Dr Lorna Lopez, with Professor Louise Gallagher in the Department of Psychiatry, with Sarah Bowman of the HRB-IRC Ignite Team and with funding from the Health Research Board, hosted “What’s Next in Autism Genomics?” on 26th February 2019 in Trinity IPH Tallaght. Nearly 70 members of the public joined researchers on the day to hear all about the progress, the potential and opportunities for public involvement in autism genomics research. There were many highlights of the day but special mentions go to Professor Gallagher’s talks (pictured here), facilitated conversations over lunch discussing challenges in autism research (keep an eye out for our upcoming video) and live-art work (maybe in the next bulletin!).

On International Women’s Day 8th March 2019, Dr Lorna M. Lopez (Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry) was one of 150 female researchers invited to Áras an Uachtaráin by President and Sabina Higgins. The United Nations’ theme for International Women’s Day 2019 was BalanceforBetter; a call to action towards the achievement of gender balance across the world. President Higgins spoke how “The world of academia and research itself is also no stranger to a substantial gender disparity, in particular at its most senior levels” and how “The importance of diversity and equal representation across all areas of decision making must not be understated.”