

Spark News

DECEMBER 2023



GET INVOLVED

- Did you know that the HSE Spark Innovation Programme accepts applications from healthcare workers across the healthcare system 365 days a year? If you have an idea that you believe will bring value to your patients, your colleagues and the health service at large, apply for one of our initiatives. Visit www.hse.ie/spark for details.
- Are you interested in becoming a National Innovation Fellow in 2024? Applications for the NCHD Fellowship will go live on Monday 18th December. For further details visit www.hse.ie/spark

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR INNOVATION

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the end of another year at the HSE Spark Innovation Programme, we are grateful to have supported and collaborated with numerous innovators who have contributed to our thriving community. As always it is our privilege to see concepts evolve into practical solutions to challenges in the Irish healthcare system. We have been blown away by the commitment of frontline staff to both identify and address problems they see every day in their work. Your creative problem solving abilities are inspiring.

The new initiatives we have developed in 2023 and our ongoing commitment to 'Human Centered Design' illustrate our dedication to empowering frontline workers and creating the culture, capacity and capability within the system to deliver positive impact.

We hope you enjoy this winter edition of 'Spark News' and that you take a moment to watch the highlights from our [Spark Summit conference 2023](#). Thank you for being a crucial part of our community, we look forward to working with you in 2024.

The HSE Spark Team

MEET THE NATIONAL INNOVATION FELLOWS 2023-2024



Dr. Michelle Howard National HSCP Innovation Fellow

As a Senior Educational and Child Psychologist, Michelle is passionate about using design thinking and lean process tools to explore how new work approaches can ensure timely care for service users. She believes that, with the right training and support, frontline clinicians

are best suited to create and implement innovative practices for their service users. Throughout her career, Dr. Howard has focused on developing creative solutions for real healthcare needs. Participating in Spark Seed (2021) and Spark Ignite (2022) fuelled her interest, leading her to enhance her innovation skills through the Post Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Innovation at TCD (2022/2023). She's honoured to assist HSCPs nationwide in designing innovative solutions that adapt to the evolving needs of Irish healthcare service users.

Dr. Bobby Tang

National NCHD Innovation Fellow

After graduating from Trinity College Dublin in 2014, Bobby achieved Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2021 and is currently in the final stages of specialist training in medical ophthalmology. Healthcare innovation, for Bobby, is about nurturing curiosity and solving unanswered problems. His journey with Spark began as a seed applicant, leading to advisory roles for early-stage companies like PeriVision, contributing to their success in the EIT Health Wildcard competition in 2021. As a Spark fellow, Bobby aims to promote the innovation ecosystem within the HSE by emphasising education, design, and collaboration, especially among NCHDs.



Ms. Catherine Marsh

National ONMSD Innovation Fellow

As a Clinical Nurse Specialist and Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, Catherine holds advanced qualifications, including a Post Graduate Higher Diploma in Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and an MSc in Applied Health Care Management.



Catherine brings a background in community liaison nursing and holds certifications in nurse prescribing and advance practice. Committed to enhancing healthcare workplaces through innovation and design thinking, Catherine strives to provide safer, better experiences. She is eager to connect with nurses and midwives across healthcare, offering support for those interested in exploring design thinking and turning their innovative ideas into reality.



Dr. Emily Wallace

National NCHD Innovation Fellow

A graduate of the University of Galway (UoG), Emily is an NCHD with experience across various specialties. She holds a Global Health Certificate and is pursuing an MSc in Public Health from the London

School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her research background in UoG's TMD Lab involved innovative technologies for lung cancer ablation and postpartum haemorrhage interventions in resource-challenged settings. Over the past five years, Emily has actively engaged in Design Thinking and Innovation Programmes, including EIT mHealth, STAND Ideas Collective, and an internship in the University of Galway Ideas lab. She's motivated to create positive change at scale and improve public health through innovation. Drawing from her experience working from benchtop to bedside, Emily understands the unique perspective of frontline staff in identifying healthcare opportunities. Her eagerness lies in combining clinical and innovation experiences to empower HSE colleagues to turn their ideas into clinical impact.

NEW INITIATIVES



HSE Spark's call for public sector employees to approach healthcare challenges from a new perspective resulted in the launch of Spark Fusion. Teams, comprising Health Service Executive staff and at least one other public sector organisation, were invited to apply for funding ranging from €5,000 to €50,000 to support collaborative projects. The response was overwhelming, with numerous frontline HSE healthcare staff and public sector organisations demonstrating outstanding collaboration and innovation. Spark Fusion received over 40 proposals, showcasing a diverse array of solutions, from advanced technologies to initiatives promoting health equity. In recognising that health determinants extend beyond healthcare institutions, Spark Fusion aligns with the Healthy Ireland Framework 2013-25, aspiring to a future where everyone in Ireland achieves optimal physical and mental health. The initiative showcases remarkable enthusiasm for collaboration, with applications pouring in from various teams, including partnerships with An Garda Síochána, the Department of Justice, Local Authorities, and the Department of Education.



During Public Sector Transformation Week 2023, our fellows, Catherine (ONMSD) and Michelle (HSCP), introduced 'Spark Connect', a pioneering initiative designed to catalyse innovation and collaboration in healthcare settings across Ireland. Throughout the week, teams from every county across the country participated in innovation sprints that challenged them to reshape or rethink services in both inpatient and outpatient care settings. The week kicked off with a compelling online session, "Interviews with Innovators," exchanging success stories and their experiences of delivering healthcare innovation projects nationwide. Frontline staff members from the Health Service Executive shared their innovation journeys, bringing to light the real-life impact within their roles. As a commitment to empowering frontline staff, the first ever 'Spark Connect Toolkit' was distributed, unlocking innovation potential and fostering creative solutions for enhanced healthcare delivery.



DESIGN WORKSHOPS WITH MARTIN RYAN

At Spark, we're convinced that design holds the power to enhance healthcare. It goes beyond appearances; it's about creating solutions that function seamlessly and are user-friendly. Meet Martin Ryan, an exceptional designer and founder of 'Actionable'. Martin delivers our '[Design Thinking](#)' Workshops, where he shares his expertise. These workshops are all about solving problems, taking participants from figuring out the issues to presenting their ideas for innovation and improvement. We focus on human-centred design, looking at how to think and work like a designer. Martin's practical tips help attendees understand what users need, build empathy, and go from a problem to a solution. In these hands-on workshops, innovators work together on problem-solving and creating solutions. These workshops give clinicians practical experience with design thinking tools, making sure participants truly understand what users need in any innovative project. If you'd like to attend a future workshop, email us at spark@hse.ie



SERVICE DESIGN BURSARY NCAD

In our quest to champion skills building for design informed innovation, we are delighted to have funded bursaries to health care staff to undertake the Professional Diploma in Service Design at the National College of Art & Design (NCAD) for the academic year 2023/24.

The staff who have secured bursary funding for this fantastic opportunity are: Julie Grennel (Practice Development Co-Ordinator), Shiela Heery (Practice Development Co-Ordinator), Louise McGettigan (Senior Occupational Therapist), Dr. Caoimhe Glancy (Doctor), Dermot Burke (Physiotherapist), Catherine Marsh (Nurse), Dr. Suzanne Smyth (Doctor)

The Professional Diploma will allow these these aspiring innovators to delve into the intricacies of service design, a discipline that focuses on enhancing user experiences and creating solutions that truly matter. As they navigate the course and complete their studies, we eagerly anticipate the skills they will acquire and the fresh perspectives they will bring back to shape healthcare services within the HSE. This year's commitment to the Service Design bursary isn't just about education opportunities for these 'designerly' innovators, it is about investing in the future of healthcare, fostering a culture of innovation, and nurturing talents that can drive positive change.



SPARK DESIGN

HEALING SPACES

Healing Spaces is an elective project by TU Dublin School of Architecture, Building, and Environment, looking into the art of designing better spaces for medical care. In collaboration with HSE Spark Innovation, the Mater Transformation Team, and the Oncology



Day Ward and Inpatient Unit at Mater Hospital Dublin, students embarked on a journey to reimagine healthcare settings, focusing on cancer care. This initiative stands as a testament to the partnership between HSE Spark Innovation Programme, TU Dublin's School of Architecture, Building and Environment (SABE), and Mater Transformation. Together, they are shaping a unique healthcare elective module for architecture students. The ambition of the project is to inspire the architects of tomorrow to think innovatively about the environments in which healthcare is delivered. Integrating medical insights from Mater Hospital and architectural expertise from TU Dublin, the initiative envisions creating healing spaces that cater authentically to the needs of cancer patients.

SPARK COLLABORATION



HSE Health Identity Data 'Collaborathon'

During Public Sector Transformation Week, we collaborated with the HSE Health Identifiers (HIDs) Programme for their 'Data Collaborathon' at the GEC. This workshop, the second in its series, focused on health identity data quality and governance. Specialists shared insights, and we delved into case studies on data transformation within the HSE. The event emphasised the critical role of health identity data in ensuring accurate patient information, promoting interoperability, and catalysing innovation. Looking ahead, we're eager to continue this collaboration with the HSE HIDs team, addressing and advancing literacy around these issues to empower both patients and clinicians in effective data management within the HSE.

WHAT'S GOING ON



FUELLING INNOVATION AT TRINITY MED DAY

Spark Innovation Programme was proud to partner with Trinity Med Day 2023. Med Day is an annual event which encourages medical students to get creative while raising money to support Innovation Projects to improve experience and outcomes for patients, healthcare staff and the population as a whole. From enhancing walking for Stroke and Neuro patients at St James's Hospital to restoring independence through Assistive Technology at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, from giving a voice to Palliative Care patients at Our Lady's Hospice,

Harold's Cross, to redesigning a 'Hang-Out' Space for Teenagers with Cancer at Children's Health Ireland (CHI), each project signifies a positive step towards innovation and better healthcare.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPARK SUMMIT '24



We are all set for another annual Spark Summit! Save the date for Dublin on the 20th of June 2024. We're already gearing up, preparing, and reaching out to innovators for new innovations and programs. If you or a colleague has undertaken an innovation project that you feel should be recognised by the HSE Spark Innovation Programme through our 'Brightspark Award' programme, let us know by emailing us at spark@hse.ie. Get ready for an exciting event!

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INNOVATION?

READ

"Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande - This insightful book delves into the intersection of medicine, life, and mortality, encouraging a fresh perspective on healthcare.

WATCH

TED Talk - "The Power of Vulnerability" by Brené Brown - Gain valuable insights into the importance of embracing vulnerability, a crucial aspect in fostering innovative behaviour

LISTEN

"StartUp Podcast" by Gimlet Media - Follow the journey of entrepreneurs navigating the challenges of building healthcare startups, offering valuable lessons for aspiring innovators.