



EQUIPS

EVIDENCE-BASED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH NETWORK

EQUIPS update

Thank you for registering your interest in EQUIPS, and welcome to our first EQUIPS member update!

EQUIPS is the acronym for the Irish Evidence-Based Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Research Network. EQUIPS aims to bring together knowledge users, researchers, patients, and the public, to improve quality and patient safety in the Irish healthcare sector. EQUIPS has three strands: Enabling; Understanding & Informing QPS Research; and Focusing (see Page 2, for an overview).

This first email newsletter aims to introduce you to the EQUIPS Research Network structure, share progress updates, introduce our new Network Manager, and highlight useful funding and research opportunities of interest to network members.

We would like to continue showcase new research articles, events, members, and progress updates in our newsletter and/or on our website in future. If you have some updates to share, or wish to volunteer for our 'member spotlight', please contact the EQUIPS Network Manager, Jill Poots, at pootsj@tcd.ie

We hope you enjoy this update,
EQUIPS Ops Team

Inside this newsletter

Introducing EQUIPS

Network progress

Membership matters: spotlight and survey info

Get involved: Funding and network opportunities

QPS diary dates

Introducing EQUIPS

What is a research network?

A group of individuals working collaboratively on a matter of shared interest.

EQUIPS has three 'strands' (areas of interest) with different aims.

Enabling - to put in place activities and resources to support those interested in QPS.

Understanding and Informing

- defines priorities and strategies for EQUIPS research

Focussing - to collaborate on, and carry out research on priority areas (clusters)



Within each strand, there are several tasks, assigned to task leaders:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1.1. Events & Engagement | 2.1. Priorities & Strategies | 3.1. Systems & Process Design |
| 1.2. Information & Interactive Resources | 2.2. Barriers & Enablers | 3.2. Implementation & Evaluation |
| 1.3. Knowledge Translation | 2.3. Network Analysis, Monitoring & Evaluation | 3.3.+ To be developed based on evidence from other strands and clusters |
| 1.4. Community Building | | |
| 1.5. Capacity | | |
| 1.6. Capability | | |
| 1.7. National and International Engagement | | |
- Patient/public partners are embedded in each strand.**

Strand leader positions available:

Task Leaders are required for tasks 1.3 and 1.5, as well as a **Patient Partner Lead** for Strand 1. For more information, please get in touch with Jill Poots.

Network progress

Strand Meetings

Initial strand kick-off meetings took place online from 5th to 7th June 2024.

This provided an opportunity for **strand members** to meet, and discuss future directions for the individual strands.

Common discussion themes across the strands were the importance of adhering to PPI (Public and Patient Involvement) best practice, defining quality in relation to safety, and fostering collaboration between academics and knowledge users.

The next strand meetings will be held between 9th and 16th September - contact pootsj@tcd.ie if you would like to be involved.

RCSI event

In June, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Graduate School of Healthcare Management and EQUIPS member **Dr Siobhan McCarthy** hosted a consultation to discuss quality improvement and patient safety priorities in Ireland. The consultations included patient representatives, healthcare professionals, academics and scholars.

Priorities identified included investigating systemic causes of harm, investigating at-risk groups, and offering practical solutions.

More information and resources are available in *Health Manager* [here](#).

Website and branding update

Did you notice the **new EQUIPS logo**? The logo has been developed by the EQUIPS ops team and Hidden Depth.

The brandmark symbolises interconnection between people and information and represents four pillars: evidence, research, quality, and safety.

The EQUIPS Research Network will soon have a new website. This will showcase information about the network, as well as helpful resources and updates about patient safety and quality improvement.



Research updates

EQUIPS member **Dr Paul O'Connor (University of Galway)** and colleagues have commenced work on a scoping review of the barriers and facilitators to patient safety research in Ireland. Read the abstract [here](#).

Dr Siobhán Corrigan (TCD) and Prof John Browne (UCC) are collaborating on Strand 3 to build a national cluster of people actively working on implementation and re/design of safety and quality interventions, to share learning of 'what works'. If you have such experience, get in touch."

Membership matters

Member spotlight

Dr Jill Poots was recently appointed Network Manager for the EQUIPS Research Network.



Jill recently completed a PhD in Psychology at Leeds Beckett University, in collaboration with a provider of NHS 111 telephone triage. This research applied Human Factors methods to investigate patient safety risks in telephone triage organisations, and develop a contributory factors framework for incident investigation.

Jill's role is to support and connect members, and assist with the running of the network. If you have any questions about EQUIPS, please contact her on pootsj@tcd.ie

What does it mean to be an EQUIPS member?

The EQUIPS network will provide opportunities to learn about QPS, build collaborations, highlight opportunities, and showcase member research and implementation initiatives.

The EQUIPS ops team are interested in learning about how current and prospective members would like engage with the network.

Please complete [this short survey](#) (it should take less than 10 minutes) to have your say on membership structure and benefits.

Get involved

Research and funding opportunities

Applications are open for the **HRB Applied Partnership Award** until 12th December, 2024. Applications are welcome from teams of knowledge users and researchers. For details of the award see the details on [this page](#).

Evidence Synthesis Ireland are inviting applications for funding up to €6250 to support **Studies Within a Review (SWAR)**. Read more about the ESI SWAR award [here](#). Call will be closed on 3rd September 2024.

Showcase your research

If you have a recent research paper, or QPS improvement project to share in future newsletters, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jill (pootsj@tcd.ie) to share your ideas.

Register your interest

Did you receive this email from a colleague? Ensure you stay up to date with EQUIPS by completing the form [here](#).



QPS diary dates

The EQUIPS **Inaugural In-person event** will take place on 2nd October in the Exam Hall at Trinity College Dublin from 10am to 1pm, followed by a steering group meeting from 2pm to 4pm. This interactive event aims to build capacity and community in the Irish QPS research network. More details will follow. [Register your interest](#) in the network to keep up to date.

Interested in learning more about Patient and Public Involvement in research? PPI Ignite will hold their annual national **PPI Festival** in October. Details available [here](#).

World Patient Safety Day is 17th September. This year's theme is "Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety" with the slogan "Get it right, make it safe". More details [here](#). The day coincides with the National Patient Safety Office's annual conference. Read more about the day, including the poster competition, and [register here](#).

The **Healthcare Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) conference** will be held in Dublin on 16th to 18th June 2025. Calls for abstracts are open. More information, and the submission portal can be accessed [here](#).

Call for posters is open for the **IHI/BMJ International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare** being held in Utrecht from 21st to 23rd May, 2025. Read more [here](#).



DID YOU RECEIVE THIS EMAIL FROM A COLLEAGUE? ENSURE YOU STAY UP TO DATE WITH EQUIPS BY COMPLETING THE FORM [HERE](#). IF YOU HAVE NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE EQUIPS NETWORK, PLEASE CONTACT NETWORK MANAGER JILL POOTS ON POOTSJ@TCD.IE