



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

# Global Impact: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals Through Research

Research Impact Report 2025  
School of Nursing and Midwifery





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## Foreword

This report explores the global influence of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin, highlighting its diverse scholarship and innovative strategies for engaging international audiences. It demonstrates how the School's research aligns with Trinity's Research Excellence Strategy, showcasing a commitment to advancing knowledge and sharing meaningful findings worldwide. Through building on compelling stories and the use of vignettes, the report illustrates the School's contributions to key global challenges, including progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as gender equality, good health and well-being, and reducing inequalities. It underscores how national research can address pressing international issues and drive meaningful global impact.

This report is designed to inspire not only members of our academic community but also our societal stakeholders, partners, and the people and communities that we serve. Through evidence-informed, narrative-driven stories, we reflect on our achievements and lessons learned, while charting the path forward.

We hope this report instils pride in our accomplishments and fosters humility as we continue to tackle ongoing challenges and reaffirm our commitment to driving meaningful change across diverse contexts and making a difference to people's lives.

#### Director of Global Engagement

Assistant Professor Jacqueline Whelan



## Advancing Global Healthcare

Access to quality healthcare is essential for a long and healthy life. Yet, many countries struggle to provide and fund it. These challenges are made worse by wide gaps in health and life expectancy between different social and economic groups. Tackling these global issues requires collaboration and fresh ideas.

Trinity College Dublin is committed to making a difference as an impact-driven university. By sharing the influence and value of its work, it fosters a community focused on creating positive change through research, teaching, and engagement.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is central to this mission. Its research drives better healthcare, shapes policy, prevents disease, and reduces health inequalities. The School's work improves quality of life and builds the knowledge that advances nursing and midwifery practice worldwide.

## Methodology

In this report we define research impact based on the European Union's definition<sup>1</sup>. It refers to any change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy, health, the environment, or quality of life (Horizon Europe). Impact goes beyond publications, engagement, or sharing findings.

We analysed the research impact of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Our evaluation combined citation metrics and testimonials with a logic model approach to understand how the School's research leads to societal change and policy development.

Using the Scopus citation database, we extracted the digital object identifiers (DOIs) for **843 papers** published by nursing and midwifery researchers in Trinity College Dublin between **2019 and 2024**. We then analysed the DOIs using the Overton policy citation database to track how often the papers were cited in policy documents. Our analysis revealed that **12%** of these articles were cited in **186 policy** documents from **74 sources** across **20 countries**. According to Overton approximately 5% of scholarly articles are cited in policy<sup>2</sup>. Given that this set of publications (2019-2024) is relatively recent and research impact typically develops over time, this represents a significant achievement for nursing and midwifery research. Furthermore, the number of policy citations is expected to grow in the future.

The report presents a carefully curated choice of impactful stories shared with us. These examples were submitted by researchers through structured forms or nominated by peers following a call for global impact stories. While we aim to represent everyone's contributions, we acknowledge the limitations of this inaugural impact report. The four selected case

<sup>1</sup> <https://enspire.science/how-to-approach-the-horizon-europe-impact-section-for-collaborative-projects/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://help.overton.io/article/benchmarking-age-cited-in-policy/>

studies highlight how research at the School of Nursing and Midwifery is driving meaningful improvements in healthcare systems and enhancing individuals quality of life. Using the Campus Engaged Logic Model<sup>3</sup>, we mapped the impact pathways of these projects, showcasing how our work influences policy, practice, and social outcomes while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)<sup>4</sup>. This process involved close collaboration with Principal Investigators to identify and engage international partners, gather metrics, collect testimonials, and secure visuals that evidence our impact and enrich the report. To further showcase the breadth, scope and significance of the school's research, two vignettes, focusing on mental health and child health, were developed, highlighting the tangible benefits of our work worldwide.



## International Collaborations and Global Research Impact

Ranked 20<sup>th</sup> globally in the subject of nursing (and midwifery) by the QS World University Rankings 2025<sup>5</sup>, and first in Ireland and the EU, our School is recognised for pioneering, world-class research that drives meaningful healthcare advancements. Our work enhances healthcare delivery, improves patients' and service users' experiences, and promotes equitable, efficient, and sustainable systems in Ireland and globally.

Research in nursing and midwifery at Trinity College Dublin published between 2019-2024 is cited by **186 policy documents from 74 sources in 20 countries**, highlighting the reach and global impact of the School's research. Countries citing these outputs include Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, and a wide range of European nations such as Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, France, Sweden, Finland, Germany and Spain among others. Notably, nearly half of these articles received multiple citations, emphasising their sustained influence on policy-making processes. Prominent citing organisations include the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Health Organization (WHO) and the UK Parliament Select Committee, highlighting the research's significance to global health and governance.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.iua.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Guide-IUA-Engaged-Research-Planning-for-Impact-Framework-2022-Update\\_V5-25.pdf](https://www.iua.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Guide-IUA-Engaged-Research-Planning-for-Impact-Framework-2022-Update_V5-25.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations. (n.d.). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-subject-rankings/nursing>

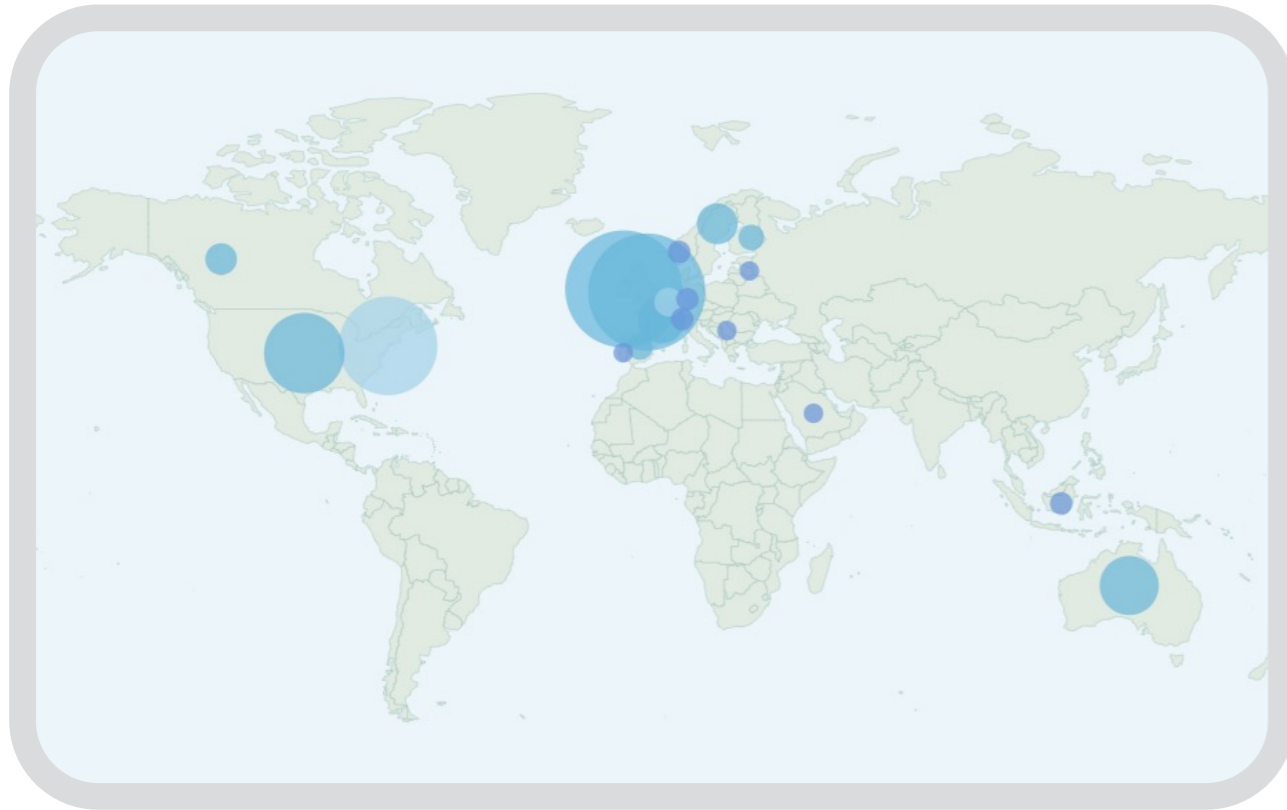
**Table 1. International Sources of Health Policy Citing School of Nursing and Midwifery Research**

 AARP	 Government of Switzerland
 AHRQ	 Haute Autorité de Santé
 Analysis & Policy Observatory	 National Institute of Economic and Social Research
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften (AWMF)	 NHS Trusts
 Australian Government Department of Health	 NICE
 Behavioural Science and Public Health Network	 Northern Ireland Executive
 Brookings Institution	 OECD
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts	 Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
 Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia	 Province of Québec
 Congressional Research Service	 Publications Office of the European Union
 European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies	 Sax Institute
 European Parliament Committees	 Socialstyrelsen
 George Institute for Global Health	 State of Queensland
 Government Offices of Iceland	 State of Texas
 Government of Indonesia	 State of Western Australia
 Government of Latvia	 Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services
 Government of Portugal	 Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos
 Government of Saudi Arabia	 The UK Government
 Government of Serbia	 UK Parliament Select Committee Publications
 Guidelines in PubMed Central	 Wales Centre for Public Policy
 Haut Conseil de la santé publique	 World Health Organization

Source: Overton

The policy documents that reference the School's research have been identified by Overton as contributing to several **UN SDG goals**: Zero Hunger; SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being; SDG4: Quality Education; SDG5: Gender Equality; SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG13: Climate Action.

**Figure 1. Map on Health Policy Influence by the School of Nursing and Midwifery**



Source: Overton

Through impactful research and collaborations, we shape health policy at both national and international levels. Nursing and midwifery researchers have co-authored papers with authors in Argentina, Italy, China, Czechia, Jordan, Malawi, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Denmark, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Israel, Luxembourg, Russia, and many other countries. Our contributions include academic publications, policy briefs, and advisory roles on expert panels, ensuring our findings inform real-world decisions. By translating evidence-based research into practice, we strengthen health systems and raise care standards worldwide.

## Improving Healthcare and People's Lives Beyond Ireland

This section showcases examples of impactful projects, highlighting our researchers' achievements and partnerships with external stakeholders. These stories demonstrate how innovative research meets global societal needs and inspires continued collaboration.

## CASE STUDY 1

### Changing Conversations & Perceptions Transforming Maternal Health Services Through Research



Research at Trinity College Dublin is advancing an understanding of women's health issues. This section highlights the societal impact of the Maternal Health and Maternal Morbidity in Ireland (MAMMI) study, specifically in supporting SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).

### The Challenge: Understanding Health and Well-Being Beyond Birth

A positive experience of pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood is essential for the well-being of women, their children, and families, with far-reaching benefits for society. However, traditional maternity care has often prioritised preventing death and illness, neglecting the broader concept of well-being. The **MAMMI** study was initiated to address critical gaps in understanding postpartum health and to improve maternity care in Ireland and beyond.

Since its launch in 2011, the **MAMMI** study has successfully gathered extensive longitudinal data from more than 3,000 **women who are experiencing motherhood for the first time**, documenting socio-demographic characteristics, the health issues they experienced, and their histories of work and employment outside the home.



Findings reveal pervasive issues such as urinary incontinence, pelvic girdle pain, sexual health issues, mental health issues including anxiety, depression and stress, compounded by societal and systemic reluctance to address these topics.

This highlights the need for a paradigm shift and a change in thinking in maternity care that encompasses both physical and emotional well-being from a holistic and whole-system perspective.

### Engaged Research

Central to the MAMMI study's success is its engaged research approach, involving beneficiaries as active partners in identifying women's needs and shaping research and solutions. Designed to be a study *with and for* women, a formal Public Involvement in Research Initiative (PPI), funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE), enabled women to come together to voice their unmet needs in postpartum care.

Key insights included:

- A demand for accessible, evidence-based, and user-friendly educational resources.
- A desire for tools to empower self-care and facilitate access to appropriate healthcare.

In response, Professor Déirdre Daly has led the co-development of the Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM) online course, providing trustworthy, mother-friendly information to bridge knowledge gaps and support women in prioritising postpartum health.

### Cross-Border Collaboration for Global Reach

Through partnerships with international collaborators, such as the Catalan Health Service and the Universitat de Barcelona, the WHAM course has been translated into Spanish. This multilingual approach ensures accessibility for diverse audiences, broadens the global reach of the research, and promotes equity in maternal health education.



Collaborative meeting in Barcelona between the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, and the Universitat de Barcelona. **Pictured are (from left to right):** Cristina Martinez Bueno, Ramon Escuriet, Cinny Cusack, Kathleen Hannon, Déirdre Daly, Susan Hannon, and Sarah Bowman.

## Outputs and Outcomes

The WHAM course has successfully engaged over 14,000 participants from 130 countries, empowering women and their partners to tackle unmet health needs. It encourages practices that can enhance their well-being while providing healthcare professionals with reliable resources to support their services. Within Ireland, the course has been integrated into professional practices in maternity hospitals and incorporated into the national antenatal education curriculum.

These outputs have contributed to:

- The establishment of extended postnatal care at five pilot sites in Ireland: Cork University Maternity Hospital in County Cork; St Luke's General Hospital in County Kilkenny; University Hospital Kerry in County Kerry; Portiuncula University Hospital in County Galway and Sligo University Hospital in County Sligo.
- Co-authored publications and presentations by MAMMI participants, amplifying women's voices in academic and public discourse.

### Two midwives who completed the WHAM course shared their thoughts:



I saw the content of the course and decided to recommend it to all postnatal women. Some of the women who took the course then asked me specific questions about some aspects of their health, which made my job easier as they already had useful information, and the questions were specific to what they were interested in. I think the value of this course is that the content is consistent, timely for this period of the maternity process and useful for women to discover some aspects of their health and help prevent some problems.

**Xavier Espada, Midwife.** Sexual and reproductive healthcare service (SRHCS). Granollers, Barcelona, Spain.



I could see that the women who did the course discovered some things they didn't know about health. This made it easier for us to talk about issues that we would not have talked about otherwise, including emotional and sexual issues. As a professional, I find the course very helpful in providing evidence-based information that is appropriate for the postnatal period. The feedback from some of the women who have taken the course has been very positive, which has encouraged me to recommend it as a tool to other midwives.

**Georgina Picas, Midwife coordinator.** Sexual and reproductive healthcare service. Barcelona Litoral, Spain.

## Meet Our International Collaborators



**Ramon Escuriet** is currently working at Catalan Health Service as Health Commissioner for Sexual and Reproductive Health. He was the coordinator of the Normal Birth Care Program at the Catalan Ministry of Health from 2008 to 2017. Lecturer of the Faculty of Health Sciences Blanquerna-University Ramon Llull, and collaborator of the Research Centre in Economics and Health (CRES). Other positions: President of the National Commission of Midwives and board member of the National Commission for Health Specialties at the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality. (Spain). Director of the Midwifery training program in Catalonia. His research interest is focused on health services organisation and reproductive health rights.

## Broader Social Impact

By fostering co-creation and leveraging international partnerships, the MAMMI study has not only transformed individual experiences of motherhood but also influenced public health practices. This engaged research model serves as a blueprint for addressing global challenges in maternal health, promoting holistic and inclusive care across diverse healthcare systems.





## CASE STUDY 2

Empowering Care  
Capacity Building in South  
Africa's Cape Wineland

## Research at Trinity College Dublin is advancing capacity development in the Global South through initiatives that address critical healthcare challenges.

Professor Catherine Comiskey's international work on parents who use drugs and alcohol and subsequent contribution to the work of Julie Mac Donnell has been pivotal in developing a toolkit to support healthcare professionals working with pregnant women who use drugs in South Africa's rural Cape Winelands region. This innovative resource equips professionals to improve engagement, adherence to prenatal care, HIV screening and treatment, and provides education on harm reduction and neonatal care.

The toolkit exemplifies how engaged research creates meaningful impact across multiple dimensions, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

### The Challenge: Breaking Barriers to Care for Vulnerable Women

Access to healthcare services in rural South Africa is limited, particularly for women who use drugs, and who often face additional stigma and discrimination. These barriers deter women from seeking care, compounding health disparities. Addressing this challenge required a toolkit designed to help healthcare workers engage effectively with this vulnerable population, improve prenatal care adherence, and provide evidence-based guidance on harm reduction and neonatal care.

### Stakeholder Engagement and Co-Production

The toolkit was co-developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the National Harm Reduction Coalition, the Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction in South Africa, the South African Network of People Who Use Drugs, and the Department of Health. Focus groups with women who use drugs provided baseline data, highlighting barriers to accessing care and informing the toolkit's design.

Healthcare professionals from the Langeberg region were trained in using the toolkit through interactive sessions involving role-play and group activities. This training emphasised adopting non-stigmatising language and building trust with patients. Feedback from the trainees helped refine the toolkit to better meet local needs.



Capacity-building training session in South Africa's rural Cape Winelands region

### Outputs and Outcomes

The implementation of the co-developed toolkit (output) demonstrated significant outcomes:



Women in McGregor who took part in the study, pictured with their infants.

- Healthcare professionals reported increased confidence in providing compassionate care to pregnant women who use drugs.
- Case studies in the McGregor town monitored the care provided by healthcare professionals to three pregnant women who use drugs. All three adhered to prenatal care and HIV testing, resulting in the birth of three healthy infants.
- Nearly 200 women were reached through the project, with many linked to HIV screening, treatment, family planning, and contraception services.



## Meet Our International Collaborators



**Julie Mac Donnell**, a South African consultant specialising in human rights, healthcare, and harm reduction, focuses on women who use drugs. She serves as Executive Director for STAND Action and Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre and is a steering committee member for the World Assembly on Community Action for Alcohol. Julie consults on national and international projects addressing substance use, gender-based violence, and prenatal care for vulnerable populations, collaborating with organisations like UNAIDS and UNODC.

### Speaking about her collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, she said:

The inclusion of Prof Catherine Comiskey, from the School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College, has been invaluable with the development, piloting and roll-out of the Toolkit for Health Care Professionals working with pregnant people who use drugs. Prof Comiskey was appointed as an expert on our advisory panel and provided ongoing reviews of the toolkit, as well as academic support and guidance whilst the project transitioned from the development phase through completion of the printed material. It was an absolute delight to work with Prof Comiskey on this project. She always provides evidence-informed, up-to-date information. All her suggestions and constructive feedback was received in a positive light and contributed significantly to the overall success of this project.

### Broader Social Impact

Through its co-production model and collaborative implementation, this research not only enhanced healthcare practices in South Africa but also informed global best practices for working with marginalised populations. By addressing structural barriers and building capacity among healthcare workers, the project demonstrates how engaged research can lead to transformative social and health outcomes.



# CASE STUDY 3

## Enhancing Global Understanding of Ageing with Intellectual Disability





## Research at Trinity College Dublin is transforming the understanding of ageing among people with intellectual disabilities.

This section highlights the societal impact of the Intellectual Disability Supplement to the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA), particularly through its collaboration with international partners and its contributions to advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

### **The Challenge: Addressing the Untold Story of Ageing with Intellectual Disabilities**

As the global population ages, the needs of people with intellectual disabilities—a group historically excluded from ageing research—are becoming increasingly urgent. This population faces higher rates of chronic health conditions, earlier onset of age-related decline, and unique barriers to healthcare access. Policymakers, clinicians, and caregivers require robust data to address these challenges effectively.

Launched in 2008, IDS-TILDA is the first longitudinal study globally to focus exclusively on ageing among people with intellectual disabilities. It has followed over **700 participants across Ireland**, collecting data on physical health, mental health, social participation, and quality of life. By uncovering trends such as high rates of polypharmacy, sensory impairments, and social isolation, IDS-TILDA has shaped policies and practices that address these critical gaps in understanding.

### **Engaged Research**

One barrier to the inclusion of people with ID in large-scale studies of health and well-being is the need to adapt data collection methods to make them meaningful and accessible to people with varying levels of intellectual ability. IDS-TILDA adopts an inclusive and engaged research model, partnering with people with intellectual disabilities, caregivers, and advocacy organisations to ensure that the studies reflect their lived experiences.

### **Cross-Border Collaboration for Global Impact**

IDS-TILDA's work reaches far beyond Ireland, thanks to its strong international partnerships. By collaborating with researchers and institutions worldwide, it has helped advance understanding of intellectual disability and ageing in different contexts. IDS-TILDA has also influenced healthcare training and created resources to support ageing individuals with intellectual disabilities globally.

### **Outputs and Outcomes**

IDS-TILDA has generated various outputs that have transformed healthcare practices and enhanced the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities, some of these with global outputs and outcomes are:

**Memorandum of Understanding between Trinity College Dublin and Erasmus University Medical Centre:** In November 2022, the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability (TCAID) hosted an international collaborative event with researchers from the *Healthy Ageing and Intellectual Disability (HA-ID)* study, a prospective multicenter cohort study based in the Netherlands. To strengthen this collaboration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Trinity College Dublin and Erasmus University Medical Centre.



Professor Mary McCarron and Dr. Dederieke Festen formalising collaboration through the signing of a MOU, pictured with (left) Dr. Oppewal, Assistant Professor, Department of General Practice and Intellectual Disability Medicine, and (right) Dr. Éilish Burke, Professor in Intellectual Disability Nursing.

Dr. Dederieke Festen, Assistant Professor at Erasmus MC, Department of General Practice, shared her thoughts:



As a physician specializing in intellectual disabilities, I was very pleased to participate in a focus group meeting on OPTIMA-ID. Polypharmacy is common among people with intellectual disabilities, yet the tools currently available for systematic medication reviews in cases of polypharmacy are not specifically designed for this population. Individuals with intellectual disabilities often present with unique patterns of multimorbidity and frequently require different medications. The development of OPTIMA-ID will therefore be an invaluable resource, significantly contributing to the optimization of medication use and ultimately improving the health and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities.

**International Clinical Trials:** The launch of Ireland’s first National Intellectual Disability Memory Service (NIDMS) marks a major advancement in healthcare, driven by key research findings from IDS-TILDA. As part of its efforts, NIDMS is enrolling participants in the Trial-Ready Cohort-Down Syndrome (TRC-DS), a global initiative aimed at identifying potential candidates for clinical trials. This participation positions Ireland at the forefront of Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease research, strengthening its role in the worldwide effort to enhance care and treatment options.

**Going to the Doctor video:** Co-developed by IDS-TILDA researchers and colleagues in Norway. Since 2020, the University of Copenhagen has used this video in their course *Understanding Patient Perspectives on Medications*.

A student from the course shared this feedback on Coursera:

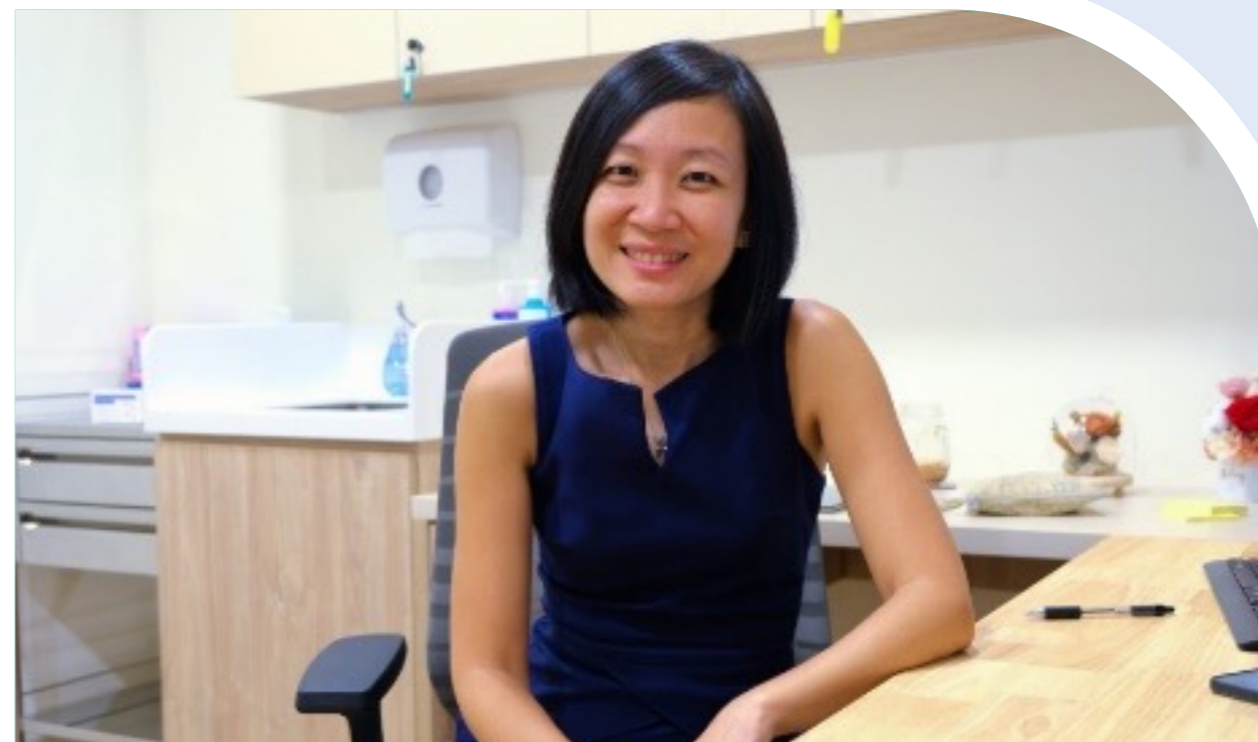


Great course for understanding how patients actually feel about medications! Highly recommended for anyone interested in healthcare. I really enjoyed it and found it very relevant as a budding pharmacist.

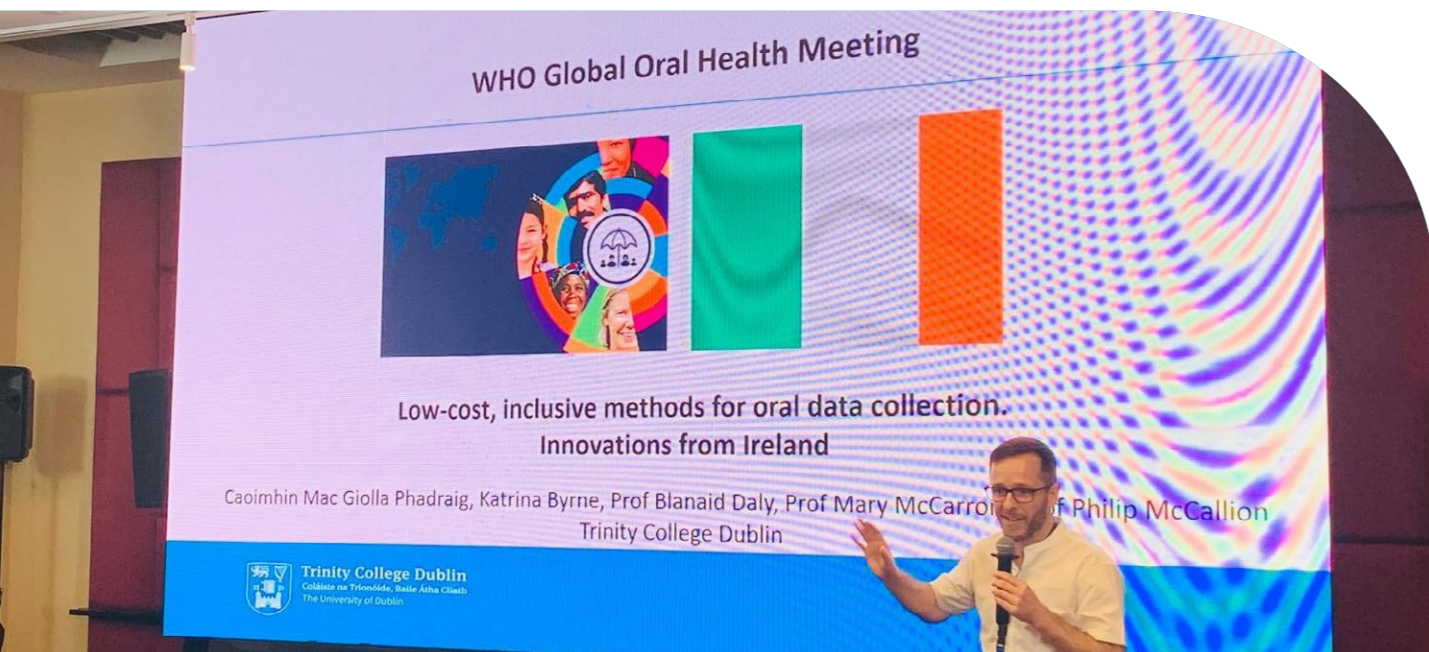
**Development of Training Programmes in Singapore:** IDHealth| Happee Hearts Movement is a community-based, integrated health team dedicated to serving adults with intellectual disability and their caregivers based in Singapore. Findings from IDS-TILDA, specifically research in oral health, were used to develop educational material for caregivers. Dr Chen Shiling, founder and executive director of Happee Hearts Movement, had this to say about how the work of IDS-TILDA has impacted her practice:



As a physician running a clinical service for adults with intellectual disability, more than half of my patients are over the age of 40 years, and the oldest is 92 years old! Therefore, the findings from IDS-TILDA has helped inform my practice tremendously. The easy read and educational materials borne out of the research findings have also been extremely applicable, practical and useful. I am really grateful for how all the findings and materials are so accessible and easily available to practitioners seeing patients on the ground!



Dr. Shiling, founder and executive director, Happee Hearts Movement



Dr Caoimhin Mac Giolla Phadraig presenting at the WHO Global Oral Health Meeting, Bangkok 2024

**Presentation at the WHO Global Oral Health Meeting in Bangkok 2024:** IDS-TILDA researchers showcased how their methodologies address gaps in monitoring the Global Oral Health Action Plan (GOHAP), particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

As well as being shared at the WHO Global Oral Health Meeting in Bangkok, it was also shared at a WHA 77 side event in Geneva in May 2024. Ireland’s chief dental officer commented the following on a social media post:



Thanks to IDS-TILDA for their advocacy and detailed research to support the most vulnerable in our society. I hope this has a far reach and impacts the lives of people globally.

**Dr Dympna Kavanagh, Ireland’s Chief Dental Officer**

## Meet Our International Collaborators



**Philip McCallion, PhD**, is currently professor and director of the School of Social Work within the College of Public Health at Temple University. He is also director of the ABA Centers of America Autism Lab, co applicant of the Intellectual Disability Supplement to the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, and Senior Academic advisor to TCAID and national consultant on intellectual disabilities and dementia for the National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Centre. Speaking about his collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, he said:

An increasingly important impact of IDS-TILDA and a growing body of studies and translational work in dementia, cancer community living, oral health, pharmacy and so many other health and quality of life issues has been on science and policy issues in a growing list of countries. The work has moved from being of influence, to leading breakthroughs and mapping needed future directions.

## Broader Social Impact

Through its inclusive approach and global partnerships, IDS-TILDA has redefined ageing research to encompass the experiences of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The study’s legacy lies not only in its data but in its ability to inspire a global movement toward equitable, inclusive ageing. Its international collaborations ensure that this impact resonates far beyond Ireland, offering a model for addressing the complex interplay of ageing, disability, and social justice worldwide.





## **CASE STUDY 4**

**Digitalising Health Solutions Across Europe**

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin is at the forefront of advancing digital health and ageing. Through the SEURO project<sup>6</sup>, it is creating tools to help EU healthcare services and organisations adopt and scale digital health solutions effectively.

A key achievement is the development of a digital platform<sup>7</sup> that empowers EU citizens living with multimorbidity to self-manage their health and well-being from home, supporting them to age well in place. SEURO has made significant contributions to international research, driving collaboration, innovation, and practical applications of digital health across Europe.

### The Challenge: Harnessing Digital Health Solutions to Tackle Complex Healthcare Challenges

As healthcare evolves, the need for robust health solutions to improve care, ensure healthy lives, and promote well-being at all ages is growing. Managing complex datasets from diverse sources while ensuring clarity and accessibility has become a pressing challenge. Digital health solutions and longitudinal studies are now essential for evaluating and improving patient health and well-being worldwide, offering deep insights into disease progression and treatment outcomes.

Digital health tools collect health and well-being data from various sources (e.g. wearables and self-report questionnaires) facilitating multiple measurements over time. This enhances healthcare professionals' and policymakers' ability to understand population health, assess interventions, and evaluate patient healthcare. However, the sheer volume and complexity of this data pose significant technical and analytical challenges, even for advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning techniques.

To address these issues, SEURO, an EU project led by Dr John Dinsmore from Trinity College Dublin, is developing innovative solutions. These include AI-driven tools that predict the impact of digital health interventions, assess their effectiveness, and identify critical factors influencing outcomes at both individual and population levels. By integrating advanced analytics, SEURO empowers healthcare organisations to make informed decisions about adopting, adapting, scaling and transferring digital health initiatives across services and regions ensuring their effectiveness and long-term impact.

<sup>6</sup> [www.seuro2020.eu](http://www.seuro2020.eu)

<sup>7</sup> ProACT – developed under a previous H2020 project led by Dr. John Dinsmore at the School: [www.proact2020.eu](http://www.proact2020.eu)

## Cross-Border Collaboration for Global Impact



SEURO consortium members at the AI Experience Centre, imec, Belgium, during the 4<sup>th</sup> Consortium Meeting (28–30 November 2022)

SEURO brings together a consortium of academic and research institutions, small to medium enterprises (SMEs), health service providers, EU networks, and multinational corporations.

Collaborations include research partnerships with organisations like **IBM**<sup>8</sup>, Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology Europe (**AAATE**) and European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (**EASPD**). These international partnerships have enabled SEURO to drive digital health innovation in person-centred care, health data interoperability and AI.

### Outputs and Outcomes

The SEURO project has developed five flagship tools that have had a transformative impact on healthcare practices:

**ProACT – Digital health platform empowering individuals with multimorbidity to self-manage at home:** ProACT is a state of the art, evidence-based digital health platform to deliver personalised care to individuals living with multimorbidity improving their health outcomes while reducing healthcare cost.

<sup>8</sup> <https://research.ibm.com/>

**ProTransfer – Digital tool for healthcare organisations and services to improve implementation and transferability of digital health solutions:** ProTransfer is a self-assessment tool focused on evaluating the readiness of any organisation to adopt/implement a digital health solution into practice. The tool offers tailored guidance to improve readiness where required.

**ProBCF-C: Digital tool to support the development and implementation of digital health behaviour change interventions:** The ProBCF-C is a checklist of key actions and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of a digital health behavioural change intervention in practice.

**ProInsight: Tool for predicting and evaluating the impact of digital health solutions:** ProInsight is an ensemble of interpretable and scalable AI/statistics methodologies that provides functionalities to equip healthcare organisations with critical insights to implementing and forecasting the use of a digital intervention (available through GitHub<sup>9</sup> as an open access solution to enhance global reach and usability).

**InterACT v2.0: A secure knowledge integration platform to support the development of advanced data analytics:** InterACT v2.0 is a multi-modal database management platform, conceived to handle large and complex data sets, incorporating high levels of security for the administration of sensitive personal data.

These digital technologies have been developed and trialled across multiple EU projects, where they showed measurable improvements in patient outcomes, care efficiency and supporting health services as part of their digital transformation journey.

All five innovations listed above from the SEURO project has been highlighted on the **EU Innovation Radar**, a platform highlighting high-potential innovations funded by the EU. This recognition underscores the project’s contributions to advancing healthcare technologies and methodologies. This endorsement has positioned SEURO as a leader in the development of scalable digital solutions for health systems across Europe, promoting international adoption of its technologies.

Moving forward, consortium partners Trinity College Dublin and Dundalk Institute of Technology<sup>10</sup> (Ireland) are in the process of spinning out the ProACT platform as a campus company with the aim to make it available to health services globally.

9 <https://github.com/IBM/funGCN>  
10 <http://www.netwellcasala.org>



## Meet Our International Collaborators

Imec<sup>11</sup> is tasked with organizing the trials in Belgium and gathering all the data from our participants and their care networks. Additionally, we aim to leverage this outcome to explore economic valorisation opportunities: identifying the cost-benefits we can demonstrate from this trial and envisioning potential new business models that could emerge from this type of solution.

**Prof. An Jacobs, Professor at Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

The role of AAATE is to support the development of new knowledge on the factors that impact the transfer of digital solutions in integrated care. As a European umbrella organisation, we are particularly interested in the role technology can play in supporting people—people with disabilities or those living with chronic conditions—so they can have better lives and remain connected to their communities.

**Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf, Secretary General AAATE, Austria**

## Broader Social Impact

Additionally, partners Trinity College Dublin and AIAS<sup>12</sup> (Italy) - an independent member driven association (NGO) of persons with disabilities - supported by the consortium will work towards making the ProTransfer and ProBCF-C tools publicly accessible, leading the development of a pan-European consultancy that will assist in implementing SEURO’s tools across diverse healthcare systems. By tapping into cross-border expertise, this project has influenced standardisation of best practices, particularly in digital health solutions, across several European nations. The results of these efforts are contributing significantly to major initiatives such as the Global Alliance of Assistive Technology Organisations (**GAATO**)<sup>13</sup>.



11 <https://www.imec-int.com/en>  
12 <https://www.aiasbo.it/>  
13 <https://www.gaato.org/>



# FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL REACH

## Further Evidence of Global Reach

In addition to the in-depth case studies previously presented, the following vignettes powerfully highlight the School's significant contributions to global health and policy. These compelling examples not only demonstrate the breadth of our impact but also emphasize our commitment to making a difference across diverse contexts.

### Vignette 1 - Better Outcomes for Children and Adolescents

Research led by Professor Imelda Coyne is transforming children's healthcare by advancing rights, enhancing participation, and encouraging shared decision-making. Her work has been cited in 52 policy documents across 22 countries—including those from the **World Health Organization**, the **Pan American Health Organisation**, and the **State of Queensland, Australia**. This research shared decision-making has played a pivotal role in shaping child-centred policies that elevate the voices of children and young people in clinical decision-making. Beyond influencing policy, Professor Coyne's work has garnered international media attention, from outlets such as *The Guardian*, *Fox News*, and *The Conversation*, igniting global conversations on empowering children and young people to participate in decisions about their own health.

Professor Coyne has provided key leadership in the development of two international youth-focused digital health platforms: [www.IUVEO.org](http://www.IUVEO.org) (USA) and [www.SteppingUp.ie](http://www.SteppingUp.ie) (Ireland). She led and advised on the use of creative, participatory research methods to ensure that adolescents from diverse cultural and social backgrounds shaped the content, design, and functionality of both sites. She also contributed to the conceptual design, evidence base, and evaluation, supporting research teams across the US and Ireland and strengthening the



Figure 2: Examples of policy sources citing children health research

scientific impact of associated peer-reviewed publications. Although developed for different health systems—IUVEO for U.S. teens and Stepping Up for Irish youth—both platforms now have global reach, with international dissemination through academic networks, cross-country collaborations, and youth-facing outreach strategies. These platforms are increasingly recognised as global exemplars of co-designed digital tools that enhance youth health literacy, shared decision-making, and empowerment in clinical encounters.



## Vignette 2 - Giving Voice to Sexual and Gender Minorities

Research spearheaded by Professor Agnes Higgins on LGBTQI+ mental health has influenced policy and practice worldwide. With citations across 19 countries and endorsement from 45 policy sources—including the European Commission, World Health Organization, and New Zealand’s Ministry of Health—this work has been instrumental in shaping guidelines that address equality, health inequality, and legal gender recognition. Additionally, it has informed landmark European reports such as ‘Reducing Health Inequalities Experienced by LGBTI People’, and ‘Legal Gender Recognition: The Journey of Trans People’. Beyond its policy impact, Professor Higgins’ research has gained significant international media attention in outlets like *The Telegraph* and *Psychology Today*, amplifying awareness and driving global conversations on inclusion and mental health.



Figure 3: Examples of policy sources citing mental health research



## Conclusion

This inaugural Global Research Impact Report demonstrates the School of Nursing and Midwifery's sustained contribution and commitment to advancing health and well-being locally and globally. Grounded in rigorous inquiry and collaboration, our research spans across countries, influencing policy, building capacity, and enhancing clinical practice in diverse contexts. The analysis of our recent publications confirms widespread citation in health policy literature, reflecting the real-world practical relevance and global applicability of our findings and work.

The case studies and vignettes featured in this report showcase the transformative power of engaged research, conducted with communities, rather than for them, leading to meaningful change. From advancing maternal health and digital innovation to enhancing care for vulnerable populations and ageing adults with intellectual disabilities, our researchers are addressing complex health challenges through practical, scalable solutions that make a real-world impact.

Collectively, this body of work demonstrates not only research excellence but research with purpose, aligned with global priorities, responsive to societal needs, and committed to promoting equity across the lifespan. By contributing to policy development, strengthening professional practice, and empowering individuals and communities, the School continues to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals to shape healthier futures worldwide.

While we take pride in the reach and recognition our research has achieved, we acknowledge that impact is an evolving process that requires continuous effort. Strengthening international partnerships, supporting early-career researchers, and embedding engagement in all we do will remain central to our approach.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening the global relevance of our research, learning from our collaborators, and ensuring that our work continues to improve the health and well-being of the populations we serve across the lifespan. Through sustained partnership, innovation, and leadership, the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin will continue to translate evidence into action, advancing knowledge, informing policy, and improving lives across the globe.

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