

LEARNING FROM THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE: IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH INFORMATION IN IRELAND

Monday, 20 September 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



Muiris O'Connor (Assistant Secretary, Department of Health)

Muiris O'Connor is Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, joining in 2015 to head up the R&D and Health Analytics Division. The establishment of this Division reflects the Department's commitment to evidence-based approaches to policy and to the promotion of research and innovation in Irish health and social care. As the responsibilities encompass international policy, Muiris has been centrally involved in the Department of Health's management of Brexit and in coordination of the wider health sector response to Brexit. Over recent years, the Division has expanded to include Medicines Unit, Bioethics Unit and Policy, Strategy and Integration Unit as well as key aspects of the pandemic response.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Muiris has focused on the contribution of research and innovation in the fight against COVID and on harnessing the potential of public sector innovation involving HSE, CSO, OGCI in collaboration with academia and enterprise. Outputs of this work include the CSO Data Hub, the COVID Tracker App, the WHO Solidarity Trials and the delivery of EU Digital COVID Certificates.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Muiris worked in the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the Department of Education and Skills, the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI), the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG).



Loretto Grogan (National Clinical Information Officer, HSE)

Loretto Grogan is the National Clinical Information Officer for Nursing and Midwifery in the Health Service Executive. She qualified as a Registered General Nurse from Beaumont Hospital in 1994 and has further studies in information systems, statistics, health economics, project management and an MSc in Health Informatics. She is published in a number of peer reviewed journals. Loretto's professional background is in acute and community nursing, health research, health informatics, project management, data management, quality improvement, and leadership development. She has worked in a variety of clinical, management, research and project management roles within and outside of the health service.



Dr. Robert O'Connor (Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society)

Dr. Robert O'Connor is the Head of Research for the Irish Cancer Society. The Irish Cancer Society is the largest charitable funder of cancer research in the state. Robert graduated in 1991 with an honours degree in pharmacology from University College Dublin followed by a Ph.D. from Dublin City University in 1995. He worked in Dublin City University from 1995 to 2015 as a researcher and lecturer in several aspects of biology and medicine, and is also experienced in biosafety, clinical trials and translational cancer research. He joined the Irish Cancer Society as the Head of Research in early 2015. He is passionate about evidence-based communications to inform and improve research and public health.



Sara Hurley (Juror, IPPOSI Citizens' Jury on Access to Health Information)

Having lived abroad for 10 years, Sara Hurley returned to Ireland in 2019 to do a Masters in Gender Studies. Sara is passionate about environmental protection, the UN sustainable Development Goals, and working with people and groups focusing on improving Irish Citizens' quality of life and building prosperous futures.