

## MOIC Update 2021

This year has been a challenge for all staff working in Health and Social care. Despite the challenges, the team at MOIC have continued to work with colleagues in Northern Ireland, across Europe and beyond to promote the safe and effective use of medicines. This update will give a flavour of some of the activities of staff at MOIC during 2021.

### New Staff

This year our iSIMPATHEY Pharmacists Joanne Brown, Oonagh McCourt and Ciara McGread joined the MOIC team.

We also welcomed Katherine O'Neill as a Senior Research and Innovation Programme Manager.



### iSimpathy Update

Medication reviews began in January 2021 for patients admitted to Antrim Area Hospital (NHSCT).

To date over 850 reviews have taken place achieving significant improvement in patient outcomes. Patients are at the heart of these reviews, with what matters to them being central.

Feedback from both patients and hospital staff has proven to be extremely positive and we look forward to continuing this service next year.

### MOIC Stats!

- **8** papers published
- **2** editorials published
- **20** conferences presentations
- **4** new staff
- **1** set of new offices

## MOIC paper published – Consultant Respiratory Pharmacist

MOIC are proud to be working with consultant respiratory pharmacist, Carine Gormely, to improve medicines optimisation in people with respiratory conditions across Northern Ireland.

In October our paper was published that outlines some of the clinical and economic factors

associated with the decisions to invest in the consultant pharmacist model of care in Northern Ireland.

<https://www.mdpi.com/2226-4787/9/4/177>

## SHAPES Update - Smart and Healthy Ageing

SHAPES is a large European project working with 36 partners. Planning for the SHAPES pilot was completed in January (Phase 1). Mock-up presentations of the design of the SHAPES app were then presented to service users, healthcare professionals and community support services and received valuable feedback in April/May (Phase 2). This work was presented at the

North American Conference on Integrated Care (Oct 2021). Hands on testing of the SHAPES app with service users in the NHSCT has recently been completed (Oct/Nov). This has been invaluable for the final stages of development of the app before we move on to real-world testing and start of the pilot in 2022. Take a look at the SHAPES app.



## Vaccinating the Nation

Once Northern Ireland reached over a million people receiving their first COVID-19 vaccine dose, MOIC looked closely at the roll out of the programme. We followed the pharmacy response to the COVID-19 pandemic and spent time talking to pharmacy professionals across Northern Ireland about their roles in the vaccine roll-out.



The piece looked in depth at the challenges they faced and what they learned when tasked with vaccinating the region.

## Adept Fellow

Northern Health Trust recently welcomed its first ADEPT Fellow (Achieve Develop Explore Programme for Trainees). Therese McCartney, a Specialist Registrar in Medical Oncology has been appointed to the NHSCT.



## PPE contract with Denroy story

Earlier this year Economy Minister Diane Dodds and Health Minister Robin Swann visited Denroy in Bangor to welcome the creation of 130 jobs and a £19.5million PPE contract with Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland (HSCNI). Director of MOIC Professor Mike Scott also attended to represent MOIC's involvement in the project. MOIC worked alongside colleagues from BSO Pals and Infection Prevention Control to ensure that the masks created by Denroy met the needs of the Health service



## Funding Update

Throughout the year, staff at MOIC have collaborated with a range of partners to apply for funding for new projects.

We worked with teams from across Europe in order to submit a bid for Horizon Europe funding. If successful, the funding will support the development of education and training in medicines safety.

An application has been made to the NIHR for phase 2 of the NIMRAD research. This work is aiming to link a number of existing data sets to prescribing information. Then by using mathematical modelling, improvements in care for those with long term conditions can be achieved.

We are involved in applications for Health Technology Assessment, medicines safety and respiratory care that were submitted for shared island funding

Finally, a pre-project application to the Northern Ireland Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) was successful. This connected health research project involves collaboration with industrial (AstraZeneca, Healthcare Analytics), healthcare (MOIC, SHSCT) and academic (CHIC in UU) partners. This will directly help patients in Northern Ireland suffering from Type 2 Diabetes and Heart Failure

## Sharing Knowledge

Staff from MOIC, Northern Trust Pharmacy and Microbiology have been working with Sonja Guntschnig from Austria. Sonja first visited NHSCT under the hosting programme in 2019. She is now developing antimicrobial stewardship programmes within her hospital which could potentially be scaled within her region. Linked to this, she is undertaking a PhD under the supervision and mentorship of Ulster University and MOIC.

MOIC & Pharmacy teams in Northern Trust also worked with Ulster University to secure approval for a Pharmacy Masters student from Misr University for Science and Technology (MUST) in Egypt. The project will evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on antimicrobial prescribing and resistance patterns in secondary care and commenced in April 2021. Data collection will take place across the Antrim and Causeway sites.

Professor Mike Scott is jointly supervising a new PhD student based at the University of Tartu in Estonia. During her studies, Anita Tuula will be examining the area of medicines use reviews with a focus on older people and polypharmacy.