



Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland



CHALLENGING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN CARDIOVASCULAR RISK: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE

- Sharing evidence and experience across sectors
- Discussing collaborative opportunities and solutions
- Building new connections

OCTOBER 12TH, 2026

9.15-14.00

MARDYKE PAVILLION, UCC



REGISTER TO ATTEND

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

09:15-09:30: Coffee/Tea & Snacks	
Dr Linda O'Keeffe	Welcome
09:30-10:35 Session 1: Research Perspectives	
Professor Janas Harrington & Dr Margaret Steele	Commercial determinants of health
Eibhlín Looney & Sina Calasan	Non-pharmacological cardiovascular disease prevention in adults
Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar	Supporting healthy child growth and preventing childhood obesity
Dr Linda O'Keeffe	Families as a structural determinant of health: Cities@Heart
10:35-10:50 Break	
10:50-12:00 Session 2: On the Ground	
Professor Bill McEvoy	European Society of Cardiology Prevention Guidelines 2028: Challenges and opportunities
Dr Peter Barrett	Harnessing cardiovascular disease data for health service planning
Dr Monica O'Mullane	Opportunities and challenges in Health Impact Assessment
Denise Cahill & Davis Deus Mazula	Cork Healthy Cities: Opportunities, challenges and evidence in practice
Katherine Harford	Let's Grow Together: An area-based approach to giving all children the best possible start
Marian O'Reilly	Initiatives in North Cork Sláintecare areas
12:00-13:15 Collaborative Roundtables	
13:15-14:00 Group Photos and Lunch	

**Programme is provisional and may be subject to minor changes.*

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Prof Janas Harrington

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Prof Harrington is a public health researcher at UCC and leads the Food Policy Research team (Centre for Health and Diet Research). Her research focuses on the upstream determinants of dietary behaviours, food policy and their links with obesity, cardiovascular risk and health inequalities, with an interest in translating evidence into healthier food systems.



Dr Margaret Steele

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Dr Steele is a public health researcher at UCC's School of Public Health and a member of the Food Policy Research team. Her research focuses on food systems, nutrition policy, health inequalities and the commercial determinants of health, including work on the FEAST/FOODPATH projects.



Eibhlín Looney

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Eibhlín is a Research Assistant at UCC's School of Public Health, working across research on health inequalities, health impact assessment and early-life health. Her work includes research on infant and child health, food and nutrition, and translating evidence into policy and practice.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Sina Calasan

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Sina is a Research Assistant at UCC's School of Public Health. Her work focuses on health research and implementation, including systematic review and evidence synthesis, with a particular interest in supporting the translation of evidence into healthcare practice.



Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Dr Matvienko-Sikar is a Senior Lecturer and health psychologist at UCC's School of Public Health. Her research focuses on maternal and child health, particularly perinatal mental health, infant feeding and childhood obesity, with expertise in developing and evaluating interventions to improve health outcomes.



Dr Linda O'Keeffe

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Dr O'Keeffe is a Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology at UCC's School of Public Health and leads the Life Course Epidemiology and Prevention research group. Her research focuses on cardiovascular risk across the life course, with particular expertise in sex differences, socioeconomic inequalities and causal inference methods.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Prof John William McEvoy

School of Medicine, University College Cork

Prof Bill McEvoy is Professor of Medicine/Cardiology at University College Cork and a Consultant Cardiologist with a prevention focus at Cork University Hospital. He is Medical and Research Director of the National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health and Co-chair of the European Society of Cardiology's 2028 Prevention Guideline.



Dr Peter Barrett

HSE South West/University College Cork

Dr Barrett is a Consultant in Public Health Medicine with HSE South West and an Adjunct Clinical Senior Lecturer at UCC's School of Public Health. His research focuses on large-scale epidemiology and applied public health, with particular interests in maternal health, chronic disease prevention, substance use and translating evidence into public health practice.



Dr Monica O'Mullane

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Dr O'Mullane is a public health researcher at UCC's School of Public Health and leads research on Health Impact Assessment and Health in All Policies. Her research focuses on health inequalities, policy and institutional drivers of health, and strengthening the use of evidence in public policy and decision-making.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Denise Cahill

Cork Healthy Cities, HSE/University College Cork

Denise is the Healthy Cities Coordinator for Cork City and an Adjunct Lecturer at UCC's School of Public Health. She has over 25 years of experience in public health and health promotion, with a particular focus on health inequalities, social determinants of health and collaborative approaches to improving health and wellbeing across communities.



Davis Deus Mazula

School of Public Health, University College Cork

Davis is a Research Assistant at UCC's School of Public Health. His work spans health data, epidemiology and public health research, with previous experience in monitoring and evaluation and health systems in Tanzania, and a particular interest in using evidence and data to inform health policy and practice.



Katherine Harford

Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG

Katherine is Executive Director of Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships, leading prevention and early intervention approaches to support children and families in Cork. Her work focuses on early childhood development, health inequalities, community development and building partnerships to improve outcomes for children and families.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Marian O'Reilly

Health Service Executive (HSE) South West-Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Marian is a Senior Health Promotion Officer and Healthy Communities Coordinator in HSE. Her work focuses on community-based approaches to improving health and wellbeing, addressing health inequalities, supporting partnership working across local communities, including Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme in North Cork.

SEE YOU AT THE EVENT!

Registration Form: Challenging Health Inequalities in Cardiovascular Risk

Bridging the Gap between
Research, Policy and Practice

Monday 12th October 2026, 10.00-
14.00, Mardyke Pavilion

