

Research for the Future

AIREN Inaugural Conference

Programme

8 September 2022 | 10am-3.30pm

Titanic Hotel Belfast



supported by
 InterTradeIreland



With great pleasure we welcome you all to the inaugural AIREN Conference on 'Research for the Future' that takes place today, 8th September 2022, in the legendary Drawing Offices at the Titanic Hotel Belfast.

The AIREN initiative is a collaboration led by University College Dublin's University Research Managers & Administrator's Network (UCD URMAN), together with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (Ulster). It was launched in January 2021 with support from InterTradelreland's Synergy programme as a two-year project to establish a network of research managers and administrators to support all-island research collaboration. Since it began, AIREN has held six events to share best practice amongst research managers and administrators in the three founding institutions and two external events to raise awareness of north-south research and industry collaboration opportunities. These events combined have attracted over 1,100 attendees from across our institutions and the wider HEI sector. The range of topics covered and the calibre of speakers who have presented have contributed greatly to the success of AIREN to date.

Great progress has also been made in establishing AIREN as an all-island network. The AIREN website was launched in April 2021 and over 200 members have already registered with a quarter of those from institutions and organisations outside of UCD, QUB and Ulster. This signals the very strong appetite and need within the research support profession community to establish an all-island network. The opportunities and benefits the network offers are immense at every level – for research support at an individual level and the profession, for the HEI's, and for all-island collaboration.

Today's inaugural conference on 'Research for the Future' is a significant milestone in widening AIREN membership further and enhancing the network on an all-island basis. We invite AIREN members and their institutions across the island to also become involved in developing the next phase of AIREN.

We thank all those involved for their commitment and energy in driving AIREN thus far. We also thank InterTradelreland for supporting the AIREN Project, including today's event.

We have prepared an exciting programme for today's inaugural AIREN Conference that we hope you all enjoy and find stimulating.

Best wishes,

From the AIREN Project Team

We are delighted to have been a partner in the All-Island Research Excellence Network over the past two years. The AIREN network provides us with the opportunity to strengthen and grow all-island partnerships and to connect and collaborate with others to identify best practice, share information and collectively seek and maximise research funding opportunities.



Partnership is a critical element of our Ulster University strategy. As the external research funding landscape evolves, we anticipate a shift towards larger scale projects which will require collaboration across disciplines, institutions and countries. Therefore, networks such as AIREN will be increasingly important for us as a mechanism to build and develop our research partnerships and to share best practice in the management and administration of these projects.

Professor Liam Maguire, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Ulster University

I congratulate UCD URMAN and their colleagues in QUB and Ulster on the AIREN initiative. AIREN brings to the fore the important role research support professionals contribute to the research ecosystem.

The range of AIREN activities to date signals strongly the great value of such a network. We in UCD look forward to developing the next phase of AIREN beyond the current project, and to build on what has been achieved to this point.



Professor Orla Feely, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, University College Dublin

Queens is delighted to participate in AIREN and to continue its involvement in the next phase. We congratulate the AIREN Project Team in developing such a stimulating and exciting programme for the inaugural AIREN conference on 'Research for the Future' which includes sessions on the vision and strategy for all-island research, relevant funding programmes; the role of research support staff in research integrity; and also looks at career development opportunities. Most significantly today's AIREN Conference is the first ever in-person event that brings the community of research support professionals from across the island together and it is an important catalyst to expanding the network further to involve other partner institutions from across the island of Ireland going forward.



We wish the AIREN Conference and those involved in the AIREN initiative every success.

Professor Emma Flynn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise, Queen's University Belfast

InterTradelreland is delighted to support the creation of the All-Island Research Excellence Network initiative and today's inaugural AIREN conference. This exciting collaboration, which received network development support from InterTradelreland's Synergy programme, harnessed the power of cross-border collaboration between University College Dublin, Ulster University and Queens University Belfast and created the opportunity to develop cross-border connections between the three institutions.



This collaboration between the three institutions will enhance the ability of AIREN to collectively highlight common research priorities in both jurisdictions, identify potential funding streams, as well as share best practice and knowledge between research managers and administrators across the island. This collaborative approach can only lead to better outcomes for all stakeholders and I look forward to following the work of the network as they lead on the 'Research for the Future'.

Margaret Hearty, Chief Executive, InterTradelreland

Programme

Inaugural AIREN Conference 'Research For the Future' 8th September 2022 Titanic Hotel Belfast

10.00–10.30 **Arrival & Registration**

10.30–10.35 **Conference Open**

Conference Moderator, Sarah Travers, Journalist, Presenter & Event Host

10.35–10.45 **Welcome Address**

Minister Gordon Lyons MLA, Department of the Economy, Northern Ireland &
Minister Simon Harris TD, Department for Further and Higher Education, Research,
Innovation and Science, Ireland

10.45–11.00 **Keynote 1: Vision and Strategy for All-Island Research Collaboration**

Dr Deirdre Lillis

Assistant Secretary, Head of Research, Innovation, Evidence for Policy and EU/International Division
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

All-Island Collaborative Research

11.00 – 11.15 **Peace Plus Programme**

Overview of the Peace Plus Programme Themes & Investment Areas

Declan McGarrigle, Programme Manager at Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) - European Funding

11.15–11.30 **Insights from Current All-Island Initiatives & Projects**

HEA North South Research Programme

All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI)

Dr Rosemarie Gannon, Research Project Manager, University College Dublin

HRB Research Programmes

Oonagh Ward, Head of Research and Innovation Infrastructures, Health Research Board

INTERREG VA Programme

ECME – Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre

Patrick Cullen, Business Integration Manager, Ulster University

11.30–11.40 **Tea & Coffee**

11.40–12.15 **All-Island Network for Research Managers & Administrators**

What do we want from an all-island research support network?

Interactive session / roundtable discussion and feedback.

12.15–12.30 **Keynote 2: Establishing an All-Island Research Excellence Network**

The value of networking for research support staff

Dr Simon Kerridge - Kerridge Research Consulting; Honorary Staff, University of Kent; Board member of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA); and Past Chair of the UK Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA)

12.30–1.00 **What it Takes to Set up an All-Island Network: Next Steps for AIREN**

Panel Discussion with:

Dr Simon Kerridge

Jan Anderson, University of Southern Denmark and former Chair of EARMA

Dr Susi Poli, Staff Development and CPD - Lead in the Education Division, University of Bologna

Dr Jo Uí Chrualaíoch, Co-PI, CARDEA - Career Acknowledgement for Research (Managers)
Delivering for the European Area, University College Cork

1.00–1.50 **Lunch**

1.50–2.00 **Introduction to the History of the Titanic Hotel Belfast Building**

2.00–2.45 **Research Culture & Environment**

What does Research Integrity mean to/for Research Support Staff?

Dr Jennifer Brennan, Director of Research Development and Innovation, THEA, and co-Chair of the National Research Integrity Forum

The Role of Research Support Staff in Research Integrity

Interactive session / roundtable discussion and feedback.

2.45–3.30 **Research Support – Developing a Career and Working in the Profession**

Career Development Inspirations, 5-minute pitches followed by Panel Discussion featuring:

Fulbright Awards for Professionals

Dr Dara Fitzgerald, Director Fulbright Commission Ireland

EARMA European Certificate in Research Management & Leaders in Research Management Event

John Donovan, Head of Research, Technological University Dublin

PhD Studies

Brendan Whelan, PhD Researcher, Ulster University Business School (Department of Tourism)

3.30–3.35 **Conference Close**

Speakers



Gordon Lyons

Gordon Lyons was appointed as Minister for the Economy on 6 July 2021. He has been a DUP Member of the Legislative Assembly for East Antrim since August 2015, and had previously been elected to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council in 2014.

Mr Lyons previously held the Northern Ireland Assembly positions of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister, Junior Minister in The Executive Office, deputy chair of the Health Committee and chair of the Committee on Procedures.

The Economy Minister's responsibilities include economic policy, higher and further education, employment and skills programmes, employment rights, consumer affairs, energy, telecoms, tourism, minerals and petroleum, European Fund management, Insolvency Service, Credit Unions and Societies, and statistics and economic research.



Simon Harris

Simon Harris was appointed Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in June 2020. Prior to this appointment, Simon served Minister for Health from 2016 to 2020 managing the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. During his time in health, he introduced a new all-party agreement on reforming the health service, steered new contracts for nurses, doctors and GPs. He introduced laws modernising Ireland's laws on abortion, introduced a new law curbing the sale of alcohol for children and secured agreement on a life-saving drug for people with cystic fibrosis.

He has served as Minister of State in the Departments of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of the Taoiseach with Special Responsibility for OPW, Public Procurement and International Banking (including IFSC). During his time here, he drove a new strategy for financial services in Ireland and managed Ireland's worst floods.

In his present role as Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon has prioritised reform of the third level system driving changes in apprenticeships and further education. He has made cross-border collaboration a key commitment including introducing a €40 million fund for North-South Research programme. This significant investment has supported the deepening of links between higher education institutions, researchers and research communities on the island of Ireland.



Sarah Travers

Sarah Travers is a freelance journalist, presenter, trainer and media coach, based in Northern Ireland. Sarah began her career with BBC Northern Ireland after completing a degree in broadcast journalism at the Nottingham-Trent University, first in BBC Radio Foyle before joining the Radio Ulster news bulletins team in 1997. Sarah's perhaps best known for her role as anchor on BBC Newsline over a thirteen year period where she also fronted the weekly Family Focus slot, Lifeline, The Balmoral Show and Children In Need. Sarah also presented 'The Magazine' programme on UTV and 'Made in NI' on BBC NI.

In 2015 she set up her new training business, Bespoke Communications, with her business partner Camilla Long. She is passionate helping people and organisations tell their stories through media appearances and keynote presentations and developing strong leaders of the future. She's a mum of two.



Dr Deirdre Lillis

Dr. Deirdre Lillis is Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in Ireland, with responsibility for the Research, Innovation, Evidence for Policy and EU/International Division. A proven senior executive, her prior experience includes university leadership roles in university-enterprise engagement in TU Dublin and as Head of Computer Science in Dublin Institute of Technology. She has a track record of research capacity building and transformation in higher education including principal investigator for an unprecedented national investment of €17.5m in university-enterprise engagement (www.convene.ie), the €4m global HubLinked Knowledge Alliance (www.hublinked.ie) and Marie-Curie RISE GETM3 Global Entrepreneurial Talent Management programme. She is a Chartered Director and has served on the Board of the Higher Education Authority in Ireland, the Senate of the National University of Ireland and the Board of the Irish Writers Centre. Her research interests include national research and innovation systems, higher education policy, university-industry innovations and young talent management. She has won European awards for her sustained commitment to developing the careers of female academic staff and for increasing the participation of females in technological higher education programmes.



Declan McGarrigle

Declan is currently the interim Director of the PEACEPLUS Programme at SEUPB, which is a €1bn programme investing in projects around peace and reconciliation, research, infrastructure, health, transport and rural development. Previously Declan was the regional contact point in Northern Ireland for a number of EU Transnational Programmes including the North West Europe and Northern Periphery Programmes. He is committed to the development of high quality projects which deliver and contribute to a more prosperous and sustainable region.



Dr Rosemarie Gannon

Rosemarie is a research project manager based in University College Dublin. She has several years of project management experience and currently manages the AICRI (All-Island Cancer Research Institute) project which is a collaboration of ten academic institutions across the island of Ireland and other stakeholders are involved too. Rosemarie has a PhD in Information and Communication Studies from UCD, a BA Hons in Applied Languages (French and German) from Ulster University and a Certificate in Digital Marketing from Dublin Business School. She is currently undertaking a MSc Project Management (Part-time) in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. Rosemarie is a member of the AIREN project management team and a member of the UCD Research Managers and Administrators Network (URMAN) advisory group. Rosemarie is also a member of Templeogue Tennis Club, Sligo Yacht Club, Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club in Dublin and enjoys running, watercolour painting and speaking foreign languages (French, German and Italian).



Patrick Cullen

Patrick Cullen is Business Integration Manager with the Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre (ECME). ECME is a collaborative research project focusing on improving cardiovascular health. It is a partnership between 5 leading academic research centres and Southern Health & Social Care Trust. Ulster University is the lead partner in ECME. ECME is supported by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the SEUPB and was awarded €8.2 M to deliver the project's outcomes.



Oonagh Ward

Oonagh Ward is currently leading the Research and Innovation Infrastructures unit at the Health Research Board (HRB). This unit, established in January 2021, has responsibility for the management and evaluation of HRB's investments in clinical trials and associated infrastructures. It also supports exploring opportunities and interfaces for current and future investments in data infrastructures, genomic research and personalised medicine.

Since joining the HRB in 2007 she has developed and managed a variety of policies, funding initiatives and joint-funding ventures. Oonagh was lead author for the HRB Report on the Review of Clinical Research Infrastructures in Ireland which helped inform HRB's recent investment in this space (circa €50 million). She has participated on numerous national and international committees and groups to help shape, influence and support health research infrastructures and the wider research and innovation policy. Currently a member of the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network Assembly of Members, IcPerMed and the All-Island Cancer Consortium Implement Group. With over 20 years' experience across a range of industries Oonagh holds a MSc from Queens University Belfast and a BSc from University College Dublin.



Dr Simon Kerridge

Principal Consultant, Kerridge Research Consulting, UK. Simon has been a research manager and administrator for over 30 years, now an independent research consultant he previously led the research office at the University of Kent where he has had responsibility for all aspects of the research support including pre-award, post-award, information, strategy, assessment and governance.

He has a passion for research management and administration (RMA) as a profession and leads the INORMS (International Network of Research Management Societies) RAAAP (Research Administration as a Profession) Task Force that is collecting longitudinal data about the profession. He was awarded the 2022 Innovation Award from CARA the Canadian Association of Research Administrators for his leadership on RAAAP. Simon sits on a number of RMA related committees and groups including being a board member for EARMA the European association. He is also co-chair of the NISO Steering Group for CRediT the contributor role taxonomy for journal authorship. He has recently finished working as a panel advisor for Research England as part of the UK Research Excellence Framework, supporting the Social Sciences panel, including the assessment of research impact. Simon teaches on the Johns Hopkins' masters in research administration and is an editor of the Journal of Research Management and Administration. He was an author of Metric Tide report and holds a professional doctorate in Electronic Research Administration.



Dr Susi Poli

Susi has carried out research into RMA since the start of her MBA in higher education management in 2008; after the MBA at the Institute of Education (IOE) in London, she moved on to attain an EdD, International doctorate, at UCL IOE. She has explored RMA widely, with but her research covering issues of professional staff in higher education, professional development, cross cultural competences, women's leadership in HE, among the main subjects.

The choice of investigating research management comes from her experience as a research manager in Italy and abroad; she is currently the lead of staff development in the education division at the University of Bologna so to explore RMA from a certain distance and a different standpoint.



Jan Andersen

Jan Andersen is a Senior Executive Advisor, with a background in Computer Science and Danish Language. He is a specialist in research strategy, funding and research planning. He was involved in building up four very successful research support units in Danish Universities. He was advisor for Deans and Rectors of the Danish Technical University, University of Copenhagen, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University and University of Southern Denmark. He was responsible for the cross-faculty follow-up of the Danish university merger in 2007. He was Head of the Nordic Association of University Administrators Working Group for Research Administrators. Jan Andersen is an expert on the EU framework programs. Jan Andersen was as Board Member and co-founder of the Danish Association of Research Managers and Administrators, DARMA. He was hosting the 2009 Annual Conference of European Association of Research Managers and Administrators, EARMA and elected Chairman for EARMA 2010-2013, and board member until 2018.

Jan Andersen is a team-builder and has developed and facilitated the EARMA Pasta Making Event since 2014 with Susi Poli, University of Bologna. He is currently co-responsible for EARMA's Digital Events and Presentations and "corresponding PI" on the EARMA Leadership program. From 2013-2018 Jan Andersen was Chair of the COST BESTPRAC Targeted Network, with more than 700 participants from 41 countries. Jan Andersen is the co-author of "Research Management – Europe and beyond". Most recently he received the EARMA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.



Dr Joanne Uí Chruaíoch (*pronounced ee-crew-a-lake*)

Joanne is Co-PI on the Horizon Europe funded Cardea project. Cardea stands for Career Acknowledgement for Research (Managers) delivering for the European Area. Joanne's passion is in people and supporting success amongst educators, researchers and research managers. She specialises in Training and Development and has devoted the last 15 years to supporting Human Capital development for researchers and early career professionals. This was recently recognised with the award of Chartered Fellow of the CIPD. She has contributed to national policy on EDI in agri-food, and her programmes have won training and development awards at national level.

She has a particular interest in learning and teaching excellence, including developing learning outcomes, assessment methods, course design, accreditation and eLearning components through a competency models. Joanne has an extensive teaching load on the UCC post-doc hub, a Diploma in Leadership from the agri-food sector, a Certificate in Continuing Professional Development for agri-food researchers, and ILM Professional Skills for Research Leaders programmes. A common theme is moving professionals beyond their core subject matter expertise to recognise not just the depth but also the breadth of their expertise.



Dr Dara Fitzgerald

Dr Dara FitzGerald has been the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland since 2015. He has a BSc and PhD in Biology & IT from Maynooth University and University College Cork, and has worked in IT and biomedical applications and industry for over 20 years. Dara has founded and headed up a number of tech companies and he acted as the US Federal Liaison for Enterprise Ireland in Washington DC and Dublin. In his time with Fulbright he has steered the Commission focus to be more inclusive and has implemented equity steps to support this. He has also significantly grown the number and value of Fulbright awards available to the widest range of applicants.





John Donovan

John Donovan, former Chairman of EARMA and Head of Research at Technological University Dublin in Ireland, is a PhD in molecular genetics from the National University of Ireland. In 1986 he worked at the Institute of Biochemistry at the University of Frankfurt and after 3 years moved to the University of Leeds. Returning to Ireland in 1992, he took up a position as a Senior Scientist with St. Luke's Institute of Cancer Research. In 1994 he moved to a position as Executive Secretary of the Irish Research Scientists' Association and was responsible for many of the briefing and policy documents prepared by the Association that ultimately led to the establishment of Science Foundation Ireland and The Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions with a combined budget of some €13b.

Having left the bench, John moved into research and innovation management and, for the present, is Head of Research at Technological University Dublin. John has served on the board of EARMA for 6 years including 4 years as EARMA Chairperson. His current interest is what makes research sustainable in new, small universities and the transition to 'Open Research'. John is on a number of national and international policy groups, including Ireland's National Open Research Committee and the Irish Government's Higher Education Research Group.

John has been a radio journalist, co-produced 'PRISM' a science radio show on Anna Livia fm he also edited The Millennium Thomas Davis Lecture Series on Irish public radio broadcaster, RTÉ. John has also done time as an itinerant PhD examiner in various places in Ireland and Europe. John is married to Lynda and has one child, a son.



Brendan Whelan

'A journey from outdoor education to higher education'

Brendan Whelan has spent over 30 years working in the outdoor adventure activity industry, and during that time he has amassed considerable experience climbing and working as a Mountaineering Instructor (Winter Mountaineering Climbing Instructor & International Mountain Leader), in several countries across the globe, e.g., China, New Zealand, Russia, and South America.

For the past 15 years, Brendan has been based on the Inishowen section of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way where his business 'Donegal Climbing' provides several outdoor related services. At its business core is the delivery of the Mountain Training Board of Ireland training and assessment courses. Brendan also works as an adventure tourism climbing, mountaineering, environmental, and screen tourism guide for domestic and international tourists. He has also worked for a wide range of television and film production companies.

From an academic perspective, while working full time, Brendan returned to formal education in 2012, and has since completed a range of qualifications in Sport, Health & Fitness; Health & Safety; Management Practice; Photography and Tourism through the further education sector. More recently, he has also completed a BA (Hons) in Adventure Education (2019), and a MSc in International Business (2020) through the University of Chichester, and Ulster University respectively. Linking practice with theory, Brendan is now a third-year part-time PhD researcher at Ulster University and his doctoral research focuses on Micro Enterprises, COVID-19, and the impact of crisis events on adventure activity tourism businesses along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

AIREN Project Team Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the immense work carried out by AIREN Project Team Members, in developing the initiative and delivering the AIREN Project including today's inaugural AIREN Conference on 'Research for the Future'.

Current AIREN Project Team Members

Rosemarie Gannon, Sinead McGinley, Jessica Ralston, Matt Sheridan, Caroline Treacey (Project Manager), John Wyatt (UCD); Susie Gray (QUB); Shauna McKeown, Deborah Coey (Ulster)

Previous AIREN Proposal Development / Project Team Members

Caitriona Devery, Antonella Ferrecchia, Will Fitzmaurice, Aidan McElwaine, Ciara O'Connor, Justin Synnott, Colleen Thomas, Irene Ward (UCD); Sarah Jayne Smith, Mani Narayanan (QUB); Karen Orr, Anna Zmuda Trebiatowska (Ulster)

Previous AIREN Events held May 2021 – June 2022

Topics Covered

HEI organisational structures; the governance and management of large-scale research centres; developing global networks; research impact; supporting PhD and postdoctoral researchers; the role of research support professionals in research culture; North-South research and industry collaboration opportunities.

Speaker Representatives From

HEI's from Ireland and UK; funding bodies including Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish Research Council, Interreg; InterTradelreland, the Irish Universities Association and the National Science Foundation in the US. We thank all who presented for their time and contribution to the AIREN events.

InterTradelreland Synergy Programme Support

The AIREN Project is being delivered with support from InterTradelreland's Synergy initiative. Synergy is a cross-border cluster initiative set up by InterTradelreland, the cross-border trade and business development body. It aims

to scale cross border collaboration among SME's and other players such as universities, third sector organisations and government agencies using cluster and networking opportunities.

Become an AIREN Member

We invite all research managers and administrators – from across all organisations – to please sign-up and register as an AIREN Member. To register please visit the AIREN website at airen.network/membership

Member Benefits

- Being connected and part of a professional research management network
- Receiving information and updates on research funding opportunities to support North/ South collaboration
- Sharing knowledge and experience of specific funding programmes to support North/ South collaboration
- Facilitating introductions to seed new research collaborations and partnerships
- Providing opportunities to widen the dissemination of research impacts and the benefits of all-island research
- Building the foundation for establishing an All-Island Research Excellence Network as a legacy of the AIREN Project
- Interacting with other professional networks through the All-Island Research Excellence Network

