

Healthcare Science week

Northern Ireland

Professor Cathal Breen



Northern Ireland has championed Healthcare Science workforce training for over 30 years, officially being the first university education program (1996) across the UK to formally educate an innovative and dynamic workforce. Recently, a group of Physiologists across cardiac, respiratory and neurophysiology specialisms united to represent Northern Ireland through the Academy of Healthcare Science forum.

We represent highly skilled and vastly experienced clinicians within our specialism of practice, many of us lead clinical departments, provided nuanced therapy during the Covid-19 pandemic and impact education and practice through our academic and research outputs. Our main objectives are to promote focus on the workforce in Northern Ireland and allow us to avail of similar opportunities to those already available to our counterparts in the other UK regions.

Our main agenda is to establish equitable opportunities for practitioners to avail of funding to apply to the Scientist Training Programme (STP) and Higher Specialist Training Programme (HSST) enabling autonomous and consultant role development. With wide acceptance that our workforce impact underpins 80% of all diagnoses across the NHS, it is clear that efficiencies to our health service can be realised by supporting this workforce.

We look forward to establishing links with the AHCS, lobbying our Chief Scientific Advisor and disseminating our impactful research.

Follow our members during Healthcare Science Week 2023 via social media.

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