



HSE Public Health: Health Protection Conference

October 12th 2023

Dublin, Ireland

Speaker Biographies:



Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE.

Dr Colm Henry was appointed as the first Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) to the HSE in April 2018. He was previously the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Acute Hospitals from 2014 – 2018, and National Lead for the Clinical Director Programme from 2012 to 2014. Prior to these national roles, he was Clinical Director of the Mercy University Hospital Cork from 2009 to 2012 where he worked as Consultant Geriatrician since his appointment in 2002, establishing a service for acute care and rehabilitation in both Cork voluntary hospitals. A graduate of UCD, he trained in Medicine of the Elderly in Cork and subsequently entered and completed SpR training in Edinburgh. His tenure as Chief Clinical Officer was marked more than any other event by the COVID-19 pandemic. He played a leading role within and outside the HSE in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the time the first case came to light in the country through to the rollout of the vaccination programme. This included establishment and rapid implementation of new pathways of care, clinical guidance to rollout of population testing and phased vaccination of population based on hierarchy of need and risk. As Chief Clinical Officer, he assumed responsibility for the Public Health workforce throughout the pandemic, leading them in their work and, in parallel, implementing wholesale reform based on the Crowe Horwath report. This reform has led to recognition of consultant status for public health specialists for the first time and their reconfiguration into a single cohesive workforce and strategic entity within the HSE. As Chief Clinical Officer, he has directed on the design and implementation of new models of care, designed by National Clinical Programmes in response to the needs of population. These models, reflecting the responsibility within the Office for all healthcare professions, involve diversification of healthcare settings and personnel and harnessing of innovation informed by the experience of frontline healthcare workers. Overarching all is a more robust approach to improving population health, both in preventing illness through early intervention and through reconfiguration of healthcare towards the needs of the population guided by a new and reformed Public Health leadership within HSE. He has led on the first Genetics and Genomics Strategy for Irish healthcare which is commencing implementation through a National Office. He also led on the HSE response to the Scally report on CervicalCheck which has resulted in a reformed National Screening Service with overhauled governance. In the wake of the pandemic, he is overseeing investment and implementation of integrated models of care for older people in collaboration with National Clinical Programmes and his Office is leading on new clinical pathways to address waiting lists through new community-based services and alternative hospital-based models of care. This work will build on the reform of older persons and chronic disease care which has seen substantial investment in recent years. He is co-leading on a three-year plan for unscheduled care which will have particular focus on improving the experience of older people.



Dr John Cuddihy, National Director of Public Health, HSE

Dr Cuddihy has been involved in Public Health reform in Ireland from the Crowe Horwath review and report implementation to more recently leading the implementation of the Public Health reform programme.

He has previously held positions as Director of Public Health, Director of HPSC and National Clinical Director of Health Protection.



**Dr Éamonn O'Moore, Director National Health Protection, HSE
Public Health: Health Protection**

Dr O'Moore, Director of National Health Protection qualified from UCD in 1991. He trained in Public Health in Oxford and at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He worked primarily in the UK since 1995, but has also worked internationally, including with the WHO and with ECDC in various roles relating to specialist practice in health protection. In the UK, Dr O'Moore worked with the Health Protection Agency (as Director of the Thames Valley Health Protection Unit), Public Health England (as National Lead for Health & Justice), and the UK Health Security Agency (as Deputy Director for Vulnerable People and Inclusion Health). During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the public health response for Public Health England (PHE) and then UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in Adult Social Care and Secure Settings. He previously worked in PHE as National Incident Director for the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014/15. Dr O'Moore has a long-standing interest in health inequalities and health equity. He has also worked as Director of the UK Collaborating Centre with the WHO Health in Prisons Programme. He was a founding member of the Worldwide Prison Health Research & Engagement Network (WEPHREN). Dr O'Moore has led a range of national health protection and health improvement programmes nationally, including work on blood-borne viruses, TB and migrant health. He led the development of surveillance and epidemiological resources nationally and internationally to inform health needs and health impact assessments. Dr O'Moore was a senior advisor to national and international governments, produced many research papers, presented at international conferences and is an editor and senior contributor to a forthcoming publication by Oxford University Press on Prison Medicine.



Dr Andrea Ammon- Director European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, MD, MPH,

Dr Ammon was appointed Director of ECDC in June 2017. From April 2011 to April 2015, Andrea Ammon was Deputy to the Director and Head of Unit for Resource Management and Coordination. From May 2015, she was ECDC's Acting Director.

Andrea joined ECDC as the Head of the Surveillance Unit in 2005. The unit was responsible for developing The European Surveillance System (TESSy), implementing a long-term surveillance strategy for the European Union (EU), evaluating the Dedicated Surveillance Networks (DSN), performing step-by-step transfer of DSN activities to ECDC, revising the EU case definitions and producing an Annual Epidemiological Report on infectious diseases in the EU.

Prior to joining the ECDC, Dr Ammon served in several roles at the Robert Koch-Institute, in Berlin, Germany, most recently as Head of Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology. In this capacity, she maintained and further developed the German national surveillance system; coordinated the national outbreak response team for current and emerging infections; coordinated emergency planning for influenza; directed the national Field Epidemiology Training Programme; coordinated epidemiological research programmes in infectious diseases and provided scientific advice for government Ministries, Members of Parliament, and the public.



Dr Greg Martin, Consultant in Public Health Medicine-Surveillance, HSE Public Health: Health Protection

Dr Martin is the Director of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Editor-in-Chief of Globalization and Health. Before moving to Ireland, Dr Martin worked at the Clinton Health Access Initiative as the Director of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and the WHO as the acting Portfolio Manager for TB in the UNIAID programme.

At the World Cancer Research Fund, Dr Martin served as the Head of Science and Research where his team focused on cancer prevention. Dr Martin has a longstanding interest in teaching public health, data science and data visualisation, and is active on social media platforms like YouTube where he posts video teaching material.



Dr. Máirín Boland- Consultant in Public Health Medicine and National Clinical Lead of the Health Threats Preparedness Programme, HSE Public Health: Health Protection.

Dr Boland graduated from UCD in 1989 and following six years in hospital medicine and then higher specialist training with the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, incorporating a Doctorate in Medicine, she worked as Lecturer in School of Public Health UCD, and Programme Director for MSc in Child Health for several years. She then worked in the HSE Eastern Region Department of Public Health, leading on areas such as emergency planning, and the Port Health multidisciplinary network, managing multidisciplinary teams during the COVID-19 response in multiple settings.

Dr Boland's current role within HSE Health Protection at national level since 2021 encompasses 'all-hazard' emergency planning and cross border health security. Her portfolio includes work on high consequence infectious disease, avian influenza and polio preparedness. The Threats Preparedness Programme works with HSE interdisciplinary colleagues responding to the recent EC serious cross border threats to health legislation, in strengthening emergency preparedness. Dr Boland is a member of the EU DG HERA (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority) Advisory Forum and is the ECDC National Focal Point for Preparedness and Response. Recent collaborations include EU Healthy Gateways (point of entry/cross-border preparedness and response) and EU SHARP (Strengthening International Health Regulations).

Dr Boland led an ['Intra-Action Review of the HSE Health Protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021'](#). She co-authored a section of ['COVID-19 Crisis Governance: Lessons learned and best practices-Health Emergency Response in Interconnected Systems'](#) (HERoS, 2022). Dr Boland is (Hon) Clinical Senior Lecturer at Trinity College Dublin. She is guest editor of a special collection on 'Cross border infectious disease threats: governance and preparedness' in the journal *Globalization and Health*.



Dr Lucy Jessop- Consultant in Public Health Medicine- National Immunisations, HSE Public Health: Health Protection.

Dr Jessop graduated from Cambridge University and worked in paediatrics before training in Public Health Medicine in London. She worked as a consultant in public health in Buckinghamshire for 5 years before moving in 2014 to work as a consultant in Health Protection in Northern Ireland and was the lead for childhood immunisation programmes.

Since 2019 she has led the National Immunisation Office in Ireland, which is the HSE coordinating unit for the implementation and improvement of all the national immunisation programme. She a member of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) in Ireland and is a passionate advocate for immunisations across the life course.



Dr Paul McKeown -Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Dr Paul McKeown is a Consultant in Health Protection with the National Health Protection Service of Ireland. Having trained in general medicine and general practice in the UK, he has worked in the HPSC for more than 20 years on the epidemiology, surveillance, control, and prevention of infectious disease. He is consultant lead on gastrozoonotic and vectorborne disease, and non-respiratory emerging infections.



Dr Vivian Leung- Antimicrobial Consumption Expert, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Dr. Leung is a physician epidemiologist with a background in healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. At ECDC she is an Expert in Antimicrobial Consumption and also serves as a technical lead in the ECDC invasive Group A *Streptococcus* team. Dr. Leung trained as a family physician and worked as a hospitalist in the United States, and she also served in the U.S. CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service. Prior to joining ECDC in 2022, Dr. Leung was the Medical Director and Program Coordinator for healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, leading statewide surveillance and response for a number of infectious diseases including invasive Group A streptococcal infections.



Dr. Anne Sheahan -Area Director of Public Health, HSE South West and National Specialty Director for Public Health Medicine;

Following graduation in medicine from UCC, Dr Sheahan worked in cardiology for a number of years and then entered public health, where she undertook training and received her membership in Public Health Medicine (RCPI) in 2003. Dr Sheahan worked as a Specialist in HSE South West since then and developed a special interest in Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection, working nationally with the AMRIC team. This work included working to address CPE when declared a PHEIC.

More recently, Dr Sheahan was the Director of Public Health in HSE South and led the Department in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has recently been appointed Area Director for Public Health in that region.

One of her passions has been ensuring Specialist Registrars get the best experience during their Higher Specialist Training programme and has been appointed National Specialty Director for Public Health since September 2021.



Professor Breda Smyth- CMO, Department of Health

Professor Smyth is the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health. Responsibility for provision of strategic leadership and evidence-based analysis and expert medical advice to the department, government, broader health system and regulatory and professional bodies; Developing policy and legislation across the domains of Public Health, Leading the response to Pandemics and Public Health Emergencies of International Concern, Leading strategic Public Health Reform for the Irish Health System, Leading the development and co-ordination of Healthy Ireland Policy.



Dr. Douglas Hamilton MD. Consultant in Public Health Medicine

FRCSI, MFPH(UK), MFPHMI-

Dr Hamilton started medical life as a surgeon, ultimately spending three years as the head of surgery in a Ugandan mission hospital. This gave him a taste for broader system challenges for under-served groups, so he spent the next seven years supporting the Ministry of Health in Mozambique to roll out a comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme nested in a sector-wide approach. Before coming back to the HSE in 2015, he spent six years as the Director of the Global AIDS Programme in Irish Aid.

He is currently a Specialist in Public Health Medicine / Medical Officer of Health (MoH) in the Department of Public Health, Area B. Prior to this he was the Public Health Lead in the National Social Inclusion Office, where the design, oversight and support of the Migrant Health Programme took up much of his time, especially the First Response, Catch-Up Vaccination and Blood-Borne Virus/TB Screening components.



Christopher Ibanga-Health Protection Nurse

Christopher is currently working as a Health Protection Nurse with the Department of Public Health, Dublin/ Midlands region. He has been a Nurse for 35 years this year, having started his nursing career in Nigeria in 1988 before veering off into nurse training and Public Health. Christopher holds a Bachelor's degree in Health education (Nigeria), Master's degree in Public health (USA) and a post graduate certificate in Project management (USA).



Dr. Declan McKeown-Specialist in Public Health Medicine and Medical Epidemiologist.

Dr. Declan McKeown is a Specialist in Public Health Medicine who practices in Medical Epidemiology in the National Health Information Unit, HSE. Having trained and qualified in Public Health Medicine in Western Australia, he returned to Ireland in 1999 to work in one of the then recently established regional Departments of Public Health. His role involved infectious disease epidemiology, environmental health and outbreak control, along with teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and specialist training college levels. He moved to the National Health Intelligence Unit in 2009 and has been closely involved in the development and roll-out of a number of the NQAIS projects (National Quality Assurance and Improvement System) which focus on hospital safety and quality improvement. He maintains a significant teaching commitment aimed at Specialist Registrars in Public Health Medicine and has a particular interest in measuring and mapping deprivation and related social indicators. During the COVID pandemic in Ireland, he assisted in the construction of Health Atlas' real-time COVID dot map monitoring of active and recent cases, and the development of real-time COVID "heat mapping" to show incidence and change in incidence, thereby assisting in the control and containment of COVID "hot spots".



Dr. Celia O'Hare- SPR

Celia is a final year Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine currently working with the Health Threats Preparedness Programme led by Dr. Máirin Boland, Consultant in Public Health Medicine. Celia initially trained in Psychiatry completing Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, United Kingdom. Celia then worked as a Research Fellow in the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) which included spending six months working as Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Aging and Population Health at the University of Pittsburgh. Before beginning training in Public Health Medicine, Celia worked as a Clinical Training Fellow in Ageing, at the Medical Research Council Unit for Lifelong Health & Ageing, University College London. Celia holds a MPH from University College Dublin and a PhD in Medical Gerontology which was supervised by Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Trinity College Dublin.



Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen- Epidemiologist, Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)

Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen holds a BSc in Food Science and MSc in Human Nutrition from University of Copenhagen. While based in the HPSC, she recently completed the ECDC Fellowship programme in field epidemiology (EPIET) which provided excellent opportunities to apply epidemiological methods to guide public health action. Prior to this, Charlotte built up experience in public health research and scientific risk assessment from international organisations and public health authorities within and outside the EU, with a particular interest in and attention to underserved populations throughout.



Olga Jackson-Health Protection Nurse. RGN BSc Nursing

2015-2019 Trained in Bon Secours Hospital Cork

2020 RGN in the Mercy University Hospital Cork during the Pandemic in 2020

2021 Department of Public Health, Health Protection Nurse as part of an MDT to investigate and manage notifications and outbreaks of infectious diseases in our region.



Dr Randal Parlour- Research & Guideline Development Unit Coordinator

PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), RMN, RGN

Randal trained as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Derry. Subsequently, he completed Registered General Nurse training at St. George's Hospital in London. He graduated from City University London with a BSc (Hons) degree in Nursing/Sexual Health in 1995. In 2000 he obtained an MSc in Health & Social Services Management from Ulster University. He completed a PhD study in 2010, via Ulster University, that extended existing knowledge about realistic evaluation, practice development and the application of critical methods in facilitating the development of evidence-informed and person-centred workplace cultures. In 2018 Randal received both the Graduate Award in Executive Healthcare Leadership from the Irish Management Institute and the Health Service Leadership Academy Leading Care 1 Award.

Randal is a former Director of Research at Letterkenny University Hospital. In previous roles he has developed considerable expertise in managing transformational change programmes. He has made a significant contribution in shaping how this kind of development and research is undertaken in the Irish health and social care system and has influenced strategically to ensure these ways of working are embedded in the system as a whole. As Principal Investigator, Randal has led a significant number of national and regional research programmes that have been undertaken across a diverse range of health & social care settings.



Ms Claire Gilbourne-Health Protection Researcher-

MScPH, MTech, BSc (Hons)

Claire's academic qualifications include a BSc. Environmental Science (Hons) (1998), First-Class Honours Master of Technology in Safety and Ergonomics (2012) and most recently a First-Class Honours Master of Science in Public Health (2021) with the Graduate Medical School at the University of Limerick. Claire has significant experience as a Regional Health and Safety Officer and Consultant, and was responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of a nationally accredited health and safety management system (OHSAS 18001/ISO45001).

Claire has extensive experience in undertaking qualitative, quantitative health research and secondary data analysis on a wide range of topics. Throughout her academic and professional roles, Claire has gained significant experience in conducting literature searches and synthesising evidence and has utilised these skills in conducting evidence reviews for the RGDU.

In partnership with the Department of Biological Sciences (University of Limerick), Claire has recently submitted a systematic review for publication. Claire is also a named author on a "Scoping Review on the Efficacy of Face Masks in Preventing Transmission of COVID-19 among adults in Non-Healthcare settings" which has also been submitted for publication. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5495-1192>