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# Wonca

WORLD RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

LIMERICK IRELAND 2022

*Improving Health, Empowering Communities*

17 - 20 JUNE 2022

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## Final countdown: what you need to know

We are delighted to have well over 500 confirmed participants and as we are now in the final days of preparation, below is some information that may be useful to you.

**COVID-19:** Current public health advice and government guidelines are assessed by the University on a weekly basis and if there is any change to the requirements in UL, we will communicate this as soon as possible.



The University's general approach for minimising the spread of COVID-19 remains unchanged. COVID-19 is still a highly transmissible virus and the standard mitigation measures below are a proven way to minimise infections. You should:

- Not attend if you are feeling unwell or displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Wash your hands properly and often.
- Observe the yellow COVID-19 signage on campus.
- Use natural ventilation (open windows) whenever possible.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 you are asked to notify us at [registrationWRHC2022@ul.ie](mailto:registrationWRHC2022@ul.ie) as soon as possible with the date you were last on campus and when you were diagnosed.

**Conference app:** over the coming days, we will share the link to our official mobile application which will allow delegates to access the full schedule, venues, speaker information, exhibitors, and CPD information. Keep an eye on our social media for this also.

## Rural GP shortages highlighted by conference organiser



With only days to go until #RuralWONCA22 kicks off, Professor Liam Glynn (Chair, Conference Organising Committee) featured in an article in *The Clare Champion* highlighting the issues facing rural general practice.

Professor Glynn suggests that a package of sustainable financial and non-financial incentives for health workers practicing in remote rural areas needs to be introduced to tackle the GP shortage.

Professor Glynn has been a rural GP in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare for over 23 years. The need for more family doctors is acutely felt in Clare amid confirmation that the HSE received no applications for a retiring GP's medical card patients panel, despite advertisements on three occasions prior to his retirement at the beginning of March.

With the help of other rural GPs, Professor Glynn co-founded the "No Doctor No Village" advocacy campaign, which electrified Irish politics during the 2016 General Election.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

## Our "green agenda"



We're taking our environmental commitments seriously, that's why (in as much as possible), we will be a paperless conference with most of the information disseminated via the app rather than on printed paper. We are delighted to host you on the University of Limerick's green parkland campus, which is designated a "Green Flag" institution, accredited for its work done on environmental sustainability.

UL currently holds Green Flag accreditation for waste management, green ICT, biodiversity, travel and transport and energy/sustainable development. It is possible to walk or cycle to the city centre using a purpose-built riverside trail and there are also frequent public transport options via bus.

In keeping with our "green" theme, two conference delegates from the University of St Andrew's, Scotland plan on cycling to the event (with the aid of some public transport options along the way!). Dr. Alice Scriven and Dr. Gordon Smith (Generalist Clinical Mentors) plan on using the bicycle as their preferred mode of transport to Limerick. Make sure to follow us on social media as we track their progress!

## Join the conversation: social media at the conference

As we get underway in a week's time, we'd love to hear from you as the conference progresses - use the hashtag #RuralWONCA22 to join the conversation on social media and make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn with the handle @RuralWONCA2022. Even better, tag us in photos/videos. We will also be live-tweeting the proceedings using the hashtag above so you don't miss out!

There will be a prize for the best social media post so get posting/tweeting/gramming etc.!

Remember to download the conference app also, which has all the information you need to find your way around.



KEEP IN TOUCH



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