

Date: Friday the 20th May 2022

Location: Central Quad, TU Dublin Grangegorman campus.

Format Face to Face (F2F) seminar and discussion workshop with invited guest speakers.

Event schedule:

10.00 – 10.15: Welcome and Overview of SURE Network activities, Dr Therese Montgomery (SURE Network chair, ATU)

10.15 – 11.00: *The impact of undergraduate research on student opportunities and futures*, Professor Paul Taylor, University of Leeds.

11.00-11.15: Tea and Coffee

11.15 – 12.00: *Creation and organisation of the annual International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) – tales from the front line!* Caroline Gibson and Emma Barker, University of Warwick

12.00 – 12.10: *Integration of digital technologies into undergraduate conferencing;* Dr. Anne Maire O'Brien (TUS-MMW).

12:10– 12.25: SUREbyts – a tool for early research engagement in the undergraduate curriculum; Dr. Ciarán O'Leary (TuDublin).

12.25 – 12.30: SURE-J, Irelands first undergraduate research journal, Dr. Anne Friel (TUS-MMW).

12.30 – 13.30: Discussion and networking lunch

Target Audience: Academics and researchers committed to the enhancement of undergraduate engagement with scientific research and communication at third level.

Seminar descriptor: As we face increasing levels of global challenge, there is need to engage our undergraduate students in critical thinking, problem solving and scientific research throughout their third Level education, now more than ever. One tool of engagement, exercised successfully by the SURE Network in Ireland and both the University of Leeds and Warwick University in the UK, is undergraduate research conferencing. However, the onslaught of Covid-19 meant the rapid transitioning of most undergraduate conferences from a Face to Face (F2F) to online format in 2020 and 2021. Having benefited from the rapid evolution of digital tools and conferencing technologies during the Covid period, the question now arises as to which format is better for student engagement, experience and learning post Covid-19 - F2F or online? To help answer this question Professor Paul Taylor, Pro-Dean of Student Engagement in the University of Leeds, will share his experiences regarding the impact of undergraduate research engagement on the overall student experience and future opportunities. Emma Barker and Caroline Gibson of the University of Warwick will speak of their experience in the creation and organisation of the annual International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR). Dr. Ciarán O'Leary, Head of Learning Development with TU-Dublin will speak as to the creation and utility of SUREbyts, an early engagement research tool for third level students, whilst Dr. AnneMaire O'Brien of TUS-MWW will describe how digital technologies, such as digital badges and team based learning are now interwoven into the annual SURE Network undergraduate conference model. Lastly Dr. Anne Friel, editor of SURE-J, Irelands first undergraduate research journal, will update us on how to get that research published!

Invited guest speakers:

1. **Professor Paul Taylor**, Professor of chemical education and Dean for student education, University of Leeds, conducts research on research-based learning and the impact of undergraduate research initiatives and leadership in Higher Education. Paul is also involved with the annual **British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR)**.
2. **Emma Barker** is Journal and Conferences Manager and **Caroline Gibson** is Deputy Director in the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL), University of Warwick. They created the **International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR)** in conjunction with Monash University, Australia and coordinate the event each year.
3. **Dr Anne Marie O'Brien** is a lecturer in Technological University Shannon (TUS) and the chair of the European Team-Based Learning collaborative (**ETBLC**) Which is affiliated with the TBLC. She is a certificated TBL practitioner and is on her way to becoming a certified TBL trainer consultant. She is also chair of the TUS and SURE network digital badge committee.
4. **Dr. Ciarán O'Leary** is the Head of Learning Development, College of Sciences and Health, TU Dublin and former chair of the SURE Network from its origin in 2016 to May 2021. Dr. O'Leary is the project lead on the successful SUREByts initiative for early research engagement through the SURE Network.
5. **Dr. Anne Friel** is a lecturer in Technological University Shannon (TUS). Dr Friel joined TUS after several years working in Harvard University, Trinity College Dublin and the University of California, Los Angeles. An avid research publisher she is editor of SURE-J, Irelands first expert reviewed undergraduate research journal.

This event has been organised through The SURE Network, a community of academics formed in 2016 from seven different Higher Education institutes around Ireland, dedicated to the enhancement of research awareness, training, and excellence at undergraduate level.



Waterford Institute of Technology

