







## FACILITATORS BIO BOOK



### **Bronwyn April**

## Session: Power Inequality and Decolonisation in Global Health

Bronwyn April is the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Comhlámh, with 20 years' experience in social justice across South Africa, Zambia, and Ireland. A racial justice trainer and migrant rights advocate, she promotes community connection, solidarity, and transformative action grounded in justice, equity, belonging, and freedom.





### **Caragh Munn**

Session: Institutional Health Partnerships: A Model for Quality of Partnership

Caragh Munn the Partnerships is IGHN Coordinator Programme with 10 years' experience in global and community health. She has worked on international partnerships in Ethiopia, supported HIV networks, and led programmes in Ireland bridging healthcare and marginalised communities. Caragh holds Master's degrees in Public Health and International Humanitarian Action.





## **Dr Charles O'Mahony**

#### Session: Global Mental Health Initiatives

Dr Charles O'Mahony is Associate Professor at the University of Galway's School of Law, specialising in disability and mental health law. His research focuses on legal reform aligned with the CRPD. He teaches across disciplines, has published widely, and previously served as Head of School and President of the Irish Association of Law Teachers.





## Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh

#### Session: Self-stigma and HIV in Global Health

Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh is Head of Programmes at Beyond Stigma with over 18 years of experience in gender equality, HIV, and self-stigma. She has led global programmes, managed donor grants, influenced policy, and worked with marginalised communities, guided by values of equality, inclusion, and respect to drive social transformation.







## Dr Desire Mpanje

#### Session: Practical Tips and Best Practices for Volunteering in Health Service Delivery

Dr Desire Mpanje is a Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UCD, specialising in resilience, humanitarian action, and global health equity. With extensive international experience and academic leadership, he lectures on public health and development, and champions anti-racism, inclusion, and sustainability in higher education through research, teaching, and institutional engagement.





### Eric O'Flynn

#### Session: Partnerships for Change: North/South Collaboration for Health Workers

Eric O'Flynn is Programme Director at RCSI Institute of Global Surgery, leading education, training, and advocacy to improve surgical care access in low-resource settings. With expertise in development and global health education, he has led award-winning international collaborations and focuses on open-access education and surgical workforce strengthening.







## **Eunice Tolu Phillip**

#### Session: Leadership Journey - An Inspiring Story in Global Health

Eunice is a Global Health PhD scholar at RCSI, focusing on community-based participatory research and capacity building around household air pollution in rural Malawi. A former nurse and MPH graduate from UCC, she is passionate about addressing health inequalities, climate justice, and mental health. Eunice actively contributes to student outreach and EDI initiatives in global health.





## **Fiona Lawless**

#### Session: Intersectionality and Leadership

Fiona is a Policy Adviser at Sightsavers and part of the Women in Global Health Ireland core team, championing gender equity and disability inclusion in global health. With a background in optometry, academia, and international policy, she brings passion for equity, feminist advocacy, and inclusive data. Outside work, she enjoys hiking, live music, and reading.





## Frederique Vallières

#### Session: Research and Health Systems Strengthening

Dr Vallières is Associate Professor and Director of the Trinity Centre for Global Health at Trinity College Dublin. Her participatory research focuses on strengthening mental health systems in response to trauma. She leads major international projects, including with the IFRC and WHO, and has received funding from global bodies to advance mental health in humanitarian contexts.





### **James Swarray**

#### Session: Delivering Health Programmes in Low-Resource Settings

James Swarray, from Sierra Leone, has over a decade of experience in RMNCAH, WASH, SBC, and emergency response. As a former GOAL Sierra Leone health lead, he provided strategic guidance to national health programmes. Now pursuing an MSc in International Healthcare in Ireland, he aims to advance health systems across the Global South.





### **Joe Gallagher**

#### Session: Case Study of Successful Digital Health Intervention

Dr Joe Gallagher is a General Practitioner engaged in clinical practice, research, and education, with a focus on cardiovascular disease and global health. He is the Clinical Director of the gHealth Research Group and Clinical Professor at University College Dublin. Since 2010, he has practised at the Palms Surgery in Gorey, Co. Wexford. He has led global health projects in Malawi, improving outcomes through education and primary care for NCDs and childhood illness.



Karl Conyard



#### Session: Educating Tomorrow's Health Leaders: Young Professionals' role in Shaping the Public Health Curriculum

Karl F. Conyard is the Core Curriculum Programme ASPHER Fellow at UCD School of Public Health. He co-developed the first edition of the ASPHER Core Curriculum for Public Health and is working on the second edition. With a background in epidemiology, public health, and nursing, Karl is a fellow of multiple esteemed societies.







### **Marie Hallissey**

#### Session: Health Needs Assessment

Marie Hallissey is a Global Health Advisor with GOAL and a public health specialist with over 30 years of experience in international development and humanitarian health. Based for 18 years in Southern Africa, she brings expertise in health systems strengthening, resilience, and emergency response. She supports GOAL programmes across Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and holds an MPH from the University of Pretoria.





## Dr. Meg Ryan

#### Session: Global Sexual and Reproductive Health: Clinical and Moral Dilemmas

Dr. Meg Ryan (she/her) is Assistant Professor in Global Health and Director of the MSc in Global Mental Health. Her research focuses on reproductive justice, gender-based violence, and LGBTQIA+ healthcare. She leads projects with the HSE, IPPF, and Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, advancing understanding of reproductive violence and coercion in global and Irish contexts.





## **Dr. Nadine Ferris France**

#### Session: Introduction to Global Health in the Context of a Changing Landscapes

Nadine Ferris France is Executive Director of the Irish Global Health Network. With over 20 years' experience in gender, HIV, and global health, she has worked with WHO, co-founded HDN, and advises global HIV and TB networks. She is especially passionate about addressing selfstigma and gender-based violence. Nadine holds an MSc in Global Health from Trinity College Dublin.





## **Muhammad Umair**

#### Session: Sustainability in Global Surgery

Mr. Muhammad Umair is a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore with a focus on IBD and GI Oncology. He leads national surgical programmes, advances sustainable healthcare, and mentors future surgical leaders through European networks. A Fellow of RCSI and other prestigious bodies, he integrates personalised care, research, and sustainability in modern surgical practice.





## Niall Roche

#### Session: Environmental Health including WASH

Niall has over 36 years of experience in Environmental Health, with 30 years focused on humanitarian and development work across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Specialising in WaSH, he has worked with NGOs, UNICEF, and Irish Aid. He also teaches Global and Public Health at leading universities including TCD, UCD, RCSI, and Copenhagen.





## **Dr. Robbie Lawlor**

#### Session: The Power of Advocacy in Global Health

Lawlor is a dedicated health equity advocate with over a decade's experience as educator, communicator, researcher, and grassroots activist focused on HIV/sexual health and medicine access. Co-founder of Access to Medicine Ireland, he's a member of the European AIDS Treatment Group and UNITAID Communities Delegation. He co-hosts the PozVibe Podcast and recently earned a PhD from Dublin City University on HIV/Hep C activism in Ukraine (graduation pending).





### Sive Bresnihan

#### Session: Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness

Sive Bresnihan is Education and Training Coordinator at Comhlámh, specializing in non-formal education and intercultural awareness. She has worked on development programmes across Africa and holds an MA in International Development Studies and an MEd in Adult Education. Sive serves on several boards and training panels, promoting deep engagement with sustainability, resilience, and ethical communication.



## Walaa AlAbssi



Session: Educating Tomorrow's Health Leaders: Young Professionals' role in Shaping the Public Health Curriculum

Walaa AlAbssi is a public health professional at Beyond Stigma with a background in dentistry and an MPH from UCD. She focuses on mental health, stigma, and inclusive education in humanitarian settings. Passionate about youth leadership, she champions participatory approaches that elevate emerging voices in global health policy and learning.

