



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

**Faculty of Health Sciences - Trinity College Dublin**



## **The Dean of Health Sciences Award 2020-21**

For outstanding contribution to teaching  
in professional practice during Covid-19

Faculty of Health Sciences - Trinity College Dublin

# Message from the Dean

**The Dean of Health Sciences Award 2020-21** For outstanding contribution to teaching in professional practice during Covid-19



Ireland's first case of Covid-19 was confirmed on 29th February 2020 and I think it is safe to say that nothing has been the same since. As a nation, we have been through multiple periods of restrictions which have impacted on our work and home life and on our family and friend relationships. More than this, so many of us will have experienced illness as a result of Covid-19, either directly or indirectly, and sadly so many of us have lost friends and family members to this indiscriminate disease. Our healthcare system has been pushed to its limits, our schools have been closed, and third level institutions like ours have had to re-think and re-imagine almost all aspects of our core business.

Having reached the one year anniversary of that fateful first Covid-19 case, I want to take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the truly extraordinary contributions made by some of our Faculty of Health Sciences staff.

The Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching in Professional Practice was developed to recognise the often unseen work that is required to deliver our professional programmes like Medicine, the Therapy programmes, Dental Science,

Nursing, Midwifery and Pharmacy. Each of these programmes have unique clinical requirements, and involve complex and multi-faceted arrangements with our linked health service providers. During the pandemic, the complexities of providing clinical experience for our students in a safe and educationally sound environment was more challenging than ever before and was only achieved through the Trojan efforts of our clinical partners, and of key members of our staff who help to bridge that gap between the University and the clinical sites.

Through this special Covid-19 award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching in Professional Practice, we highlight those individuals who were on Trinity's front line and who had a key role in ensuring our students could continue with their clinical and professional placements, in a safe and supported manner.

Nominations were received from the Schools, and I am pleased to grant five awards, across all schools in the Faculty.

**Prof Orla Sheils**

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
Professor of Molecular Diagnostics

## School of Dental Science

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David and Mary are recognised leaders in infection prevention and control. Their expertise was pivotal in how the School of Dental Science responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. Their hard work and evidence-based expertise permitted them to lead the plans to make the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) safe for reopening to students, staff and patients at the start of the 2020-21 academic year. This initially involved developing comprehensive protocols for adjusting the infrastructure of clinics and classrooms to render them suitable for patient treatment and teaching purposes.

They also sourced and developed extensive training and infection prevention materials to prepare staff and students to return to academic and clinical activity. David and Mary also introduced antibody and PCR testing as well as coordinating face mask fit testing for all students and staff.

All of these activities, coupled with excellent compliance by students and staff, have helped prevent an outbreak of Covid-19 within the DDUH and have allowed high levels of clinical, educational and research activity to continue in a safe environment. David and Mary's guidance has allowed students to engage in significant levels of clinical and laboratory activity, including aerosol generating procedures, which will allow the class of 2021 to attain sufficient clinical expertise to graduate almost on time.

**Professor David Coleman**  
Professor of Oral & Applied Microbiology  
School of Dental Science



David Coleman received his B.A. (Mod.), Ph.D. and Sc.D. from Trinity College Dublin. Joining the School of Dental Science in 1989, he is now Professor of Oral and Applied Microbiology and Head of the Division of Oral Biosciences. He is a Fellow of Trinity (FTCD) and the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath.), London, member of the Royal Irish Academy (MRIA) and winner of the Royal Irish Academy silver medal for microbiology. Published in 240+ articles in peer-reviewed international journals and books, his research interests focus on infection prevention and control and applied and translational microbiology, including automated minimisation of infection risks from water networks, the built environment and medical devices, and the population biology, evolution, genomics and antibiotic resistance mechanisms of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), coagulase-negative staphylococci, vancomycin-resistant enterococci and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

David and colleagues pioneered the use of metastable hypochlorous acid spray for minimizing Covid-19 risks in the healthcare environment.

**Dr Mary O'Donnell**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Dental Science



Mary O'Donnell qualified as a dental nurse from the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) & the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) UK in 1985. She received her M.Sc and Ph.D. from Trinity College Dublin. She served as Dental Nurse Tutor at DDUH between 1992 and 2002 and was appointed as Experimental Officer at the Microbiology Research Unit at DDUH in 2002 and Senior Experimental Officer in 2004. She is now Assistant Professor in Infection Prevention and Control at the Division of Oral Biosciences.

Mary is a recognised expert on the practical aspects of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and has published widely in the international literature. She has contributed to the development of several national IPC codes of practice with the Health Services Executive and the Dental Council. Mary's research interests focus on automated minimisation of infection risks from the built environment and from medical devices. Mary was directly involved in the development of the hospital's automated water network biofilm management system. Mary and colleagues pioneered the use of metastable hypochlorous acid spray for minimizing Covid-19 risks in the healthcare environment.

## School of Medicine, Medicine Programme

**Dr Colm Kerr**  
Assistant Professor/Specialist Registrar  
Discipline of Clinical Medicine

Colm has been outstanding in so many ways. He immediately rose to the challenge posed by Covid-19 in March 2020, and was instrumental in arranging the Final Medicine Clinical Exams at a week's notice. He was a central part of the St James's Hospital clinical response to Covid-19, and developed testing and treatment guidelines and algorithms.

Colm has led the development of guidelines and pathways for Covid-19 testing and management of Covid cases for the students on clinical placements. He has been the contact person since August 2020 for queries and results from students. He has liaised with Occupational Health in all the clinical sites and has ensured that our students are able to carry out safely their clinical training. His common sense and hard work has been invaluable to the School of Medicine. Throughout the pandemic, Colm has maintained his commitment to teaching. He contributed greatly to the new Emerging Infectious Diseases online module and also has continued to deliver small group teaching.

In his spare time, Colm volunteered to work with the National Ambulance Service mass vaccination programme.

Colm has been a beacon of calmness and kindness and we are delighted to get this opportunity to thank him.



Colm graduated with a BSc in Microbiology before undertaking graduate entry Medicine, both at University College Cork. He holds a Masters in Public Health, also from UCC, and a PgCert in Healthcare Management Practice from UCD Smurfit.

He is a Specialist Registrar in Infectious Diseases, based at St. James's Hospital since 2017, where he continues his clinical training and is currently a Trinity College School of Medicine PhD candidate, undertaking research in the area of human papillomavirus infection. He is a Lecturer in Clinical Medicine with Trinity at the St James's Hospital campus since 2019 and is also undertaking a Diploma in Clinical Education at NUI Galway. Colm is a volunteer medic with the Defence Forces Army Reserve, an Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor, and an organiser of national infectious disease clinical case discussion meetings.

## School of Medicine, Therapies Programmes

**Ms Lucy Alpine**  
Practice Education Co-Ordinator  
Discipline of Physiotherapy

Lucy Alpine is the Practice Education Co-ordinator and is recognised for her outstanding work in restoring and maintaining placement education during Covid-19. As a result of Lucy's tenacity and excellent relationship with placements sites, Trinity College were the first institution to restore all students to placement following Covid-19 Phase 1 lockdown. She designed a Covid-19 Return to Education document for the Discipline of Physiotherapy, which was adopted across the School of Medicine as a result of its comprehensive nature and attention to detail.

She has developed frameworks and documentation for assessing and supervising students on placement which are nationally recognised and is involved in ongoing research in practice education models of excellence. She has brought experience from her clinical career and is highly respected across all clinical sites.



Lucy Alpine qualified from Trinity College Dublin in 2007 with a BSc in Physiotherapy (Hons). She worked clinically in a number of hospitals before moving to the role of Practice Education Co-ordinator in the Discipline of Physiotherapy Trinity College in 2004. She currently manages all aspect of the practice education component of the BSc in Physiotherapy programme.

She completed a Diploma in Statistics in 2009 and a MSc by Research in 2012. In her role in practice education she has a specific interest in health profession education and has developed a framework for a 2:1 supervision model in physiotherapy.

Other research interests include: clinical supervision models, assessment of students during clinical practice and innovative service developments. She was founding member of the National Practice Education Co-Ordinators Network and the Interdisciplinary Practice Education Community of Practice.

## School of Nursing and Midwifery

### Clinical Allocations Team – Padraig Dunne, Christina Pieri, Mary Kelly, Gabriela Mandolesi

Padraig and the Clinical Allocations team oversee, arrange and liaise with clinical site allocation officers in organising clinical placements for approximately 1200 students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery to ensure students meet the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). In nominating the Clinical Allocations Team for this award, the School seeks to recognise the enormous amount of work the team has undertaken in relation to the reorganisation and re-planning of student clinical placements during Covid-19.

In addition to offering a tremendous amount of support to students in answering and addressing their concerns and queries, the Clinical Allocations Team worked tirelessly in reviewing all placement requirements across all years inclusive of potential and real deficits that arose because of Covid-19, proposed and implemented alternative solutions so that students could meet placement requirements and rise with their year, and organised the safe re-entry of students who had time-owing on the minimum progression requirements to clinical sites during Covid-19 restrictions.

To effect these changes efficiently, the entire Clinical Allocations Team went above and beyond in effort and intensity. Furthermore, while short-term effective solutions have been arranged and implemented, Padraig and the team have a substantial body of further work to do in relation to clinical placements for the coming years to ensure all students meet their NMBI clinical placement requirements by the end of their programmes. For these reasons the School of Nursing and Midwifery are delighted and proud to nominate the Clinical Allocations Team, Padraig, Christina, Mary and Gabriela, for the Special Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Teaching in Professional Practice during Covid-19.



**Mr Pàdraig Dunne**  
Clinical Allocations Officer

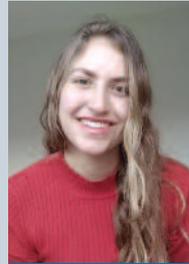


Pàdraig started his career as a Mental Health Nurse, which prepared him for many opportunities in clinical, education, research, management and senior management roles. As Clinical Allocations Officer for the School of Nursing & Midwifery has full oversight of multiple major change management projects in order to ensure compliance with standards set for clinical education by the partner Healthcare institutions, European university colleagues, Trinity College Dublin and Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). This work includes developing policy and procedure, as well as ensuring that external placement sites remain compliant.

Pàdraig worked as Lead for the Clinical Erasmus programme in the School, negotiating with multiple stakeholders to establish many international clinical areas for student mobility, involving eight universities across Europe. Pàdraig is currently serving as national representative for his HEI clinical colleagues on the Department of Health- National Covid-19 oversight group for Nursing and Midwifery, specifically focused on the retention of clinical placements for students in collaboration with the NMBI, the HSE and clinical colleagues.

*“I pride myself on a transformational / people-orientated leadership style, encouraging an environment of constant development and allowing for growth of all team members.”*

**Ms Gabriela Mandolesi**  
Executive Officer



Gabriela Mandolesi is the Executive Officer for the Clinical Allocations Office, she is the first point of contact with students and provides support to the Allocations Officers and the students. She also helps the students in relation to TMS- Timesheet Management System, the Allocations page in Blackboard and liaises with Academic Registry and Clinical Partners.

She seeks to utilize her knowledge to help the team to deliver creative solutions for the issues that the students and the Allocations Office are facing during these challenging times. Everything the Allocations team have done is for the students; the team admire the students’ resilience and have reflected that in their empathic and flexible response, including using online technologies to support the students

Gabriela Mandolesi joined the Allocations team in 2019, she studied in Brazil, where she was born, and finished her degree in Ireland. One thing she learned from the pandemic is that things are always changing and you need to be open to change as well.

## School of Nursing and Midwifery

**Ms Christina Pieri**  
Administrative Officer



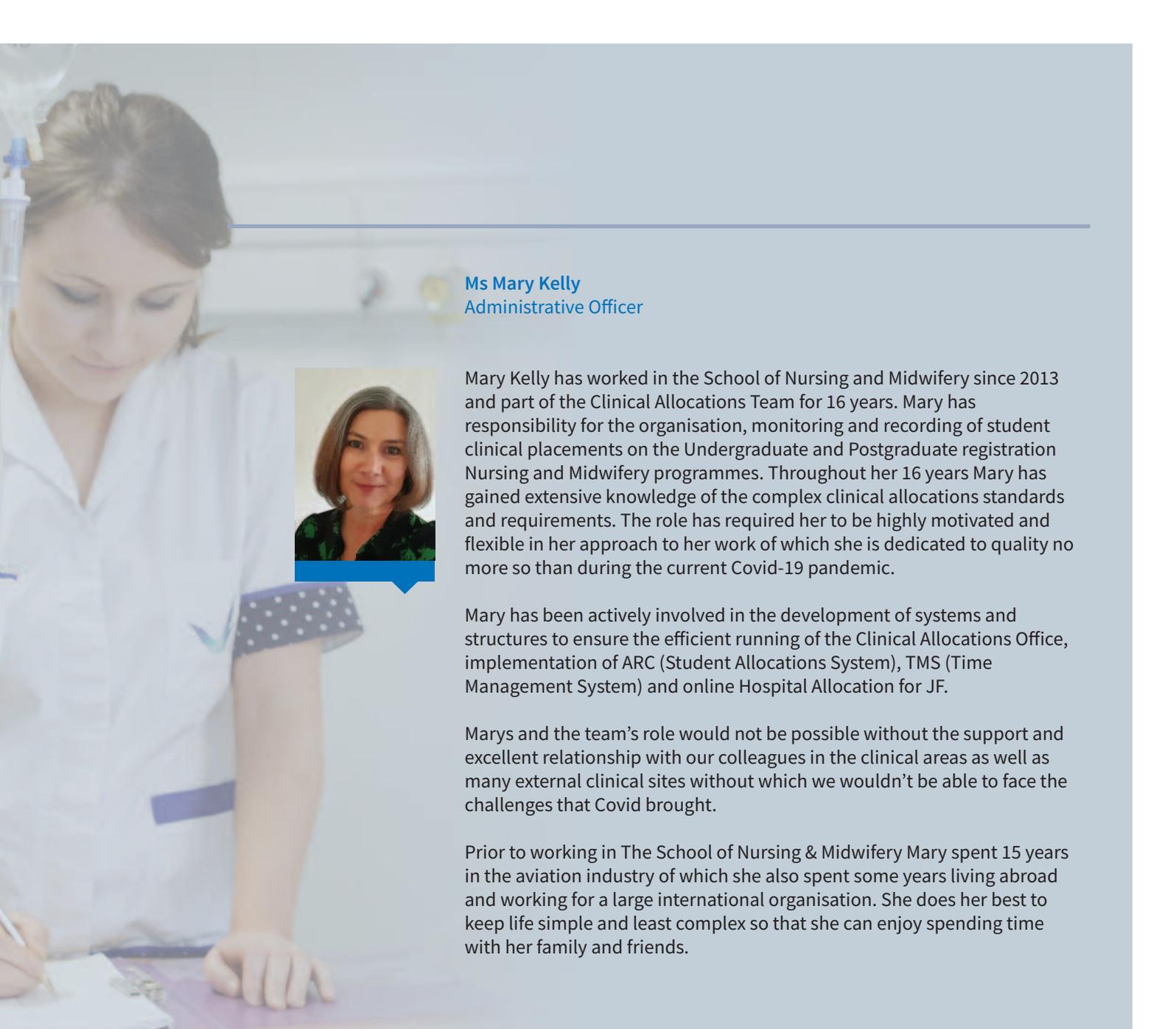
Christina Pieri has worked in the School of Nursing & Midwifery for the past 21 years, 19 of which have been in the Clinical Allocations Office.

She studied in the National College of Ireland, UCD and was conferred with Master of Arts jure officii in Trinity College.

She is responsible for arranging and monitoring of clinical placements of students on both the undergraduate and post graduate programmes within the School of Nursing & Midwifery. She enjoys collaborating closely with her colleagues in the linked service hospital to secure clinical placements thereby ensuring students achieve the standards and requirements to complete the clinical aspect of their programmes. She's committed to the student experience and ensuring they achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

The Allocations team are committed to developing and progressing the use of online technologies, and have done so through the implementation of ARC, TMS and Blackboard. Throughout the current pandemic Christina and her colleagues have been responsive at adapting work practices at a rapid pace throughout the many stages of Covid-19. Christina has admiration for the fortitude and resilience students have shown on clinical practice, which has been nothing short of inspirational. They have adapted to the ongoing changes, despite their own challenges and individual circumstances.

Christina loves being outdoors in her spare time, she a keen cyclist and swimmer. She's also an avid runner and has travelled in Europe to participate in races, Marathons, and placed highly in the World ranking for an Ultra Marathon.



**Ms Mary Kelly**  
Administrative Officer



Mary Kelly has worked in the School of Nursing and Midwifery since 2013 and part of the Clinical Allocations Team for 16 years. Mary has responsibility for the organisation, monitoring and recording of student clinical placements on the Undergraduate and Postgraduate registration Nursing and Midwifery programmes. Throughout her 16 years Mary has gained extensive knowledge of the complex clinical allocations standards and requirements. The role has required her to be highly motivated and flexible in her approach to her work of which she is dedicated to quality no more so than during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Mary has been actively involved in the development of systems and structures to ensure the efficient running of the Clinical Allocations Office, implementation of ARC (Student Allocations System), TMS (Time Management System) and online Hospital Allocation for JF.

Marys and the team's role would not be possible without the support and excellent relationship with our colleagues in the clinical areas as well as many external clinical sites without which we wouldn't be able to face the challenges that Covid brought.

Prior to working in The School of Nursing & Midwifery Mary spent 15 years in the aviation industry of which she also spent some years living abroad and working for a large international organisation. She does her best to keep life simple and least complex so that she can enjoy spending time with her family and friends.

## School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

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When the Covid-19 pandemic began, both Eimear and the students were already treading new ground since it was the first year that the placement had been undertaken as part of the revised MPharm structure. Lucy, the Practice Educator, was outstanding in her personal and professional conduct throughout the acute phase of the pandemic. The class began their final statutory placement in January 2020 and faced a busy academic and practice schedule in their community pharmacy practices with online modules, practice-based tasks, and a research project to undertake. The Practice Educator is the liaison between the School, APPEL (the placement co-ordinating body), the students, and the placement practice, a complex and hectic role in ordinary times. Eimear navigated these complexities for the first ever MPharm student placement, with the extraordinary and unprecedented upheaval that the onset of Covid-19 brought.

The acute onset of the pandemic and the uncertainty of the situation in primary care practice posed multiple problems simultaneously for the students, their preceptors, Eimear, APPEL and the School. Eimear worked tirelessly; with calmness and equanimity she supported, facilitated, provided and collaborated with everyone, balancing the needs of the students with those of patients to ensure that both the students and the preceptors were able to undertake their dual mandate of academic and patient care practice during this period.

Eimear managed the considerable and sustained strain of working under these conditions and she and the year 5 students set an example to others in pharmacy and beyond. External stakeholders within pharmacy (the PSI and the IPU) and within the Health Service (the DoH and the HSE) acknowledged the efforts of the students and of their preceptors as part of the extraordinary response of healthcare professionals to the pandemic in Ireland.

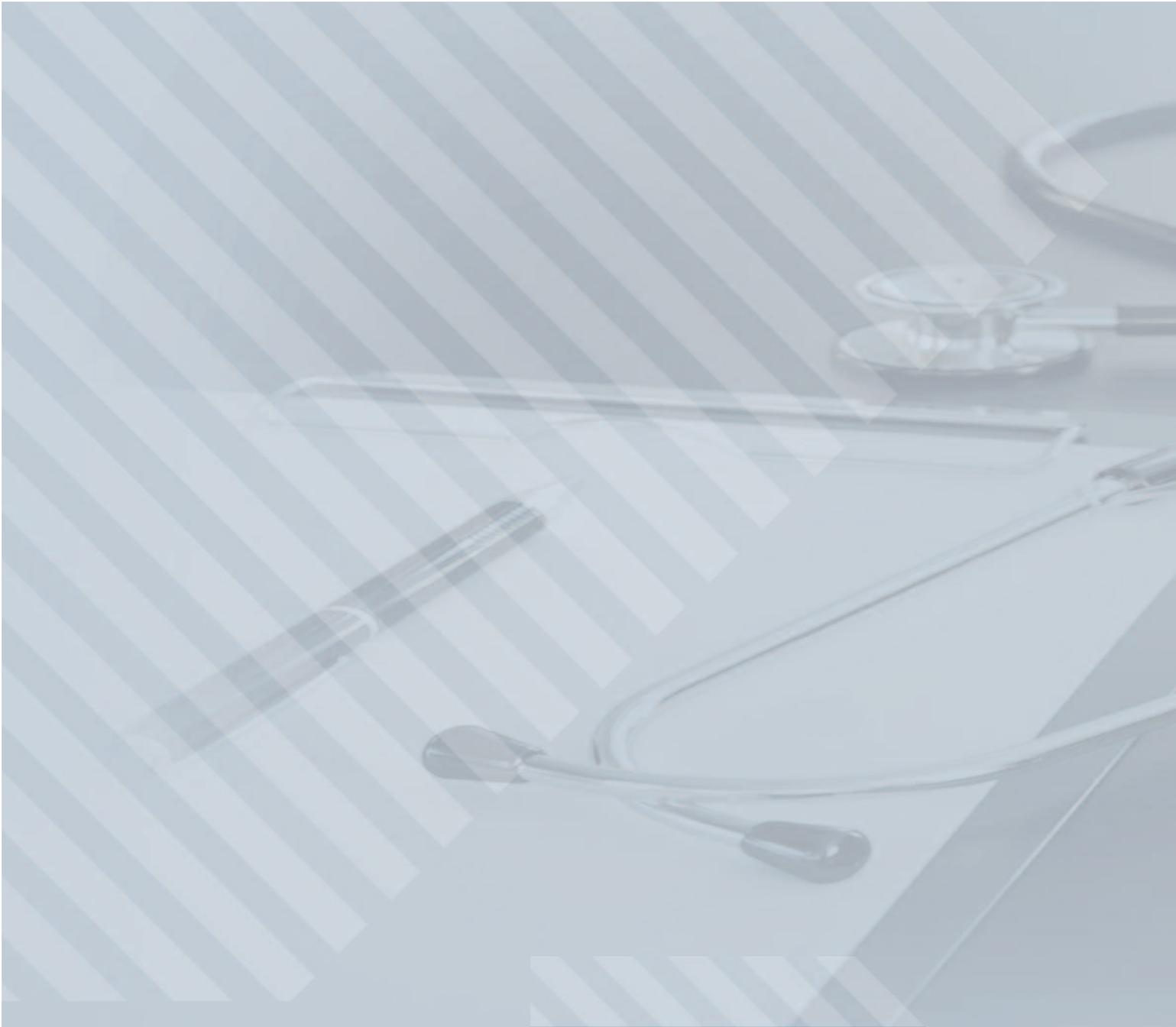
**Eimear Ni Sheachnasaigh**  
Assistant Professor (Practice Educator)



Eimear gained her MPharm degree at Aston University, Birmingham and worked for a brief time in hospital and community pharmacy in the UK. Since returning to Ireland she has worked predominantly in the community setting and has completed an MSc in Community Pharmacy at Trinity College Dublin and a post-grad qualification in Global Health Policy with the University of London. More recently she has worked as a senior pharmacist in the HSE's Addiction Services.

Eimear joined the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in May 2017 as Practice Educator for the new Pharmacy Integrated Programme. This new course introduced practice placements to the undergraduate pharmacy programme for the first time. Eimear is responsible for ensuring students are adequately prepared for, and equipped to get the most from, their time on placement. Passionate about both her profession and her role in pharmacy education, Eimear is proud of the efforts made by her and her pharmacy colleagues in ensuring the continuity of practice placements for students over the last year, despite the difficulties presented by the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. She is also greatly impressed by the resilience of the pharmacy students and pharmacy profession during this challenging and uncertain time.

Eimear's research interest is in the area of Practice of Pharmacy and pedagogical research. When not working, Eimear enjoys acting as a Peer Support Pharmacist with the Irish Institute of Pharmacy.



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