

## **UKCRC Public Health Research Centres of Excellence – Speaker and Session Chair Biographies**

### **Christine McGuire**

Christine McGuire is a civil servant in the Department of Health (DH). She currently works within a policy team leading on DH interests in patient experience surveys and social research relating to the acute sector. She established and managed the Public Health Research Consortium, the Behaviour and Health Policy Research Unit and the NIHR School for Public Health Research. Working with other funders, she led for DH on the UKCRC Public Health Research Centres of Excellence and the National Prevention Research Initiative. She has extensive experience in working with national policymakers on evidence needs for policy. She led on tobacco R&D, developing programmes of research that informed policy on smoking cessation services, smokefree legislation, plain packaging of tobacco and e-cigarettes, and led on the evaluation of many of the previous area based initiatives. Working as a magistrate she has a keen interest in the justice system and youth offending. She is also a trustee for a small London based charity involved in service provision to a deprived community.

### **Dr Nicola Armstrong**

Nicola Armstrong is Programme Manager at Health and Social Care Research & Development Division (HSC R&D) for Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. HSC R&D supports research that provides high quality evidence to improve care for patients, clients, and the general population, and adds to our understanding of health, disease, treatment, and care. As well as providing direct research funding, HSC R&D promotes, coordinates and facilitates the conduct of research and development by both HSC and non-HSC organisations across the academic, voluntary and commercial sectors.

### **Dr Julie Bishop**

Julie Bishop is Director of Health Improvement for Public Health Wales. Public Health Wales is the national public health agency in Wales and exists to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for people in Wales. Public Health Wales has a key role in co-producing health improvement, working closely with others to help achieve it. Public Health Wales is an active partner in The Public Health Improvement Research Network (PHIRN), which is a partnership between DECIPHer and the South East Wales Trials Unit at Cardiff University.

## Dr Jennifer Bostock



Jennifer has been working in Research Ethics & Patient/Public Involvement for over 10 years, as a lead reviewer and Vice Chair for an NHS Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Research Ethics Committee (REC), visiting academic/lecturer at the medical school at King's College and as a trainer working for organisations, such as the mental health research network and the Health Research

Authority. She is a former Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Prize Scholar and winner of the Mental Health Resistance Network (MHRN) Award for 'Outstanding contribution to psychiatry research' (the only time presented to a lay person). Her current Board memberships include the International Strategic Advisory Board at CEDAR Cambridge University, NIHR School of Public Health Research (SPHR) and Quality Outcomes Research Unit. Jennifer has written for the specialist, NHS and academic press and has co-authored book chapters and is a lay peer reviewer for the Department of Health, the NIHR and Health Expectations. Jennifer's interest in health comes from her caring role for her elderly parents and also as a patient with a complex genetic condition. She is both amazed and fascinated by the brave and bold topics public health researchers and practitioners seek to tackle.

## Professor Roger O'Sullivan



Professor Roger O'Sullivan has been Interim Chief Executive of the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) since November 2016. He is also Director of the Ageing Research and Development Division within IPH. In 2016, he was made visiting Professor at Ulster University and between 2007 and 2015, was Director of The Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland. He is a council member of the

Northern Ireland Cohort for Longitudinal Study of Ageing and a member of the Oversight Board of the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing.

## Dr Helen Walters



Dr Helen Walters is Public Health Consultant Advisor to the Public Health Research Programme for NIHR working at the national coordinating centre in Southampton. She focuses on the identification, prioritisation and commissioning of research that is relevant to Public Health practice. Helen brings extensive experience of 'coal-face' Public Health practice having led the Health Team in the Mayor of London's office. Prior to this she was Director of Public Health for the City of Westminster, jointly

appointed between the City Council and the NHS Primary Care Trust. Helen was a Consultant in Public Health in Portsmouth, has been a GP partner and served as an elected member in her district council. She is the Tobacco lead for the Faculty of Public Health and a trustee of ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) and of the charity St Mungo's.

### **Professor Dame Anne Johnson**



Anne M. Johnson (MD FMedSci FRCP FFPH FRCGP) is Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at UCL. She is Chair of the Population and Lifelong Health Domain and Vice-Dean for External and International Relations, Faculty of Population Health Sciences at UCL. Her research focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted infections and other infectious diseases.

She is a member of the DEFRA Adaptation Sub-committee of the Committee on Climate Change, and is Chair of the Academy of Medical Sciences Health of the Public 2040 Working Group. She is a Governor of the Wellcome Trust.

### **Professor Ian Young**



Ian Young is currently Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Health and Director of Research and Development for Health and Social Care. In addition, he is Professor of Medicine at Queen's University Belfast, where he was also Director of the Centre for Public Health from 2008-2014, and Deputy Medical Director and Consultant Chemical Pathologist at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Professor Young's main clinical and research interests are in biochemical aspects of nutrition, particularly in relation to disease prevention. He is Chair of the Scientific Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, the world's leading laboratory medicine organisation, and Associate Editor of Clinical Chemistry, the journal of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. He is a member of the UK Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, and the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Institute of Biological Standards and Controls.

### **Professor Bernie Hannigan**



Bernie Hannigan is Director of Research & Development for Public Health England. Public Health England was established in 2013 with responsibility for protecting the health of the population and promoting health and wellbeing. As Director of R&D, Bernie oversees the development of, and use of, robust evidence from research. From 2008 until 2014 Bernie was Director of R&D for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland and Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety. Previously she was at the

University of Ulster in a range of posts including Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and she is now an Honorary Professor. Bernie was educated at Trinity College Dublin (BA Mod). She gained a PhD in Immunology from the National University of Ireland for research undertaken at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

## Dr Joe McNamara



Joe McNamara PhD, is Head of Population Health at the Medical Research Council (MRC). He has responsibility for developing and implementing MRC strategy and policy for population health research. This includes investments in population cohorts, UK Biobank and aspects of global health. He is also responsible for MRC's portfolio of prevention research and is closely involved in helping coordinate the UK Prevention Research Partnership (UKPRP) a new £50m multi-funder initiative to increase health expectancy through the prevention of non-communicable diseases.

## Professor Mike Kelly



Professor Mike Kelly is Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at the Institute of Public Health and a member of St John's College at the University of Cambridge. Between 2005 and 2014 (when he retired), he was the Director of the Centre for Public Health at the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in England. There he led the teams producing public health guidelines. In that role, he worked directly with senior government officials, parliamentarians and ministers. From 2005 to 2007 he directed the methodology work stream for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. He has held academic appointments at the Universities of Leicester, Dundee, Abertay, Greenwich, Glasgow, Manchester, Oxford and Sheffield, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and UCL as well as Cambridge. He had an academic career lasting twenty seven years before moving into the National Health Service to lead the Research Team at the Health Development Agency and then moving on to NICE. His research interests include the prevention of non-communicable disease, living with chronic illness, health inequalities, health related behaviour change, end of life care, dental public health, the relationship between evidence and policy, and the methods and philosophy of evidence based medicine.