnatal diet and lifestyle intervention study which is recruiting women with a recent diagnosis of gestational diabetes.

Miss Claire Casey
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Ann McGinty, Ian Young
Title: 25 OH D status in the Belfast HAPO cohort: relationship to maternal, neonatal and childhood outcomes
Funder: DEL

Keywords: 25(OH)D; pregnancy; neonate

I graduated with a 1st class BSc honours degree in human nutrition from the University of Ulster, Coleraine in July 2013. During my degree, I obtained a years’ experience working as a research assistant in an international environment. This gave me a taste for research and following my degree, I commenced a DEL funded PhD under the supervision of Dr Ann McGinty and Professor Ian Young. I am in my 1st year of my PhD and I am investigating links between 25(OH)D status on maternal, neonatal and childhood outcomes in the landmark hyperglycaemia and adverse pregnancy outcomes (HAPO) study in the Belfast cohort. I have a keen interest in general nutrition and in particular, maternal nutrition and optimising maternal health to enhance the health of the neonate. I am a member of the Nutrition Society and the Nutrition, Metabolism and Physical Activity group in the Centre for Public Health.

Dr Claire Draffin
Affiliated Research Fellow
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Title: Postnatal lifestyle intervention programme for overweight women with previous gestational diabetes mellitus (PAIGE) (PI: Valerie Holmes)
Funder: Northern Ireland Public Health Agency
Title: Part time maternity cover: “Gestational Diabetes: Things you need to know (but
maybe don’t)” – Design, development, pilot and evaluation of a DVD for women with Gestational Diabetes (PI: Valerie Holmes)  
Funder: BRIDGES, an International Diabetes Federation project supported by an educational grant from Eli Lilly and Company  

**Keywords:** nutrition; post-natal diet; gestational diabetes

Claire is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Public with a background in nutrition. Claire’s research experience encompasses several intervention studies in the field of nutrition, including work on a MRC-funded fruit and vegetable intervention study. Claire is currently working on intervention trials in the area of gestational diabetes; a postnatal diet and lifestyle intervention study for overweight women with a history of gestational diabetes and a randomised controlled trial of an educational resource to improve management of gestational diabetes in pregnancy. Both of these projects encompass a mixed methods research approach, with qualitative research informing intervention development. Claire has also worked in nutritional epidemiology analysing large databases, including the Young Hearts Study, in relation to nutrition and chronic disease.

**Miss Nicola Gallagher**  
*Affiliated PhD Student*  
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Supervisors: Jayne Woodside, Frank Kee, Dermot O’Reilly  
**Title:** Prevalence and determinants of age-related hearing loss and hearing aid use in older people in Northern Ireland  
**Funder:** DEL  

**Keywords:** older people; ageing; diet; hearing loss; hearing aid use; cognitive decline

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition from Queen’s University Belfast in July 2013. I then started a PhD at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Professor Jayne Woodside. I am currently in the first year of my PhD which is on the prevalence and determinants of age-related hearing loss in older people in Northern Ireland. I will be using data from the Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA study) for my PhD research. I have a keen interest in nutrition and my research objectives are to determine any associations between ageing, diet, hearing loss and cognitive decline.

**Dr Lesley Hamill**  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*  
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**Title:** Iodine status: is there a public health issue on the island of Ireland (PI: Professor Jayne V Woodside)  
**Funder:** SafeFood (Food Safety Promotion Board) Republic of Ireland (ROI)  

**Keywords:** nutrition; whole grain; biomarkers; fruit; vegetables; polyphenols; iodine

My principle research interest is human nutrition and I have been involved in a number of nutrition-based projects, including my PhD which I completed at the University of Ulster investigating bioavailability and bioactivity of whole grain components in humans. Since then I have been based in the Nutrition and Metabolism group, in the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast. I have worked on a ‘Food
Standards Agency’ funded human intervention trial investigating the impact of fruit and vegetable consumption on insulin resistance and cardiovascular disease risk factors. I currently continue work on a ‘Medical Research Council’ funded project aiming to develop an algorithm to predict fruit and vegetable consumption which has involved developing methods on LC-MS to measure a polyphenol aglycone profile in foodstuff (specifically fruit and vegetables) and in biological samples. Most recently I have commenced working on our Iodine Study (detailed above).

Dr Janas Harrington
Affiliated Lecturer

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HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research, University College Cork, Ireland

Keywords: public health nutrition; dietary patterns; childhood obesity; dietary salt

Janas is a Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UCC, and co-ordinator of the Health Promotion Pathway on the Masters in Public Health (MPH). She has a BSc in Nutrition Science from UCC, an MA in Health Promotion from NUI, Galway and a PhD in Nutrition Epidemiology from UCC. Her research interests are nutritional epidemiology and public health nutrition. More specifically, the nutritional and environmental determinants of obesity as risk factors for CVD. She is PI for one of the Irish consortia contributing to the DEDIPAC knowledge hub, an EU JPI on Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life. She leads an NCRC funded study exploring individual, family and environmental determinants and correlates of childhood obesity.

Miss Sarah-Louise Henry
Affiliated PhD Student

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Supervisors: Jane McEneny, Jayne Woodside
Title: The effects of cooking and processing fruits and vegetables on the functionality of HDL₂ & HDL₃
Funder: DEL

Keywords: lycopene; epicatechin; High Density Lipoprotein (HDL); functionality

I graduated in July 2012 with a BSc in Biomedical Science from Queen’s University Belfast. I began a PhD at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Dr Jane McEneny and Professor Jayne Woodside. I am currently in the second year of my PhD which focuses on investigating the effects of cooking and processing fruits and vegetables and what affects this may have on the functionality of HDL₂ and HDL₃. I have a keen interest in nutrition and am an active member of the Nutrition Society and the Nutrition, Metabolism and Physical Activity group within the Centre for Public Health.
Miss Lauren Holmes
Affiliated PhD Student

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Supervisors: Michelle McKinley, Jayne Woodside
Title: Vitamin D supplementation and cardiovascular risk factors in people at high risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
Funder: Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association (NICHSA)

Keywords: pre-diabetes; type 2 diabetes; cardiovascular disease; vitamin D3

I graduated in July 2013 with a BSc (Hons) in Nutrition from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. I recently began my PhD in the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast supervised by Dr Michelle McKinley and Professor Jayne Woodside; it is funded by Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke. My PhD is investigating the effect of vitamin D3 supplementation on cardiovascular risk factors in people at high risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. My main interests lie within Nutrition and disease and I am an active member of the Nutrition and Metabolism group at CPH.

Professor Patricia Kearney
Affiliated Professor

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HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research, University College Cork, Ireland

Keywords: diabetes; chronic disease risk factors; lifecourse; obesity; behaviour change

Patricia is a Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health in UCC. She obtained her medical degree from UCC and MPH and PhD from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has worked in Ireland, UK and US as a clinical fellow. In 2013 she was the recipient of a HRB Research Leader Award to lead work on the burden of diabetes in Ireland. Her research interests include primary and secondary prevention of traditional risk factors for cardiovascular disease, lifecourse epidemiology and clinical trials. She is the Irish lead PI for TRUST, an EU funded FP7 clinical trial in subclinical hypothyroidism in healthy older adults. She leads a Health Research Board funded Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement (ICE) award that is utilizing data from 9 Irish observational studies to look at lifestyle transitions across the lifecourse.

Mrs Natalie Lyner (nee McCloskey)
Affiliated PhD Student

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Supervisors: Michelle McKinley, Jayne Woodside
Title: Exploring the relationship between dietary intake, nutritional status and the risk of cardiovascular events and overall mortality in the PRIME and Caerphilly cohorts.
Funder: DEL

Keywords: dietary patterns; CVD; micronutrient status

I graduated from Queen’s University Belfast in 2011 with a BSc (Hons) in Food Quality,
Safety and Nutrition. I then began my PhD at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Dr Michelle McKinley and Professor Jayne Woodside. I am currently in my final year, intending to submit in September 2014. My PhD focuses on dietary patterns and CVD and mortality risk, associations with micronutrient status on disease risk, as well as micronutrient SNPs. I have always had a strong interest in nutrition and promoting health and volunteer as a health promotion facilitator in different organisations in my spare time.

Dr Claire McEvoy
Affiliated Research Fellow
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Title: Peer support to encourage adoption and maintenance of Mediterranean diet: a feasibility and pilot study (PI: Professor Jayne V Woodside)
Funder: MRC

Keywords: diet; behaviour change; diabetes; cardiovascular disease
Claire works as a research fellow in the Centre for Public Health at QUB and has a background in Clinical Dietetics. Her research examines the effect of foods and whole diets for prevention of cardiovascular disease and diabetes, particularly in high risk populations. She uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodology to design and evaluate novel approaches to encourage and support sustained dietary behaviour change for disease prevention. Her current work examines the feasibility of a peer support approach, to encourage adoption and maintenance of a Mediterranean diet, in adults at high cardiovascular risk.

Miss Alanna McGrath
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Prof Jayne Woodside, Dr Michelle McKinley
Title: Novel Biomarkers of Fruit and Vegetable Consumption and Effects of Increased Consumption
Funder: DEL

Keywords: nutrition; biomarkers; fruit; vegetables
I graduated with a BSc honours degree in Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition at Queen’s University Belfast in July 2011. Following my undergraduate degree, I commenced a PhD in Nutrition, funded by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), at the Centre for Public Health (CPH), Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Professor Jayne Woodside and Dr Michelle McKinley. I am currently in my final year of my PhD, which aims to develop and assess novel biomarkers of fruit and vegetable (FV) intake to enable the development of an algorithm that best predicts FV consumption, assess the biological effects of increased FV consumption and determine the incorporation of increased FV into the diet. My research primarily involved the conduction of a randomised strictly controlled FV intervention trial (BIOFAV) in order to examine the effects of increased FV consumption on traditional and novel biomarkers of FV intake, both singly and in combination. I have a passion for diet and nutrition and I am an active member of the Nutrition Society and I was local organiser of the 22nd Annual Postgraduate Nutrition Society Irish Section Research Meeting.
Dr Michelle M McKinley
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: nutrition; diet; behaviour change; complex interventions; obesity; type 2 diabetes; cardiovascular disease; weight management; dietary patterns

Michelle is a senior lecturer in Nutrition working within the Centre for Public Health in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences at Queen’s University Belfast. Michelle’s research investigates the ability of dietary interventions to modify nutritional status and risk of chronic disease, particularly diabetes and cardiovascular disease, as well as exploring novel approaches to encouraging and supporting diet and lifestyle behaviour change and weight management throughout the lifecycle. Examples of research activities in these areas include developing and evaluating complex interventions to support dietary and lifestyle change: in the school-setting; before, during and after pregnancy; and for people with type 2 diabetes. This work encompasses the use of app and web-based technology to support behaviour change. Current research is also exploring the effect of vitamin D supplementation on insulin resistance in people with pre-diabetes.

Miss Sarah Moore
PhD Student
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Supervisors: Jayne Woodside, Michelle McKinley
Title: Peer support to encourage adoption and maintenance of Mediterranean diet: a feasibility and pilot study
Funder: DEL

Keywords: nutrition; mediterranean diet; behaviour change; peer support; type 2 diabetes; cardiovascular disease

Having graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition from Queen’s University Belfast, I commenced a PhD at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Professor Jayne Woodside and Dr Michelle McKinley. Currently, I am in the second year of my PhD which is focused on investigating the feasibility of peer support to encourage adoption and maintenance of a Mediterranean diet and has involved evaluating health beliefs and perceived barriers to fruit and vegetable consumption as predictors of fruit and vegetable intake. I have a keen interest in nutrition and behaviour change and am an active member of the Nutrition Society and the Nutrition and Metabolism group at the Centre for Public Health.
Dr Charlotte Neville
Affiliated Research Fellow

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Title: The role of diet in cardiovascular disease risk (PI: Jayne Woodside)
Funder: Heart Trust Fund
Title: The effect of increased fruit and veg intake on epigenetic & transcriptomic endpoints - a pilot randomised control trial (PI: Jayne Woodside)
Funder: NCHS (Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke)

Keywords: diet; fruit and vegetables; cardiovascular disease; dietary assessment; lifestyle behaviour change; ageing

Charlotte is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Public Health at QUB. Her research centres around the role of diet and lifestyle on health and disease outcomes including obesity, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal health and cognitive health, spanning from adolescent populations through to older adults, and utilising data from intervention studies, longitudinal studies and cross-sectional studies. Her key research outputs are from the Young Hearts cohort study which explored lifestyle factors associated with cardiovascular disease and bone health from childhood into adulthood. More recently she was trial manager of the Ageing and Dietary Intervention Trial (ADIT) examining the effect of increased fruit and vegetable consumption on measures of immune function and musculoskeletal health in older adults. Her current work examines the effect of increased fruit and vegetable intake on epigenetics and transcriptomic endpoints.

Dr Ciara Rooney
Research Fellow

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Title: A pilot study to test the implementation of a food-based rewards intervention in secondary schools (PI: Michelle McKinley)
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: diet; fruit and vegetables; behaviour change

I graduated with a BSc honours degree in Consumer Studies at the University of Ulster, Coleraine in July 2010. Following this, I began a UKCRC CoENI funded PhD in Nutrition at the Centre for Public Health (CPH), Queen’s University Belfast. I have recently completed my PhD, which examined the effect of the consumption of polyphenol-rich foods (i.e. fruit and vegetables, berries and dark chocolate) on aspects of psychological health (such as mood and quality of life), as well as the attitudes consumers have towards these foods. I am currently employed as a research fellow at CPH, where I am working on a UKCRC CoENI funded pilot study to test the implementation of a food-based rewards system in secondary schools. In line with the aims of this post, my main research interests include investigating means of achieving dietary-related behaviour change.
Miss Desiree Schliemann
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Jayne Woodside, Michelle McKinley
Title: Fruits and vegetables: encouraging intake in the Northern Irish population
Funder: Ulster Carpets

**Keywords:** diet intervention; cardiovascular health; behaviour change; workplace

Desiree is a PhD candidate in the Centre of Public Health, Queens University Belfast under supervision by Professor Jayne Woodside and Dr Michelle McKinley. She graduated from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh in 2013 with an Honours degree in Nutrition, with particular focus on Public Health Nutrition. Her PhD research will examine the potential of diet interventions to improve cardiovascular health in the workplace setting. Desiree’s current research combines qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the dietary and health status of employees in Ireland and Northern Ireland. For that she is also undertaking 6 months of fieldwork at the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research, University College Cork working on a comprehensive diet workplace intervention.

Dr Helen Wallace
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Michelle McKinley, Steven Hunter
Title: Effect of Vitamin D3 supplementation on insulin resistance and cardiovascular risk factors in people at high risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
Funder: HSC R&D Fellowship

**Keywords:** pre-diabetes; type 2 diabetes; insulin resistance; vitamin D3; cholecalciferol; cardiovascular disease

Helen graduated from Queens University Belfast with the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Obstetrics in July 2007. She began a PhD project investigating the efficacy of vitamin D supplementation on insulin resistance and cardiovascular risk factors in people at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease in February 2013. Prior to this she worked as a medical doctor in various hospitals as part of her training, specialising in Endocrinology and Diabetes.
Professor Jayne V Woodside

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: nutrition; chronic disease risk; biomarkers; dietary assessment; behaviour change

Jayne specialises in the conduct of human nutrition intervention studies with whole foods and whole diets examining clinically relevant endpoints, in interventions to promote long term dietary change, and in the assessment of diet using biomarkers. She has published widely in the nutrition field and has current funding from the Medical Research Council, National Prevention Research Initiative, Safefood and World Cancer Research Fund. Jayne is Editor-in-Chief of Nutrition Research Reviews, Supplements Editor for British Journal of Nutrition and Chair of the Irish Section of the Nutrition Society.

Miss Amy Wotherspoon

Affiliated PhD Student

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Supervisors: Valerie Holmes, Ian Young

Title: Management, Biomarkers and Outcomes of the Diabetes and Pre-eclampsia Intervention Trial

Funder: DEL

Keywords: pre-eclampsia; diabetes; biomarker; prediction

I graduated in July 2012 with a BSc in Human biology from Queen’s University Belfast. Following this, I went on to complete an MSc in Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast, which led me to become highly interested in this field of research. I am now currently in the first year of my PhD, supervised by Dr Valerie Holmes, Professor Ian Young and Professor David McCance, which is focused on investigating biomarkers for predicting pre-eclampsia in women with type 1 diabetes mellitus and will also explore the views of these women about screening for pre-eclampsia.

Professor Ian S Young

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: nutrition; lipids; clinical trials

Ian is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast. In addition, he is also Associate Medical Director (Research and Development) at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and is director of the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network. Professor Young’s main clinical and research interests are in nutrition and its effects on disease risk, particularly in relation to the prevention of cardiovascular disease. He is an author of over 300 published research papers and is on the editorial boards of a number of leading international journals. He is a member of the UK Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and Chairs the DHSSPS Obesity Prevention Steering Group. In addition, he is Chair of the Scientific Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.
Public Health Methods
Professor Brendan P Bunting
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: latent variable modelling; mental health; diabetes; statistical and design methodology for clinical trials and non-interventional research

I (Brendan Bunting) am a Professor of Psychology at the University of Ulster. Most of my research has centered on the use of statistical models with latent variables for analysis of clinical trials and non-experimental research. I currently have roles within the Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC), the MRC Methodology Hub and the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing. One of my current studies is an examination of patterns of suicide in Northern Ireland; and I have recently completed the largest ever epidemiological study of mental health in Northern Ireland using DSM/ICD classifications.

Dr Frances Burns
Affiliated Research Fellow (Project Manager)

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Title: Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA) (PI: Frank Kee)
Funder: CoENI / OFMDFM / HSC R&D Office / ESRC

Keywords: research impact; multi professional engagement

I am currently the Project Manager for the Northern Ireland Cohort Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA). NICOLA will closely follow the comprehensive approaches taken by ELSA (England) and TILDA (ROI) and other ageing studies, but in addition NICOLA has a special focus on intergenerational poverty, transition points in ageing and the effects of diet on the ageing process. The study will also include questions of unique relevance to the Northern Ireland situation. NICOLA is being conducted by a multidisciplinary research team including medical and health sciences, economics and management, social sciences, architecture and psychology. My personal research interests are factors which influence uptake of research in practice and the transition between research findings and policy development. I have conducted the first evaluation of factors which influence research impact within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care, following an assessment of multidimensional research impact utilising the Payback Framework (Buxton and Hanney, 1996).

Professor Mike Clarke
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: randomised trials; systematic reviews; research methodology

Mike has 25 years’ experience in rigorous assessments of the effects of interventions and actions, inside and outside health care. He has worked on some of the world’s largest randomised trials in areas as varied as maternity care, breast cancer, poisoning and stroke; as well as dozens of systematic reviews. These include a series of reviews of individual participant data from trials of the treatment of women with breast cancer, which influence health care worldwide. Mike is Director of the MRC Hub for Trials
Methodology Research at Queen’s University, Belfast; and Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Methodology Review Group. He teaches widely about trials and reviews, seeking to increase capacity for the conduct and use of research; and is a founder and current Director of Evidence Aid, improving access to research that is relevant to disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

Dr Judith A Cole
Affiliated Research Fellow

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Title: Mind Your Health (PI: Dominic McSherry)
Funder: Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)

Keywords: qualitative methodology; lifestyle behaviour change; primary prevention; secondary prevention; cardiovascular disease; physical activity; primary care

Judith graduated with a 1st class honours degree in Biomedical Science from Queen’s University Belfast. She went on to work as a journalist for several years, including five years as a features writer for the Belfast Telegraph. In 2008 she returned to Queen’s to study for an MSc in Public Health and PhD on the barriers and facilitators affecting lifestyle change among patients with cardiovascular disease. Since graduating in 2012 she has worked as a post-doctoral researcher on studies mainly involving qualitative methodology, including a General Medical Council funded project on whether junior doctors are prepared for practice and interventions aimed at reducing sedentary behaviour among office workers. A current project, based within the Institute of Child Care Research and entitled ‘Mind Your Health’, examines the physical and mental health of looked after children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Professor Paul Connolly

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: diversity and inclusion in early childhood; evaluating the effectiveness of educational programmes and interventions; quantitative methods and statistical analysis in education

Paul is Professor of Education and Head of the School of Education at Queen’s University Belfast. He has a particular interest in the use of evaluative methods in educational research, particularly in relation to randomized controlled trials. He was founding Director of the Centre for Effective Education at Queen’s that has successfully completed more trials in education over the last five years than any other educational research centre in Europe (see: www.qub.ac.uk/cee). Through the Centre, Paul has led a number of large-scale trials including the ongoing cluster randomized trial evaluation of the impact and cost effectiveness of the Roots of Empathy socio-emotional learning programme in primary schools, funded by the NIHR Public Health Research programme (see: http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/funded_projects/10_3006_02.asp). He is also founding editor of the journal Effective Education (www.tandfonline.com/toc/refe20/current) and Co-Chair of the Campbell Collaboration Education Coordinating Group that specializes in producing systematic reviews in education (see: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org). For further information on Paul’s research and publications please see: www.paulconnolly.net
Professor Margaret Cupples
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: primary prevention; secondary prevention; rehabilitation; cardiovascular disease; physical activity; primary care; lifestyle behaviour change; socio-economic disadvantage

Margaret currently works as a general practitioner in West Belfast and in academic general practice, teaching medical students in the University's Department of General Practice and Primary Care. She is also Clinical Lead for the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network in Primary Care. Her personal research interests lie in the field of prevention and rehabilitation, with a focus on cardiovascular disease and physical activity. She has worked previously in a rural practice in Markethill, Co Armagh and has been the Principal Investigator in many community-based studies, including a MRC funded trial which showed the benefits of regular review for patients with coronary heart disease. Other work has included cross-sectional and observational studies of the management of heart disease and cardiac rehabilitation, aiming to determine how to optimize secondary prevention in primary care. She is currently involved in studies of interventions to promote physical activity and lifestyle behaviour change, for both primary and secondary prevention, particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas and in different population sub-groups.

Dr Mary Dallat
Affiliated PhD Student
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Supervisors: Frank Kee, Karen Cairns
Title: Health Economics
Funder: HRB / HSC R&D / NCI Health Economics Fellowship

Keywords: health economics; physical activity interventions; built environment

Mary is a public health registrar currently on secondment from the Public Health Agency to complete a four year Health Economics fellowship jointly funded by the HSC R&D, Northern Ireland, HRB, Dublin and the National Cancer Institute, U.S. Her research, to date, has been primarily focused on applying traditional techniques of cost-effectiveness analysis to economic evaluate physical activity interventions including the Conswater Community Greenway, a major environmental project set in East Belfast and the Physical Activity Loyalty card scheme, a financially incentivised workplace physical activity intervention.

Dr Laura Dunne
Senior Research Fellow
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Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: health and wellbeing; child development; RCT evaluation

Laura currently works on the Wellbeing in Schools (WiSe) project, a large scale survey which explores health and wellbeing in Northern Ireland post-primary schools. Laura’s research interests lie in three main areas; health and wellbeing, child development,
and programme evaluation. She has extensive experience conducting both quantitative and qualitative research. Over the last fourteen years, she has managed a number of major evaluation and research projects such as the evaluation of Barnardo’s Ready to Learn After School Literacy Programme, the Lifestart Parenting Programme and the Brook NI Sexual Health Clinic. She is committed to the field of child development and the improvement of outcomes for children.

Professor Geraint Ellis  
Affiliated Professor  
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School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering  

**Keywords:** planning; active travel; well-being; built environment

Geraint is Chair of Environmental Planning at the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and Director of Research for the Institute of Spatial and Environmental Planning (ISEP).

His main research interests include the way environmental issues and the planning process affects people’s well-being and as such now focuses on energy, health and marine issues, equality and planning pedagogy. In recently years he has held research grants that have examined the impact of regeneration schemes on health (funded under the NPRI), a study on renewable energy policy and devolution in the UK (ESRC), a knowledge exchange grant on spatial analysis and healthy urban environments (ESRC) and a study on the Transformation of the Irish Energy system (NESC). He has published and researched widely on these issues, recently co-editing a book on Learning from Wind Power: Governance, Society and Policy Perspectives on Sustainable Energy (Palgrave). He is also a co-editor of the Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning, was awarded the European Planning Studies Prize in 2002 and QUB awards for excellence in teaching in 2002 and 2006.

Professor Emeritus Alun Evans  
Senior Visiting Research Fellow  
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Retired Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** cardiovascular epidemiology; medical and social history

Alun qualified in Medicine with Honours at The Queen's University of Belfast in 1968. He subsequently trained as a physician, before developing an interest in Epidemiology. In the late 1970s he was involved in clinical trials and community studies of coronary heart disease. In 1982 he became the Principal Investigator of the WHO MONICA (MONItoring in CArdiovascular disease) Project in Belfast. He was elected to the Steering Committee of MONICA in 1990 and chaired it from 1994-7. He has been in receipt of numerous grants, has led two major EU funded projects, and has been a partner in 16 others. He has also taken part in an extensive research programme with France, through the ECTIM and PRIME Studies. He subsequently led a pooling project of cardiovascular cohorts in 12 European countries. He has published several hundred papers, and was the second author of the 3rd Edition of the WHO Monograph: Cardiovascular Survey Methods, in 2004. He was awarded a Personal Chair in Epidemiology in 1989, which he held until his retirement in 2009. His present main focus is on Medical History with an emphasis on
Social and Public Health. He currently serves on the Councils of the Belfast Natural and Philosophical Society and the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland’s History Section.

**Dr Finola Ferry**  
*Affiliated Research Assistant*

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All Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research, University of Ulster

**Keywords:** health economics; PTSD; trauma; mental health; common mental disorders; randomised trials; statistics

Finola is a Research Associate based at the University of Ulster’s Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the All Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research. Finola graduated with BSc (Hons) in Economics and Business Economics from Queen’s University Belfast (2004) and achieved her Doctorate at the University of Ulster (UU) in 2012, on the economic burden of mood and anxiety disorders. She has previously held an Assistant Statistician post at the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and research posts at UU. Her primary area of expertise is in psychological trauma/PTSD and she works closely with the World Mental Health Survey Initiative, specifically on the Northern Ireland Study of Health and Stress (NISHS). Finola’s other key area of interest is in health economics, particularly economic evaluation in mental health. In addition, Finola has been involved in a number of multi-disciplinary projects with researchers from UU, Trinity College Dublin, the Commission for Victims and Survivors NI and the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre.

**Miss Aideen Gildea**  
*Affiliated Research Assistant*

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Title: A cluster randomised controlled trial evaluation, process evaluation and cost-effectiveness analysis of the Roots of Empathy schools-based programme for improving social and emotional wellbeing outcomes among 8-9 year olds in Northern Ireland.  
Funder: NIH

Title: A randomised controlled (RCT) trial evaluation and process evaluation of the Dead Cool (Cancer Focus NI) smoking cessation/prevention programme in schools.  
Funder: HSC R&D Division and Cancer Focus Northern Ireland for commissioned research

Title: A randomised controlled trial evaluation and process evaluation of the Physically Active Lessons Programme (England)  
Funder: Education Endowment Foundation

Title: A randomised controlled trial evaluation and process evaluation of Engaging Parents through Text Messaging programme (England)  
Funder: Education Endowment Foundation

**Keywords:** research methodologies; implementation science; school based health promotion interventions; parental involvement; child wellbeing

Aideen joined Queen’s University as a researcher in 2003 and is presently working in the School of Education. Aideen’s work has involved undertaking research on a range of Randomized Control Trials but her expertise lies primarily in qualitative
methods; specifically process evaluations that are designed to run alongside RCTs. Aideen has research experience in infant and child feeding, child growth and development, parenting, domestic violence, disability and education. She is currently the lead qualitative researcher on a trial of a school based social and emotional learning programme (Roots of Empathy). Before this she worked for many years as a health visitor in the community with young families. Aideen’s research interests are implementation research, school-based health promotion interventions, parental involvement in children’s education and child wellbeing. She is presently working towards a PhD under the supervision of Dr Sarah Miller and Professor Paul Connolly and her research is entitled “Parental engagement with schools on child wellbeing”. Her research study aims to generating evidence to inform policy and practice and ultimately address social inequalities in health and wellbeing particularly for school aged children with limited social capital in developing countries.

**Mr John Hughes**  
Statistician

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Secondment from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (1.5dpw)  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords**: cardiovascular epidemiology; public health policy; disability

John is a Statistician with the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) and has been on secondment to the Centre of Excellence for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast, since October 2009. John finalised a CHD policy ‘IMPACT’ model for Northern Ireland which quantified past heart disease mortality trends in Northern Ireland. John previously worked with the Institute of Public Health (IPH) in Ireland in the development of models estimating and forecasting the prevalence of chronic conditions. His current research interests include disability related projects with a focus on record linkage of routinely collected social security administrative data.

**Dr Maria Hughes**  
Affiliated Research Fellow

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Title: MORGAM, BiomarCaRE and CHANCES projects (PI: Frank Kee)  
Funder: EU Framework 7 (BiomarCaRE, CHANCES), German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK)

**Keywords**: genetic epidemiology; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; risk prediction; biomarkers

Maria’s main areas of interest are genetic epidemiology and chronic/cardiovascular disease epidemiology. Maria has been working with Professor Stefan Blankenberg and colleagues (University Heart Centre, Hamburg Germany) on genetics projects that aim to find novel genetic associations/biological pathways and exploring their wider causal relevance in the development of disease. She also focuses on evaluating novel biomarkers for their ability to improve cardiovascular disease risk prediction in the general population but is also aiming to refine the use of traditional risk factors for better risk prediction in subgroups such as the elderly through the use of large
scale prospective population cohorts (MORGAM, CHANCES). Maria has a particular interest in understanding how changes in biomarker patterns over time influence the development of cardiovascular disease. Maria is currently based at the MRC Epidemiology Unit/UKCRC CEDAR unit in Cambridge.

Dr Ruth F Hunter  
Affiliated Research Fellow

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Title: PARC - Physical activity and the regeneration of Connswater  
(PI: Professor Frank Kee)  
Funder: MRC (NIHR)

**Keywords:** physical activity; natural experiment methodology; incentives; built environment

Ruth is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast. She is the project manager for a large natural experiment, funded by the National Prevention Research Initiative, investigating the public health impact of a major urban regeneration project (The PARC Study-Physical Activity and the Rejuvenation of Connswater). She has a BSc in physiotherapy and a PhD in physical activity in a low back pain population. Dr. Hunter has research experience in exploring ways to achieve physical activity behaviour change and in conducting interventions to promote physical activity. Her main interests are in promoting physical activity in the environment, and the use of incentives and social networks for health behaviour change.

Professor F Kee

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Principal Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** epidemiology of chronic disease; public health interventions

Currently I direct the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health Research (NI) and am Deputy Director for the Centre for Public Health in Queens University Belfast. The Centre of Excellence, one of five in the UK, is multidisciplinary and spans three Faculties in the University and a range of external stakeholders. Its research scope embraces determinants of public health from molecules to populations, as well as public health interventions. It was set up deliberately with an outward looking vision to connect academics to the practitioner and policy making communities. Its partners, represented in the Management Executive and Board, include the DHSSPSNI, the Public Health Agency, the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, University of Ulster, W5 and the Community Development and Health Network. My research interests include cardiovascular and genetic epidemiology, decision sciences, public health interventions, complexity and network analysis.
Dr Lisa Maguire  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*

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All-Ireland HUB for Trials Methodology Research, Queen’s University Belfast

**Keywords:** randomised trials; statistics; systematic reviews; methodology; NICOLA; child/adolescent health

Lisa is a Research Fellow in the All-Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research based at the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University. She is a psychologist with a quantitative background and expertise coordinating data collection and management across large-scale randomised trials. Her substantive research interests include socio-emotional health and well-being, literacy, methodology and evaluation research. Lisa has recently co-authored a Cochrane review on Home-based child development interventions for preschool children from socially disadvantaged families. Through her position in the MRC Methodology Hub, she is also connected with the Cochrane Methodology Review Group which is based there. Lisa’s current work involves conducting several SWATs (Study within a Trial) and SWARs (Study within a Review) within the NICOLA cohort study and is the trial manager on a feasibility study of a sexual health intervention aimed at preventing unwanted teenage pregnancy.

Dr Loubaba Mamluk  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*

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Title: CHANCES (PI: Frank Kee)  
Funder: EU Framework 7

**Keywords:** nutrition; elderly; asthma; caesarean section; childhood

I graduated with a BSc degree in Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Kalamoon, Syria. Following this I received a scholarship to undertake an MSc degree in Human Nutrition with a specialization in Clinical Nutrition at the University of Glasgow. I have recently obtained my doctorate degree in Epidemiology from Queen’s University Belfast. My PhD examined birth and early life influence on child and adolescent health. I am currently employed as a research fellow in The Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI, where I am working on the CHANCES project. My research interests are related to the investigation of factors associated with chronic diseases.

Dr Helen McAneney  
*Affiliated MRC Methodology Research Fellow*

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Title: Developing and applying innovative methodologies of longitudinal network data and agent-based modelling to public health (PI: Helen McAneney (Geraldine McDonald, Frank Kee, Jim McCann))  
Funder: MRC

**Keywords:** methodology; social network analysis; complexity science; modelling

Helen obtained her MSci (1st class Honours) degree in Mathematics from Queen’s
University Belfast in 2001 and in 2005 she received her PhD in Theoretical Physics within the research field of Quantum Information Theory, under the supervision of Professor Myungshik Kim, now at Imperial College London. Since 2005, she has been a Research Fellow, applying her mathematical skills to modelling within Medicine, firstly mathematical models of radiation treatments of cancer and more recently social network analysis and agent-based models being applied to Public Health. In 2010 she was awarded an MRC Methodology Research Fellowship. She is involved in a number of projects which include the social network analysis of stakeholders within The PARC Study, the often ‘hidden’ or unknown knowns of social networks for those engaged in physical activity being achieved through inferred social proximity using RFID, as well as investigating the effects of peer influence and selection within longitudinal adolescent friendship networks with regard to substance misuse, which in turn will help inform policy on public health invention design and strategy. This latter is through the Belfast Youth Development Study housed in the Institute of Child Care Research. She is also a Co-I in the recently funded ESRC Transforming Social Science Smartphone Study to investigate the ethical and research implications in the use of smartphones as a method of data capture.

**Professor Suzanne McDonough**

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** physical activity; walking; pedometers; accelerometers; clinical populations; chronic pain

Suzanne McDonough is the lead for the Centre for Health and Rehabilitation Technologies, Institute of Nursing and Health Research, University of Ulster. Suzanne is a physiotherapist and has a particular interest in the measurement of physical activity, and the development of interventions to increase and maintain physical activity levels in clinical populations. Suzanne has led a number of trials investigating the effectiveness of exercise and physical activity (such as walking) in those with chronic pain; she has an interest in how we can harness public health interventions for clinical populations, particularly with respect to encouraging the maintenance of physical activity.

**Mr Alan McMichael**  
*Affiliated PhD Student*

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Supervisors: Frank Kee, Jonathan Rollison, Marco Boeri  
Title: Communicating risk and benefits in Stratified Medicine  
Funder: DEL

**Keywords:** benefits; risks; stratified medicine

Alan graduated from Queens University Belfast in July 2013 with a BSc Honours in psychology and is currently a first year PhD student at the Centre for Public Health. His research interests are how patients and clinicians trade off risks and benefits of medical treatments within the context of stratified medicine and how a clinician determines whether or not a patient has responded effectively to treatment.
**Mr Dominic Mellon**  
*PhD Student (p/t)*  

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Supervisors: Mike Clarke, Adele Marshall  
Title: Evaluating the impact of Evidence Aid  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** evidence aid; impact; evaluation; knowledge translation; public health; global; international; humanitarian; decision-making; policy; practice

Dominic is working with the Evidence Aid project (http://www.evidenceaid.org), to evaluate the impact of its work to date, and help optimise its efforts in the future. He enrolled as a part-time research student on the PhD programme at Queen’s University, Belfast in 2013. Since then, he has focussed on methods of evaluating Evidence as a complex programme of knowledge translation, with a particular emphasis on the application of social network analysis methods to measure influence and the propagation of ideas and practice.  
Dominic is currently in his fourth year of training as Specialty Registrar in Public Health based in Bristol, England. He is a Member of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and the Emergency Planning Society. He holds BSc (Hons) in Development and Health in Disaster Management from Coventry University and an MSc Public Health from the University of the West of England.

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**Dr Sarah J Miller**  
*Affiliated Lecturer*  

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School of Education, Queen’s University Belfast  

**Keywords:** education; randomised controlled trials; hierarchical linear modelling; wellbeing

Sarah is a Lecturer in Education and Deputy Director of the Centre for Effective Education. Her research revolves around three inter-related themes: programme evaluation, literacy development and socio-emotional wellbeing. She has designed, conducted and published a number of large-scale studies over the last decade, which have included: simple and cluster randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews, quasi-experimental evaluations and cross sectional surveys. Currently Sarah is Principal or Co-Investigator on three large-scale randomised controlled trials in Education and she is undertaking a number of systematic reviews in related areas.

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**Dr Sean O’Connor**  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*  

s.oconnor@qub.ac.uk  
Title: A web-delivered walking programme to assist pre-diabetes patients change their physical activity: the ‘each step counts’ programme (PI: Mark Tully)  
Funder: HSC R&D Office  

**Keywords:** physical activity; behaviour change; implementation models; systematic review methods

Sean is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast.
Sean trained as a Physiotherapist and has previously worked on randomised controlled trials examining exercise and physical activity interventions for acute soft tissue injuries and chronic musculoskeletal pain disorders. More recently, he has worked on an interdisciplinary project to conduct a series of evidence reviews to inform the development of treatment pathways for management of common musculoskeletal disorders. His primary research interests are focused on behaviour change techniques; theory-based implementation models for maximising effective integration of evidence into practice and examination of stakeholder perspectives in healthcare delivery. He is currently working on a project to develop and implement a web-based physical activity tool for people with prediabetes.

**Dr Mark O’Doherty**  
**Affiliated Research Fellow**  

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Title: CHANCES (PI: Frank Kee)  
Funder: EU Framework 7  

**Keywords:** ageing; NICOLA; CHANCES; cardiovascular disease; obesity; disability; vignettes

My postdoctoral training to date has been in the field of cancer epidemiology and healthy ageing, wherein I have extensive experience in the utilisation and management of large datasets, both within an all-Ireland setting and during my time at the National Cancer Institute, Washington, DC, United States. I am currently core to the strategic organisation of the cardiovascular disease and diabetes Work Package within the EU 7th framework CHANCES Project: Consortium on Health and Ageing: Network of Cohorts in Europe and the United States. In this present post, I have recently been awarded a three year CARDI Leadership Programme in Ageing Research Fellowship to explore differences in trends in work related disability, and of the differences in the way people report disability between nations and across different national health and welfare service contexts. This will be achieved through the use of the Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Aging (NICOLA), the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), and the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing (TILDA). With the support of this Fellowship I will build upon my current ageing research, and lay the foundation for a career as a research leader within the NICOLA study.

**Dr Lynsey Patterson**  
**Senior Epidemiological Scientist**  

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Secondment from the Public Health Agency (1dpw)  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** epidemiology; public health; infectious disease; record linkage and data analysis

Lynsey Patterson is a Senior Epidemiological Scientist at the Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland) and has been on part-time secondment to the Centre of Excellence for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast, since November 2009. Lynsey has a BSc Biological Sciences (2003) and a PhD from the School of Biological Sciences (2007), Queen’s University Belfast. She recently completed an MSc in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (March 2014). Her research interests
are led by epidemiological methods and statistics with a focus on the applicability and relevance of the research. Her main areas include pharmaco-epidemiology and infectious disease epidemiology.

**Dr Gillian Shorter (formerly Smith)**  
*Affiliated Lecturer*  
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MRC All-Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research, University of Ulster  

**Keywords:** e-health; randomised trials; substance use; alcohol; behavioural addictions; structural equation modelling; mental health

Gillian is a lecturer at the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing and MRC All-Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research at the University of Ulster. Her research interests include mental health, substance use or behavioural addictions, online interventions, structural equation modelling, and methods to improve trial methodology. Gillian's current projects include an evaluation of online interventions to reduce alcohol consumption in the UK, patterns and consequences of substance use or gambling, various projects exploring the design and conduct of trials involving e-Health interventions, and the use of novel statistical methodologies in randomised trials.

**Dr Seaneen Sloan**  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*  
Title: Roots of Empathy  
Funder: NIHR  

**Keywords:** schools based interventions; RCTs; parenting; childhood obesity

I am interdisciplinary researcher and joined QUB in 2004. My undergraduate degree was in Human Nutrition (University of Ulster), and my recently completed PhD (School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work at QUB) was a prospective examination of child eating behaviour and obesity in the context of parenting and parent-child interactions. The focus of my research is in quantitative and experimental methods, primarily, evaluating the effectiveness of school-based interventions using randomised controlled trials. I currently work in the School of Education, where I am involved in a number of RCTs, including Roots of Empathy and Physically Active Lessons. In addition, I hold a Cochrane Fellowship from HSC R&D, and am interested in longitudinal data analysis involving secondary data sets and record linkage to routinely-collected administrative data on child health, developmental and educational outcomes.

**Dr Mark A Tully**  
*Lecturer*  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** physical activity; pedometers; behaviour change interventions; natural experiment methodology
Mark is a physical activity scientist in the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) at Queen’s University Belfast. He is a lecturer in Physical Activity and Health, and his research is focused on developing physical activity interventions. After graduating with a 1st class honours degree in Biomedical Science from Queen’s University Belfast in 2000, Mark undertook a PhD on the health benefits of home based walking programmes. Since completing his PhD, he has worked as a post-doctoral researcher on a study of the uptake and provision of cardiac rehabilitation and a study of the effects of ice and exercise on physical activity levels following acute ankle sprains, before taking up his current position. His current projects include studies investigating the effects of changes in the built environment on levels of physical activity in the general population and studies of interventions to promote physical activity in socio-economically disadvantaged communities and older adults. He has previously been involved in studies of the effects of pedometer-based behaviour change interventions in various clinical populations, including primary care, cardiac and musculoskeletal patients.

Miss Ashlene Wright
PhD Student
awright16@qub.ac.uk
Supervisors: Frank Kee, Anne Kouvonen, Mark Tully
Title: The development of a peer led physical activity intervention to reduce social isolation in community dwelling older adults
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: older adults; physical activity; peer-led interventions

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Public Health and Leisure at Stranmillis University College, Belfast. Following this I graduated from an MSc in Physical Activity and Public Health at Loughborough University, England. I commenced a PhD at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast, under the supervision of Professor Frank Kee, Dr Mark Tully and Dr Anne Kouvonen. Presently, I am in first year of my PhD which concentrates on the development of a peer led physical activity intervention to reduce social isolation in community dwelling older adults. I have an interest in sports medicine, specifically the promotion of physical activity to prevent and treat disease.

Dr John Yarnell
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Honorary Senior Lecturer: Centre for Public Health, QUB
Retired Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: cardiovascular epidemiology; biomarkers; global health policies

I am completing an analysis of the predictive ability of novel biomarkers for cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular disease in the Caerphilly Prospective study with Professors Chris Patterson, Frank Kee and Stefan Blankenberg (Biomarcare) which was partially funded by the British Heart Foundation. I also have a strong interest in global public health and research into global public health policies.
Social Determinants of Health and Inequalities
Dr Justyna Bell  
Affiliated Researcher  
justyna.bell@yahoo.com

Keywords: migrant health; mental health and well-being; resilience; health inequalities; cognitive processes; life-world research; biographical narrative research

I am a sociologist and my research interest is focused around mental health and well-being of immigrants. During my doctoral research I conducted biographical narrative interviews exploring migration experiences and interpersonal interactions of Polish migrants in Belfast. In my most recent post as a post-doctoral research fellow at the CoENI I was involved in research programmes aimed to improve the understanding about mental health problems in migrant populations. One such study examined the mental health and well-being of Polish migrants in Northern Ireland.

Dr Tania Bosqui  
Affiliated Research Fellow  
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Title: LNiK - the Northern Ireland Administrative Data Research Centre (PI: Dermot O’Reilly)  
Funder: ESRC

Keywords: Psychological trauma; mental health; psychosocial wellbeing; migrants; refugees and asylum seekers; neighbourhood level effects; systematic reviews; administrative data linkage

I have completed a BSc in Psychology (2006, University of Leicester), MSc in Poverty Reduction and Development Management (2010, University of Birmingham) and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (2013, Queens University Belfast). I am a Health and Professions Council registered Clinical Psychologist and have worked in both health service and third sector settings with a specialist interest in childhood trauma, conflict-related trauma and refugees and asylum seekers. I have also worked abroad, namely in the occupied Palestinian territories, in the psychosocial department of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. My thesis was three fold; a service evaluation on service user involvement, a systematic review on neighbourhood level effects on the prevalence of psychosis for ethnic minorities and a cross-sectional research project on the role of childhood and conflict-related trauma on the risk of violence in people with psychotic disorders. All three have been published in peer reviewed journals. I went on to work clinically in a psychological therapies service in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, volunteer as a Psychosocial Practitioner for the Red Cross Refugee Centre and undertook a research fellowship in the Institute of Child Care Research on a systematic review of psychosocial interventions for maltreated children. My work at the Centre for Public Health will involve analysing the health outcomes of migrants in Northern Ireland.
Dr Sharon M Cruise  
**Affiliated Research Fellow**

s.cruise@qub.ac.uk  
**Title:** CHANCES PI: (Frank Kee)  
**Funder:** EU Framework 7

**Keywords:** psychology; social epidemiology; social determinants of health; lifecourse

My background is in psychology, and I have worked as a post-doctoral researcher in Queen’s University Belfast since 2008. Whilst working in the Centre for Public Health (QUB) my research has been focused on examining the early life determinants of child health and development using secondary analysis of large-scale, epidemiological birth cohort data from the United Kingdom and Ireland. More recent work has used health survey and cohort study data from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to examine socio-demographic patterns of disability associated with coronary heart disease in older adults.

Dr Michael Donnelly  
**michael.donnelly@qub.ac.uk**  
**Co-Investigator:** UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** health services research; intervention development and evaluation

I have been undertaking applied, policy- and practice-relevant health and well-being research including the design, development and management of research programmes for over 20 years. I welcome opportunities to work collaboratively towards developing appropriate and effective service responses that will benefit significantly health and social care systems and service users locally and elsewhere. Current research areas include service development and evaluation studies regarding the needs of people with mental health problems (including migrants and offenders), wraparound services for disadvantaged children and families, chronic care responses for people living with cancer and efforts to reduce harmful drinking particularly among older people.

Dr Declan French  
**Lecturer**

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**Co-Investigator:** UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** health economics; retirement; work disability; household finance; international development

My work experience has been in health statistics and I completed a PhD in health economics in 2008. As a post-doctoral researcher with the CoE, I worked with researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health on projects involving innovative analyses of indicators of human development. I have travelled to Harvard several times to pursue this work and have presented on two occasions at the Center of Population and Development Studies. I have also worked with the University of South Africa-Santrust programme to assist Ethiopian and South African researchers in developing their Ph.D. research proposals. I was appointed as a Lecturer in Finance at QUB Management School in 2011.
My most recent research has focused on actuarial modelling and forecasting of mortality which has attracted funding from the UK Institute of Actuaries. This work has led to me becoming the base supervisor in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership project to produce a stochastic actuarial valuation modelling tool along with an actuarial firm in Belfast.

Current projects include

– an interdisciplinary project with CoE colleagues on work disability,
– a study with Prof McKillop of QUMS and research students (Rachel Keyes and Deborah Keatley) on over-indebtedness among credit union members in NI and the impact on physical and mental health
– a paper explaining why the decline in child mortality accelerated since the Millennium Declaration
– work with Prof David Canning (Harvard) and Prof Michael Moore (Warwick) on the effect of economic forces on the timing of fertility in the US

Dr Naomh Gallagher
Senior Epidemiological Scientist

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Public Health Agency

Keywords: record linkage; pharmacoepidemiology; communicable disease; secondary analysis

Naomh is a Senior Epidemiological Scientist at the Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. Her current role involves leading the Health Protection surveillance section in Respiratory Disease and Gastrointestinal Infections. Previously Naomh completed her PhD at Queen’s University Belfast, focusing on the pharmacoepidemiology of diabetes through the linkage of a number of large scale routine datasets. Record linkage and the use of routine data continue to be her main research interests, with new opportunities developing through her work in Health Protection. Before undertaking her PhD, Naomh completed her MPH at Queen’s, and her undergraduate degree in Human Sciences at Oxford University.

Dr Jennifer Johnston
Affiliated PhD Student (p/t)

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Supervisors: Michael Donnelly, Gerry Gormley, L Monrouxe
Title: The Road to General Practice: How GPs Construct their Professional Identities
Funder: Self-funded

Keywords: assessment, professional identity, education

I am an academic GP working towards becoming an educationalist. I have an interest in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education research, most of which is qualitative. I have used a range of methodologies including grounded theory, discourse and narrative analysis and phenomenology. Currently I have two main research areas of interest: assessment and professional identity, the latter of which
Miss Deborah Keatley  
*PhD Student*

dkeatley01@qub.ac.uk  
Supervisors: Declan French, Donal McKillop, Mike Clarke  
Title: Relieving over-indebtedness and consequences for well-being  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** indebtedness; health; RCT; deprivation; credit union

I am a first year PhD student based at the Management School in Queens University Belfast. My project is a Randomised Control Trial studying the effectiveness of alternative interventions to alleviate debt and the relationship between debt and physical and mental health. Study participants are indebted members of Credit Unions in areas of significant socio-economic deprivation in Northern Ireland. Previously I was a policy adviser for Big Lottery Fund, supporting voluntary and community sector interventions in health, education, social exclusion and poverty, with a particular focus on community involvement and user-led interventions. I have an MSc in European Public Policy from Queens University and my dissertation explored the role of the EU in addressing health inequalities. I am currently a member of NI Public Health Research Network, NI Cancer Research Consumer Forum and a public member of an NIHR HTA programme panel, an NCRN Clinical Studies Group and a NICE Guideline Development Group.

Miss Rachel Keyes  
*Affiliated PhD Student*

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Supervisors: Donal McKillop, Declan French  
Title: Financial capability and debt  
Funder: DEL  

**Keywords:** credit union; indebtedness; health

I completed my undergraduate degree BSc Mathematics and MSc Risk Management and Financial Regulation at Queens University Belfast. I am a first year PhD Student in the Management school at Queens University Belfast looking at Indebtedness in Credit Unions in Northern Ireland. General research interests include; Credit Unions, Debt, Financial implications and Public Health factors associated with debt, RCTs.

Dr Anne Kouvonen  
*Lecturer*

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** social epidemiology; administrative record linkage; occupational health; cohort studies; secondary analysis; migrant health; health behaviours; obesity
I am a social epidemiologist whose research has been particularly focused on the links between psychosocial work environment and health. My other interests regard the investigation of socio-economic and psychosocial determinants of obesity and type 2 diabetes; determinants of occupational injury; national trends in morbidity; and migrant health. My research involves the application of social epidemiological methods and record linkage, and I have conducted secondary analyses in a number of large longitudinal and record linkage datasets. I have published about 80 original articles in international peer reviewed scientific journals and I am involved in a number of on-going collaborations with colleagues from the UCL, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and University of California, Davis. I am also one of the Co-Investigators of ADRC-NI.

Dr Aideen Maguire
Research Fellow
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Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: mental health; pharmacoepidemiology; data linkage

My research is focused around mental health and utilising secondary administrative data to gain insight into the factors that affect poor mental health. My PhD successfully linked prescribing data from the Enhanced Prescribing Database (EPD) to Census data from the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) and Care Home data from the Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority. My main findings were associated with the individual, area and household level variables associated with psychotropic drug uptake. My current project (The Grief Study) links EPD, NILS and the Northern Ireland Mortality Study data to analyse the effects of bereavement on mental health given severity of bereavement, i.e. loss through illness through to loss through sudden death or suicide.

Professor Donal McKillop
Affiliated Professor
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Queen’s University Management School

Keywords: credit union; indebtedness; health

I am a Professor of Finance at Queen’s University Belfast Management School. I have been a member of the Credit Union Advisory Committee (Ireland), which advises the Minister of Finance in relation to the improvement of the management of credit unions. I was the Chair of the Commission on Credit Unions (Ireland) established as an EU-IMF structural bench mark. I have also been member of an advisory team to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (Northern Ireland) to advise on aspects surrounding the Welfare Reform Act (2012).

My research interests are presently concentrated in four areas

(i) The governance behaviour of directors and management in US and Canadian credit unions.
(ii) Regulatory change and capital adjustment in US credit unions.
(iii) Anticipated merger and acquisition behaviour in Irish credit unions.
(iv) Risk management in Irish credit unions.
I am working with Dr Declan French and research students (Rachel Keyes and Deborah Keatley) on a study of over-indebtedness among credit union members in NI and the impact on physical and mental health.

Mr Ruari-Santiago McBride  
*PhD Student*

rmcbride05@qub.ac.uk  
Supervisors: Michael Donnelly, Lindsay Prior  
Title: Risk and recovery in an age of convergence: A critical discourse analysis of personality disorder policy and practice, Northern Ireland  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** mental health policy; criminal justice system; (ex-)prisoner health; personality disorder; service user and carer involvement; critical discourse analysis; qualitative methods; ethnography; applied/engaged research; transgender

I am a third year PhD student investigating mental health policy in the UK's criminal justice system. Specifically my research involves critically analysing personality disorder policy and practice in Northern Ireland. I have a background in medical anthropology and sociology. I employ a qualitative research design (including ethnography, semi-structured interviewing, and document analysis) to investigate the relationship between policy and ideology on the one hand and personal identity and collective representation on the other. As part of my PhD research I participated in the Northern Regional Personality Disorder Implementation Group, co-facilitated a prison art project in a high-secure prison and worked with former prisoners in community settings. Previously I have conducted research on diverse topics, including: the benefits of complementary therapies for people living with HIV, the healthcare experiences of transgender people living in Northern Ireland and nutrition among pregnant women in Senegal. Recently I was awarded a Santander Mobility Scholarship to establish collaborative links with Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil, in the area of therapeutic communities and substance misuse. I am committed to conducting research with people and groups who are often marginalised, excluded and/or stigmatised within society.

Dr Samantha Millar  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*

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Title: Alcohol and You (PI: Michael Donnelly)  
Funder: South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

**Keywords:** health behaviour change; intervention development and evaluation

I completed my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and PhD in the area of psychology and have worked in health research since 1999. I am a Health and Professions Council registered Health Psychologist and I have a particular interest in health behaviour change. My work at CoENI involved a project looking at the mental health of offenders. I am currently working on a collaborative project with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in the area of service development and evaluation, as well as a number of public health research projects in the areas of mental health, young people with disabilities and alcohol misuse.
**Professor Michael Moore**

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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** healthy life expectancy; aging; fertility; savings

I am a quantitative economist that specialises in Finance. I am published widely in international macroeconomics and foreign exchange rates. In the public health area, I have worked on life expectancy and its impact on savings decisions. I am currently working on a model that treats fertility as a choice that is made jointly with labour supply and savings decisions. My particular focus is on how female education impacts on these choices. I have been a visiting professor at the Harvard school of Public Health and an currently at Warwick Business School.

**Dr Dermot O’Reilly**

Clinical Senior Lecturer  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** social epidemiology; administrative record linkage; cohort studies; secondary analysis;

My core research focus is on social factors that influence the health of people and my current interest is on the effective use of routine datasets to further understanding of the distribution and social causes of disease and its impact in society. I am the lead for the new Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC) in Northern Ireland.

**Professor Lindsay Prior**

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Retired Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** medical sociology; qualitative data analysis; lay views on health and wellbeing; text analysis

I have worked in the field of medical sociology at various Universities throughout the UK for over 30 years. My research has been based in departments of clinical genetics, general practice, public health and psychiatry as well as departments of social science. A key interest of mine is to tap into lay views and understandings of health and illness and in order to do that I use various kinds of qualitative research method. Current research work covers issues relating to physical activity, nutrition and diet in everyday life; end-of-life decision making in ICU contexts; young drivers and fatality patterns, and the architecture of health care settings.
**Dr Michael Rosato**  
*Senior Research Fellow*

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**Funder:**  UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI (University of Ulster)  

**Keywords:** record linkage  

Michael is based at the Barnford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, University of Ulster (Coleraine). The Centre’s vision is primarily to help improve the patient experience for mental health service users and their families in Northern Ireland, by working closely with the voluntary sector and having more engagement with services users and their carers.

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**Dr Charlene Treanor**  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*

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**Title:** Non-pharmacological interventions for cognitive impairment due to systemic cancer treatment (PI: Michael Donnelly)  
**Funder:** Centre for Public Health QUB / HSC R&D Fellowship  

**Keywords:** cancer survivorship; late effects; patient-reported outcomes; quality-of-life  

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) Psychology from Queen’s University Belfast in December 2009. Continuing my studies, I completed my PhD on the topic of health service utilisation and the health and well-being of cancer survivors with late effects in Northern Ireland at the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast. I am currently employed as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Centre for Public Health undertaking a Cochrane Collaboration review assessing the effectiveness of non-pharmacological interventions on maintaining or alleviating the experience of cognitive impairment among cancer survivors who have completed systemic treatment. Recently, I became involved in the AiMS study which aims to understand the impact of a monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) diagnosis on patients, to map the patient pathway from diagnosis to treatment and to understand patient’s needs for support. My research interests include the late effects of cancer and its treatment and patient-reported outcomes.

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**Miss Foteini Tseliou**  
*Affiliated PhD Student*

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**Supervisors:** Michael Donnelly, Dermot O’Reilly  
**Title:** The use of routine administrative datasets to understand the role of early life factors in the mental health of young people  
**Funder:** UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** early life factors; mental health; data linkage  

I am currently at the first year of my PhD, studying the impact of early life factors on mental health of young people through the use of secondary administrative data. I completed my BA studies in Psychology in 2011 (University of Panteion, Athens, Greece). My undergraduate thesis was focused on the social determinants of health and mental health outcomes in young people.
of symptomatology in women who have received a diagnosis of major depression. I presented the findings of my project in a local conference (2011). Research into that area propelled my interest for the role of environmental risk factors in adult psychopathology with a focus on at-risk populations. Afterwards, I completed my MSc course on Mental Health Service and Population Research in King’s College London. For my thesis, I investigated gender differences in First Episode Psychosis Patients presenting in Early Intervention Services and I am in the process of publishing these findings. During this period I was given an internship as a research assistant at the CORAL Study (Conceal or Reveal), implementing an intervention with the aim to help patients with the issue of disclosing their condition at their workplace.

**Ms Joanne Wilson** 
*Affiliated PhD Student*

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Supervisors: Michael Donnelly, Lindsay Prior  
Title: Understandings of well-being in public health policy  
Funder: CASE Studentship - ESRC & Institute of Public Health in Ireland

*Affiliated Researcher - Managing Editor*

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Title: Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group (CDPLPG)  
(Co-ordinating editor; Professor Geraldine Macdonald)  
Funder: HSC Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency

**Keywords:** Systematic reviews; developmental problems; psychosocial problems; learning problems; health and well-being; policy and practice

Joanne is responsible for the administration of the Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group (CDPLPG), which has an editorial board of eighteen and an international membership of several hundred. The Group publishes protocols and systematic reviews of interventions for health and social care problems within its scope and does so on a monthly basis by means of the electronically-published database, The Cochrane Library.

Joanne recently submitted her PhD on ‘Understandings of well-being in public health policy’; co-funded by the ESRC and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, and supervised by Professor Lindsay Prior and Dr Michael Donnelly. It examined how the word well-being is understood in academic and policy discourse and the implications of these understandings for public health policy. Her previous research experience includes the following topics: sexual health programmes, the secondary prevention of heart disease in general practice, teenage drinking cultures, employee well-being in call centres, and the protection of children online. She has a background in psychology and is versed in both qualitative and quantitative methods.
Dr David Wright  
*Affiliated Research Fellow*

d.wright@qub.ac.uk
Title: LNiK - the Northern Ireland Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC-NI) (PI: Dermot O’Reilly)
Funder: ESRC

**Keywords:** record linkage; secondary data analysis; social determinants of health

I have a background in ecology and infectious disease epidemiology. My current research interests are centred on data linkage to investigate the social determinants of health, with a range of projects based on the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Survey exploring the effects of bereavement, heterogamous marriage and religious affiliation on a range of outcomes. I have recently joined the NI Administrative Data Research Centre and over the next few months I will be developing projects to create and exploit new linkages among existing public-sector datasets. I am keen to form collaborations with researchers from a range of disciplines who are considering linkage based research.
Statistical and Econometric Modelling
Dr Marco Boeri
Affiliated Lecturer in Environmental and Ecological Economics
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Keywords: health economics; economics of stratified medicine; food economics; econometrics; non-market valuation; discrete choice experiments; preference analysis: regret minimization vs. utility maximization

Marco Boeri has a degree in Economics and statistics from the University of Pisa (Italy) and a PhD in Environmental Economics from Queen’s University of Belfast. During his PhD he advanced the Latent class (LC) analysis in discrete choice experiments by exploring scale adjusted LC models, and he has co-authored the first applications of the Random Regret Minimization model in environmental economics and in health economics. Before Belfast he was employed in Ducato Spa as analyst and developer of credit products. He has been involved in several projects: the “EuroXperience” programme (2003); “Francigena” (a project under the Leonardo Da Vinci Project with the University of Pisa) – as Project Manager Assistant –; two projects under the 6th EU Framework Program – EXIOPOL and PLUREL – during his PhD; two European research projects within the 7th EU Framework Program – PURGE and STARTEC –; and “Determining the value of peatland in NI” with NIEA and Quercus. Marco Boeri has been Associate Researcher at “Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei in Milan in 2011-2012 and research fellow at Queen’s University of Belfast. He is currently Lecturer in Environmental and ecological economics at Queen’s University of Belfast. He is interested in health economics, environmental and resource economics, energy economics, non-market valuation, choice experiments, preference analysis: regret minimization vs. utility maximization.

Dr Hannah Brown
PhD Student / Affiliated Research Fellow
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 supervisors: George Hutchinson, Danny Campbell
Title: Nutritional Labelling and Food Choices
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: nutritional labelling; food choices; choice experiments

Hannah graduated in 2009 with first class honours in Land Use and Environmental Management from Queens University. She commenced a CoENI funded PhD in 2009, based in the Gibson Institute, School of Biological Sciences, QUB. Hannah completed her PhD thesis in 2013 under the external examination of Professor Mandy Ryan of Aberdeen University and will graduate in July 2014.
Mr David Holmes  
*PhD Student*

dholmes04@qub.ac.uk  
Supervisors: George Hutchinson, Alberto Longo  
Title: Incentives to Exercise and Individual Time Preferences  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** obesity; physical activity loyalty card; individual time and risk preference

In 2009 I graduated with a first class honours degree from a four year course in Land Use and Environmental Management with Professional studies. I have completed a Masters Degree in Public Health as part of a four year ESRC studentship looking at economics and obesity, funded by CoENI. I am preparing to submit my PhD thesis on my research which focused on using Revealed Preference questions to illicit individual’s time preference rates and discount rates to test whether there is a relationship between these variables and BMI.

Professor George Hutchinson  

g.hutchinson@qub.ac.uk  
Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

**Keywords:** economics of food choices and physical activity; individual time and risk preference; incentives and health behaviour; health valuation economics and application of economic experiments

George is director of the Gibson Institute for Land Food and Environment funded by the Gibson Trust and based in the School of Biological Sciences in Queens University. He is Professor of Rural and Environmental Economics, an IPCC (International Panel for Climate Change) Contributing Author and member of the steering Group of the Institute of Global Food Security in Queens. His research includes the application of both valuation economics and economic experiments to food choices, physical activity and issues of individual time and risk preferences and health behaviours.

Miss Felicity Lamrock  
*PhD Student*

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Supervisors: Frank Kee, Karen Cairns  
Title: The cost effectiveness of novel biomarkers for primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease  
Funder: DEL

**Keywords:** cost effectiveness analysis; health economic evaluation; cardiovascular disease; novel biomarkers; Markov modelling; survival analysis

Felicity graduated with a First Class BSc(Hons) in Mathematics with Statistics and Operational Research at Queen’s University Belfast in 2012. She was awarded the Hughes Insurance Prize for the final year module Stochastic Processes, and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) prize for the highest marks in the BSc degree. Currently she is in her second year of a PhD program looking at the cost-effectiveness of novel biomarkers for prevention of cardiovascular disease. After completion of two systematic reviews she is now working with the FINRISK97 dataset.
in collaboration with the BiomarCaRE consortium to produce a cost-effectiveness model. Her research interests include stochastic processes, Markov modelling, health economic evaluation and cardiovascular disease.

**Dr Alberto Longo**  
*Lecturer*  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** economics; microeconomics; econometrics; cost-benefit analysis; monetary valuation; food choice; behaviour change  

Alberto has a PhD and a BSc in Economics. He is interested in people’s preferences, attitudes and willingness to pay for public health programs. His research focuses on the effectiveness and on the optimal levels of (monetary) incentives for behaviour change.

**Professor Adele H Marshall**  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** modelling; survival analysis; stochastic; Markov; Bayesian networks  

Adele is Professor of Statistics at Queen’s University Belfast where she is Director of Research for the Centre of Statistical Science and Operational Research (CenSSOR). Adele obtained her DPhil at the University of Ulster in 2001 on modelling length of stay of elderly patients in hospital using a Conditional Phase-type Distribution and continues to pursue her research interests on survival analysis, stochastic modelling, Markov models, and data mining in particular Bayesian networks. Her work has led to the development of a method for dealing with skewed survival and the inter-related factors that influence it. Research interests include the incorporation of dynamically changing information into models that help update predicted survival in real-time. Areas of application have primarily been on health care and modelling of resources both within the hospital wards and emergency services. The work is currently being extended to include secondary care to predict unexpected admissions to hospital using routinely collected GP records and to medicines management, to interactively manage chronic disease and connected health. Adele is currently involved in two studies working on diabetes patients, to assess a link with socio-economic position and to develop a risk stratification system to monitor patients with long term conditions.

**Dr James (Jim) F McCann**  
*Reader*  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  

**Keywords:** quantum optics; mathematical modelling; networks and complex systems; atomic and molecular physics; statistical physics; data analytics
I came to Queen’s in 1999 having been a Lecturer in Physics at Durham University. My research links and collaborations include China, Ireland, Japan, Canada, Denmark, France and Norway - and are also connected with leading UK research labs (Edinburgh HPC centre, Daresbury and RAL) as well as University Physics departments: Oxford, UCL, Durham, Nottingham and Cambridge. My professional activities include membership of the American Physical Society, the Institute of Physics and the London Mathematical Society.

Miss Eileen Morgan  
PhD Student  
emorgan16@qub.ac.uk  
Supervisors: Chris Patterson, Chris Cardwell  
Title: Type 1 diabetes in Northern Ireland children - epidemiology, risk factors and complications  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  
Keywords: Type 1 diabetes; incidence; mortality; complications; risk factors

I graduated with a First Class BSc (Hons) in Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research at Queen’s University Belfast in 2011. An interest in the application of statistics for research and for the analysis of epidemiological studies led me to take on a PhD in the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast. I am currently in my third year of my PhD on Type 1 diabetes. During my PhD I have worked on two datasets; the Northern Ireland Childhood Diabetes Register and the Clinical Practice Research Database and have also conducted two systematic reviews.

Professor Christopher C Patterson  
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Co-Investigator: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI  
Keywords: childhood type 1 diabetes; epidemiology; biomarkers for diabetes in pregnancy

Chris is Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology in the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast. His main research interest is in the epidemiology of type 1 diabetes in children. He was joint leader of the EURODIAB case-control study of risk factors for childhood type 1 diabetes and has published several systematic reviews of early life risk factors for this disease. He has produced estimates of the number of children with type 1 diabetes worldwide for recent editions of the International Diabetes Federation’s Diabetes Atlas. He is currently co-ordinator of the EURODIAB collaboration of childhood diabetes registers and maintains the Northern Ireland Childhood Diabetes Register. He has a breadth of experience in organising and analysing multicentre RCTs (CUROSURF4, OSECT, DAPIT) and prospective cohort studies (Caerphilly, PRIME, HAPO (NI) follow-up).

Mr Christopher Steele  
PhD Student  
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Supervisors: Adele Marshall, Anne Kouvonen, Frank Kee  
Title: Developing statistical models to assess the effects of socioeconomic position on the incidence of and outcome from Type 2 diabetes in older adults: evidence from the
CHANCES cohorts  
Funder: UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health NI

Keywords: type 2 diabetes; socioeconomic position; coxian phase-type distribution

Christopher graduated with a First Class MSci degree in Mathematics with Statistics and Operational Research from Queen’s University Belfast in July 2013. In October 2014 Christopher commenced work on his PhD in the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast under the supervision of Professor Adele Marshall, Dr Anne Kouvonen and Professor Frank Kee. His research involves the development of statistical models to assess the effect of socioeconomic position on the incidence of and outcome from Type 2 diabetes in older adults. In particular, the project will focus on using Coxian phase-type distributions to model Type 2 diabetes as stages in the survival process. To investigate this issue, data collected by the Consortium on Health and Ageing: Network of Cohorts in Europe and the United States (CHANCES) will be used. This study will broaden our understanding concerning the extent socioeconomic position predicts Type 2 diabetes in older adults as there is currently a paucity of good quality data.