

Invitation to Participate

Encouraged by the success and positive feedback, the Research & Education Foundation (REF) at Sligo University Hospital is delighted to host for the second time only, an event focusing on early stage health researchers (ESHRs) at Sligo University Hospital, catchment area and beyond. This event gives early researchers an unique opportunity to present completed or work-in-progress health-related research projects followed by a feedback session from a panel of experts. The REF invites abstract submissions to be considered for presentation at the 2nd Early Stage Health Researcher Forum.

When?

Thursday, November 9th, 2023, 2 pm – 5 pm

Where?

Lecture Theatre, Level 6, Sligo University Hospital

Who can attend?

Anyone engaged in health research and interested to learn about what research is happening locally, we in particular encourage early stage health researchers, academics, nurses, medical and health & social care professionals as well as medical students.

Benefits to Presenters:

- Free pre-conference event focusing exclusively on ESHRs.
- A chance to present your work-in-progress and obtain expert feedback.
- A chance to present a work-in-progress poster during the Poster Exhibition.
- A chance to win the Research & Education Foundation Medal for 'Best Presentation'.

Expert Panel 2023

This year joining the panel to provide feedback to the early researchers will be

- Prof. Vivien Coates, Professor of Clinical Nursing Research, Ulster University & Assistant Dir Nursing Western Heath & Social Care Trust
- Dr. Claire McEvoy, Dietician, Nutritional Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Ageing Research at Queen's University Belfast
- Prof. Aiden McCormick, Consultant Hepatologist at St. Vincent's Hospital Dublin and Clinical Lead of the National Hepatitis C Treatment Programme

Who can present?

To be eligible to present, you will need to:

- Be an early stage health researcher^{*)}
- Be able to attend the full event in-person
- Submit an abstract by Sunday September 24th 2023 – **Extended to Wednesday October 4th**

Abstract Submission

To be selected as speaker, you will need to submit an abstract about a work-in-progress, i.e., current research that is not yet completed. This could include, for example, research you are currently conducting, or research that is completed but requires further interpretation prior to wider dissemination.

Selection Process

Abstract submissions will be externally reviewed and scored whereby from the accepted abstracts up to 15 early stage health researchers will be invited to present at the event. Abstracts are selected on the basis of their medical and scientific significance, timeliness, quality of data and methodology, potential impact and adherence to specific format requirements described below.

Accepted Abstracts

Abstracts will be accepted for presentation and poster OR poster only.

If your abstract is awarded an ORAL PRESENTATION at the early stage health researcher forum, you will be asked to deliver a 5-minute presentation about your research project. After each block of presentations, there will be a 15-minute Q&A session for feedback, questions, and suggestions from an expert panel and other attendees.

If your abstract is awarded a POSTER PRESENTATION, poster boards will be at the meeting and are A0 format. Printed posters, preferable portrait must be dropped off by Friday, 3rd November 2023 in SUH Library, Level 6. Posters will be on display at the Poster Exhibition from November 3rd to 17th on Level 6, in front of the library in the SUH. The Research & Education Foundation Medal is awarded to the best poster presented in Category I by a doctor or medical student and in Category II by a nursing, midwifery, health and social care professional or undergraduate student.

Submit abstract for the 2nd Early Stage Health Researcher Forum by emailing the completed abstract submission form in word format to office@ref-sligo.ie.

Confirmation of Receipt

Submitting author will be sent an e-mail to confirm that their abstract has been received. If you do not receive the acknowledgement within three working days of your submission, please contact the office@ref-sligo.ie.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSES: Sunday, Sep. 24th 2023 - **Extended to Wednesday October 4th**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS OPEN NOW.

Abstract Submission Form: click [here](#) or request from office@ref-sligo.ie.

Abstract Guidance: click [here](#) or request from office@ref-sligo.ie.

^{*)} 'Early stage health researchers' (ESHRs) are defined as individuals working in the area of health/ academia who are less than 5 years health research active (full-time equivalent research experience). Our definition of ECHRs includes postgraduate students, doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, medical doctors, nurses and health & social care professionals and equivalent.