



**PPI** IGNITE  
NETWORK

# IMPACT CASE STUDY



## Flying the Irish flag abroad: the international reach of the PPI Ignite Network

### Who was involved?

- 7 Lead Sites
- 10 National partners
- 2 Research funders

### Summary

People from outside of Ireland are recognising that there is something different in the approach we are taking in Ireland to developing public and patient involvement (PPI) in research. Our approach is attracting attention from research funders, policymakers and individuals involved in PPI across the 4 nations of the UK, in Europe and North America. We cannot settle for the status quo. Building capacity for meaningful involvement (in the research process) of those individuals affected by research findings is what the PPI Ignite Network is all about. The approach we are taking will help establish Ireland as an international leader in PPI.

### Our work

Building strong and meaningful relationships between partners is a key element of delivering high quality PPI in research. This takes time. Likewise, achieving international

recognition for the approach being taken (in Ireland) to building capacity for high quality PPI doesn't happen overnight. In the first half of the funding cycle, our (internal) focus has been on establishing a strong network, giving Lead Sites and Partners an opportunity to build relationships and identify opportunities for synergy. As we see Network outputs and outcomes being achieved, we are now developing an external focus and seeing international reach begin to happen through the following activities:

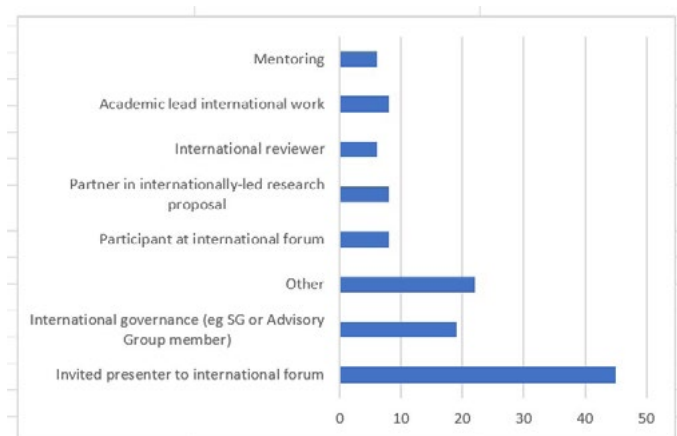
- There is heightened engagement with international organisations including presentations at conferences, participation in governance groups for international research studies and influence on advancement around PPI thinking
- Growing familiarity with the Network among PPI experts on our External Advisory Board has led to opportunities for the Network to increase its international profile
- The Network Lead and National Office Programme Manager sit on the 5 Nations Group co-ordinated and convened by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) creating strong connections with PPI policymakers across the UK



- The Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy (DDEA), a major funder of diabetes research in Denmark, has invited the Network to help them incorporate user involvement into their organisational strategy

## Our impact

In this section we provide some examples of Network activity that will increase the international recognition and standing of the Network.



International activities of PPI Ignite Network team members

**Contribution to Research:** international activity of Network members represent both “outreach”, i.e., members of the Network travelling to or participating in events organised outside of Ireland (e.g., conferences, research governance groups, etc) and “inreach”, i.e., international participants joining events co-ordinated through the Network (e.g., webinars and PPI Festival events). Examples of activities with an international focus include:

- The PPI Ignite Network @ DCU and the national office organised webinar series on [PPI involving Children and Young People](#). These CYP webinars attracted attendees from outside of Ireland
- The PPI Ignite Values and Principles Framework was adopted by [R2D2-MH, a 5-year EU-funded project](#) involving 26 partners that aims to understand risk and resilience factors associated with mental health in the context of developmental diversity. The Framework is guiding the work on co-creation of resources.
- The [CODIAC Conference](#), held in Copenhagen in 2021, was designed to involve people living with diabetes in diabetes prevention, care and research. CODIAC-2 (planned for Spring 2024) will be entirely user-led and will showcase the PPI Ignite Network as an exemplar of high-quality user involvement.
- [External Advisory Board](#): Members of our EAB are thought leaders in PPI and participatory methods from around the world. Through their familiarity with our work, the PPI Ignite Network is gaining exposure to a wider international audience with the potential to influence approaches to (for example) achieving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in a National Research Network

“The PPI Ignite Network is already proving to be influential internationally. This is very impressive, given the size of the project and its relative youth in the context of work to promote involvement in research. One of the things that makes PPI Ignite Network unique is its commitment to sharing learning in an open and transparent way. There is huge potential for others to learn from the work of PPI Ignite, to build on it, and then to share their learning so that the work in Ireland can continue to develop.”

**Bec Hanley, independent PPI consultant and member of the Network’s EAB**

- **Five Nations Group:** This group amounts to a Think Tank and network for individuals with responsibility for driving PPI across Ireland and the 4 nations of the UK. The PPI Ignite Network has been an active voice in the 5 Nations Group contributing (in particular) to the Payments Sub-Group dealing with how to properly recognise the contribution of members of the public and patients to research activity.

- **DDEA:** the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy is a major funder of diabetes research in Denmark. The DDEA has reached out to the PPI Ignite Network to help with developing an approach to PPI methods within their organisation.

“Thanks to the network approach, Ireland appears to be at the forefront of PPI activities. You have something very special going on there, and it is an outstanding model for others to learn from.”

**Dr Gretchen Repasky, Education & Networking Manager, Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy**



Stay tuned for National PPI Festival 2023!

For more information: [www.ppinetwork.ie](http://www.ppinetwork.ie)