



# **INHED Annual Report**

**June 2026**

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## Chairs' Welcome

We warmly welcome all our attendees to this, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting of Irish Network of Healthcare Educators (INHED) which is being hosted this year at the University of Galway. The conference is once again attracting guest presenters and delegates from institutions of healthcare training, education and provision from across the island of Ireland. To all those that have taken the time to attend, we look forward to meeting with you, learning from you and supporting your participation in our annual gathering.

First and foremost, we wish to thank University of Galway for hosting the INHED Annual Scientific Meeting 2026. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the deep commitment of the University of Galway INHED conference organising team who have compiled a programme rich in educational innovation and research.

Within the conference, there will be an opportunity to attend the INHED AGM at the end of the first day. We are looking forward to updating you all on INHED developments over the last year including the expanded membership of the INHED Executive Committee and opportunities emerging in the area of Special Interest Groups. There will be networking opportunities for those interested in our Special Interest Groups in Interprofessional Education and Planetary Health.

The main role of the INHED Annual Conference is to provide an opportunity to share learning, best practice and research endeavours in all aspects of healthcare education across multiple disciplines. Each year we also hear from past winners of research awards, and we take the opportunity to announce new awardees. We acknowledge with deep thanks the continued support of the Irish Medical Council in this endeavour. We are also grateful to ASME Educator Development Committee who are sponsoring a prize for the best presentation relating to Faculty Development for the second year in a row.

We would like to thank the conference sponsors; Qpercom, Speedwell, University College Cork's MSc Health Professions' Education and University of Limerick's MSc Health Education. Please take some time to visit their stands during the conference breaks.

This conference will be our last as INHED Co-chairs. We are grateful to our predecessor Prof. Peter Cantillon and to Darragh Scannell, INHED administrator, for their support during our term of office. The process of identifying new co-chairs is currently underway and the outcome will be announced at the INHED AGM meeting.

On behalf of the INHED Executive, we wish you a successful conference and we thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to INHED.

Deirdre Bennett & Jason Last

INHED Co-chairs

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## Research Development

### **INHED Grants**

We are delighted that the Medical Council of Ireland continues to fund the Research in Medical Education (RIME) grant programme which awards annually a maximum of three grants, each to a maximum of €5000.

In addition, INHED funds a maximum of two INHED Health Professional Education Research Grant scheme (HPERG) awards annually and is designed to support research amongst the many different professions involved in INHED. Thus, HPERG is open to healthcare educators of all disciplines and also to undergraduate students; the award is a maximum of €3,000 to each successful application.

This programme consistently attracts a high number of applications with a diversity of submissions from across the health professions. The reviewing process was overseen by Dr. Anél Wiese and Dr. Niamh Coakley with the wider INHED Board acting as the grant adjudication panel. In 2025, we had 3 successful RIME grant and 2 successful HPERG grant applications. We look forward to hearing interim reports from these studies at this year's conference.

### **Awards 2025:**

#### RIME:

1. Anne Browne, University of Galway
2. Sean Dinneen, University of Galway
3. Alan Maddock, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

#### HPERG:

1. Tak Ying Louise Ko, University College Dublin
2. Celine Marmion, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

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## 2025 Annual Financial Statement

Balance brought forward – January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 **€14,647.08**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2025 Annual Scientific Meeting (Delegate Income)	€28,676.62	
2025 Annual Scientific Meeting (Sponsorship Income)	€3,700.79	
2024 Annual Scientific Meeting (RCPI Delegate Income)	€1,625	
Refunded Accommodation Costs	€294	
Irish Medical Council RIME Funding	€14,911	
<b>Income Total:</b>	<b>€49,206.62</b>	
<u>INHED Grant Awards</u>		
RIME Award Amount		€9,911
HPERG Award Amount		€5,100
<u>Annual Meeting Costs</u>		
Conference Guest Dinner May 21st		€200
Guest Speaker Fees		€1,252.63
Travel Expenses		€638.73
Accommodation Expenses		€1,002
Stands/Lanyards/Banner		€1,715.85
RCPI CPD Accreditation Fee		€500
Patient Fees		€150
Photography		€370
<u>Organisational Costs</u>		
Admin Fees		€9,600
Website/Email Hosting		€686.23
Mailchimp Subscription		€347.40
Stripe Fee		€50
Business Online Fees		€120
Microsoft Office Fee		€69
Bank Charges		€70.30
Executive Committee		€29.90
Member Expenses		
<b>Expenditure Total</b>		<b>€31,813.04</b>

Closing Balance - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 **€32,040.66**

N.B. Income and expenditure in a calendar year are influenced by the timing of expenses associated with previous and future conferences and timing of receipt and/or expenditure of RIME / HPERG grants. By way of example, the catering costs of the UCC conference will appear in the 2026 annual financial report.

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### Activities since the last AGM

- INHED Executive Committee has expanded to 25 members representing 9 HEIs including QUB, RCPI, RCSI, TCD, UU, UCC, UCD, University of Galway and UL.
- Special interest groups have been formed and have considered draft terms of reference to including:
  - o Interprofessional Education (including patient and public engagement)
  - o Planetary Health (including sustainability)
- INHED Executive subgroups are formed:
  - o Communications and Website (1<sup>st</sup> meeting 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 led by K Kyne)
  - o Research (ongoing)
  - o Advisory Panel / Council of Wisdom has formed (5 former exec members)
  - o Finance and Governance (meeting during the AGM)
- Expressions of Interest process completed for new INHED Executive Committee Co-Chairs.

## **Appendix 1: INHED Interprofessional Learning Special Interest Group (IPL SIG) Terms of Reference: v1 13/03/2026**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Interprofessional Learning is widely recognised and recommended as essential to preparing a collaborative practice-ready health and social care workforce. Educators across institutions and professions often work in isolation, leading to duplication of effort, variable quality, and missed opportunities for innovation and scholarship. This All-Island IPL Special Interest Group (SIG) has been established to connect educators involved in the design, delivery, evaluation, and research across the region. IPL is understood by the group to be learning arising from interaction between members (or students) of two or more professions. This may be a product of formal IPE or learning may happen serendipitously in the workplace or education setting (Freeth, 2005). The group will provide a forum for collaboration, peer learning, resource sharing, and strategic alignment, valuing the contribution and engagement of all stakeholders, especially students and patient representatives.

### **PURPOSE:**

The Interprofessional Learning Special Interest Group (IPL SIG) will promote and support interprofessional education and practice across Ireland, by providing a platform to share ideas, resources and expertise, and promoting all Ireland, cross-institutional collaboration and research. By forming a community of practice, the IPL SIG will enhance the quality and consistency of IPL across the island, including faculty development, scholarship and research. As a SIG of the Irish Network of Healthcare Educators (INHED), The IPL SIG will align with the INHED mission statement:

*“The Network seeks to enhance health professions education on the island of Ireland by bringing together individuals and organisations with interests in, and responsibilities for healthcare education in Ireland.”*

The SIG activity will be informed by relevant national and international standards.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Establish a community of practice for interprofessional education and collaborative practice, research and evaluation.
- Share interprofessional resources and learnings.
- Link with international colleagues working in interprofessional education and practice, research and evaluation.
- Promote cross-institutional collaboration and research.
- Amplify patient and student voice in interprofessional learning design, delivery and research.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

The SIG will invite membership from across educational, academic, clinical practice settings from all in the health and social care professions across the island of Ireland, including:

- Educators involved in IPL across health and social care professions.
- Academic leaders and programme directors with responsibility for curriculum design.
- Clinical educators and practice partners.
- Patient and public representatives.
- Researchers and doctoral students with an interest in IPL.
- Educational developers and simulation specialists.

Membership will be free.

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## GOVERNANCE

The SIG will be led by a Chair and Deputy Chair with a team of office of 2 years. They will provide strategic direction, convene and chair meetings.

## DECISION MAKING

- Decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible.
- If consensus cannot be reached, a simple majority vote of members present will apply.

## MEETINGS:

Meetings will be held at least three times per year online, in-person or hybrid as appropriate. Further meetings will be convened as appropriate and the option for subgroups meetings exists to further certain projects.

## COMMUNICATION:

Communication channels may include:

- Email distribution list.
- Shared digital workspace.
- Annual newsletter.
- Webinar series.
- Annual showcase event.

All communications will reflect principles of inclusivity and interprofessional respect.

## FUNDING:

The IPL SIG will explore funding opportunities, such as grants, institutional funding, to support the activities and events. Any funds received by the SIG will be managed transparently by the relevant institutional policies and procedures.

## MECHANISMS:

- Update INHED IPL SIG webpage.
- Update INHED IPL SIG mailing list.
- Host online Community of Practice meeting three times per year.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING:

The IPL SIG will report to the INHED Executive Committee annually detailing SIG activities and meetings, membership engagement and feedback, outputs produced and any relevant impact.

## REVIEW DEVELOPMENT:

These terms of reference will be reviewed annually with the next review date being **XX/YY/2027**.

## Appendix 2: Terms of Reference 18/6/2026 (Draft 2)

### Special Interest Group on Planetary Health in Health Professions Education.

#### Irish Network of Healthcare Educators (INHED)

##### Background:

Climate change is a major and escalating threat to global health. Healthcare professionals play a critical role in both responding to its health impacts through adaptation and in mitigation efforts that reduce future harm. At the same time, health systems have a substantial environmental footprint and contribute significantly to environmental degradation, requiring healthcare professionals to be aware of the environmental impact of healthcare delivery and their responsibility in supporting more sustainable practice.

Across health professions education, there is growing interest in planetary health and sustainability, with many educators and clinicians independently developing and delivering teaching in this area. However, this work is often undertaken in isolation. A collaborative Special Interest Group would address this gap by providing a forum for knowledge sharing among health professionals engaged in planetary health education. It would facilitate the exchange of best practice, curricula, teaching resources, and assessment approaches, enabling a more efficient use of time and expertise. In addition, it would support peer learning and interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthening the quality and consistency of educational approaches across institutions. Overall, this would help strengthen existing efforts and support the development of more coherent and effective planetary health education in health professions training.

##### Purpose of the SIG:

The purpose of this Special Interest Group is to foster collaboration, sharing of ideas, and research and scholarship on embedding climate change and sustainability into health professions education in Ireland. It aims to support the education of healthcare professionals so they can practise sustainably, educate and empower patients about the health co-benefits of climate action and advocate for sustainable and climate-resilient healthcare systems.

##### Objectives:

To establish and sustain an interdisciplinary network of educators, clinicians, and researchers focused on climate change, planetary health, and sustainability in health professions education on the island of Ireland.

To facilitate the sharing and dissemination of research, scholarship, and good practice in planetary health within health professions education.

To support the translation of learning into practice by empowering healthcare professionals to integrate sustainability into clinical practice, communicate the health co-benefits of climate action to patients and communities, and engage in advocacy for sustainable healthcare systems.

##### Membership:

Membership of the Special Interest Group (SIG) will be open to members of INHED with an interest in climate change and sustainability in health and social care education and practice.

The SIG will actively encourage participation from a broad and interdisciplinary membership across the island of Ireland, including educators, researchers, clinicians, and students from all health and social care professions. Members will be drawn from a range of settings, including

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higher education institutions, clinical practice environments, professional bodies, and community and public health organisations.

The SIG will promote an inclusive and collaborative approach, supporting engagement across career stages and disciplines, and fostering knowledge exchange, research collaboration, and the integration of sustainability principles into health professions education.

Membership will be free.

### **Governance:**

The SIG will be led by a Chair and Deputy Chair, each serving a term of office of two years. The Chair will provide overall leadership, coordinate activities, and act as the primary liaison with INHED, while the Deputy Chair will support the Chair and ensure continuity of leadership. The SIG will operate in alignment with the governance structures and strategic priorities of INHED, providing regular updates to the INHED Executive as required. An open and collaborative approach will be taken to leadership, with opportunities for SIG members to contribute to specific activities (e.g. events, research initiatives, or outputs) through working groups or project teams. (*Note 1 Elaine Burke - Is this an opportunity to trial an alternative model to the traditional hierarchical one? E.g., a flat structure which still needs someone to co-ordinate and report back to the INHED Executive, but without the formal leadership role of a Chair, and with a consensus-based approach to decision making*).

### **Decision Making, Monitoring and Reporting:**

Decision making within the SIG will be collaborative and member informed. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be responsible for facilitating discussions, with input sought from SIG members through meetings, consultations, and ongoing communication. Where possible, decisions will be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be determined by a majority vote of members present. All decisions will be made in a transparent manner and aligned with the purpose and objectives of the SIG and the broader objectives of INHED. Opportunities for member input will be embedded through open meetings and working groups, enabling broad participation in shaping SIG priorities and activities.

The SIG will maintain oversight of its activities through regular review of progress against its purpose and objectives. (*Note 2 Clare Conway - Acknowledge broader connectivity / HSE Climate Action Strategy context Shared goals - organisations such as Irish Doctors for the Environment / planetaryhealthalliance.org, Irish Pharmacy Union, ICGP etc.*). The Chair and Deputy Chair will coordinate monitoring of activities, with input from members and working groups. The SIG will provide updates to INHED as required and will report on activities and outputs through the INHED Annual Scientific Meeting or other agreed mechanisms. This will ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with INHED priorities.

### **Communication:**

The SIG will maintain clear, consistent, and inclusive communication with its membership and with INHED. Communication with members will take place primarily through email and INHED supported channels, with regular updates circulated on SIG activities, opportunities for engagement, and relevant developments in climate change and sustainability in health professions education.

The SIG will align its activities with the INHED Annual Scientific Meeting, using this forum to share progress, disseminate outputs, and engage with the wider INHED community. In addition, the SIG will utilise scheduled virtual meetings and webinars to support ongoing engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative working. Where appropriate, additional digital platforms may be used to support specific projects or working groups.

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Communication will be timely, accessible, and inclusive, ensuring engagement across a diverse, interdisciplinary membership throughout the island of Ireland.

### **Outputs:**

The SIG will aim to produce a range of outputs that support knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the integration of sustainability into health professions education. These may include knowledge-sharing activities, such as webinars and workshops, collaborative outputs, including research publications and multi-institutional projects, and contributions to INHED meetings and relevant national and international forums to disseminate its work.

The SIG will also support networking and capacity-building outputs, including cross-disciplinary networking events, communities of practice across education and clinical settings, mentorship or early-career engagement initiatives, and opportunities for interprofessional collaboration. (*Note 3 Elaine Burke - Is there also a role for the SIG in advocating for policy change in education, e.g., introduction of planetary health as a national graduate outcomes; advocacy for funding to support faculty development etc.?*).