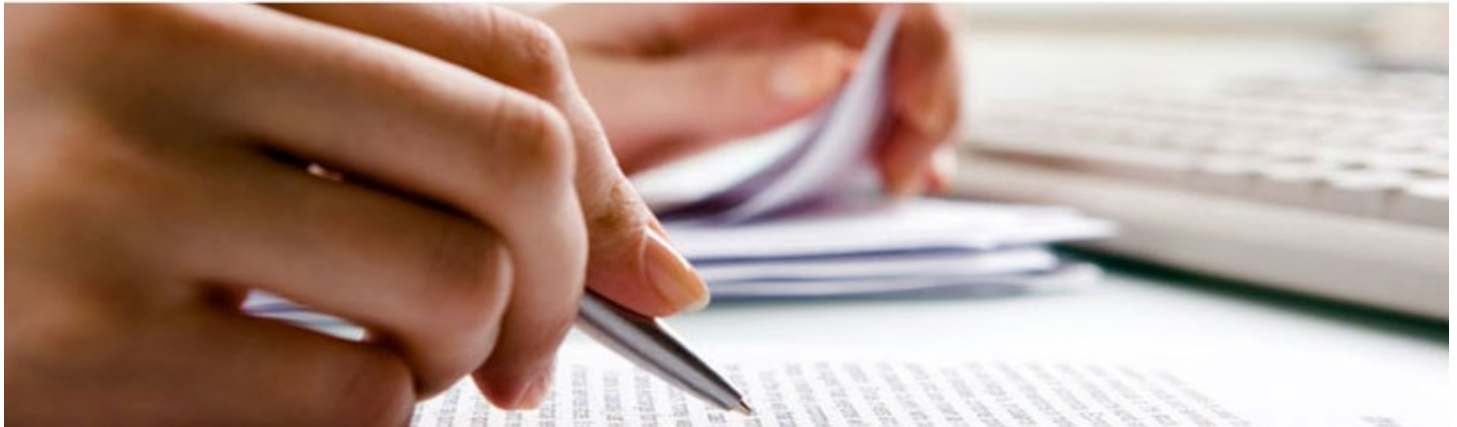




# FOUNDATION MATTERS

THE SAINT JOHN OF GOD RESEARCH FOUNDATION BULLETIN



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## Welcome by Dr Lesley O'Hara

I am delighted to be rejoin the Research Foundation team after my eight month maternity leave. It is my pleasure to welcome our new colleagues, Louise Syms (Administrative Assistant), Kalianee Boodoo (Data Scientist) and Justin Smyth (Head of

Library Services). Our research environment is changing as we strive to improve our processes. We have two reviews running concurrently, one of our research governance framework, and the other of our research approval process. We are exploring the possibility of building a repository for SJOG research and we are updating our research registration database. We hope that these activities will lead to an enhanced research environment and we will keep our research community informed of our progress.



## Landmark Irish study on psychosis treatment published in the American Journal of Psychiatry

This month, researchers in DETECT and RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences published a ground breaking article in the American Journal of Psychiatry. The study found that people with longer delays in accessing treatment for psychosis experienced worse outcomes up to 20 years later in terms of their symptoms (such as hallucinations and social withdrawal), functioning (such as employment status), and quality of life (such as having satisfying interpersonal relationships). While associations between delayed treatment and worse long-term outcome varied depending on what outcome was measured, they were sustained for decades in a way that could not be explained by other factors. While the importance of early detection and treatment for physical health conditions, such as cancer and heart disease, is now seen as “conventional wisdom”, this study indicates that this is also the case for psychosis.

**Dr Donal O'Keefe**, research psychologist at DETECT and lead author, commented: "We found that a longer delay between when a person first experiences psychosis and is treated influences the extent of their recovery in the short, medium, and long term. While psychosis typically occurs in early adulthood, it can also occur at any stage in a person's life. Therefore, everyone needs to be aware of how to identify it."

**Professor Mary Clarke**, consultant psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Research, University College Dublin, and senior author on the paper, said: "The results of this study highlight the importance of ensuring that those with a diagnosis of psychosis have timely access to evidence-based treatments. The findings from this study also underscore the importance of investing in research that aims to improve the outcome of psychotic illnesses."

**Professor John Waddington**, Emeritus Professor at RCSI and senior author on the paper, commented: "That psychotic illness shows characteristics similar to other, physical illnesses is important evidence for the value of early intervention and treatment of psychotic symptoms to improve long-term outcome. Like some physical symptoms, initial psychological symptoms can be subtle and of uncertain significance. However, it is always better that such concerns are discussed with someone such as one's GP, rather than neglected and potentially leading to more serious illness."

The research was supported by the Saint John of God Research Foundation CLG through funding from the Health Research Board, Ireland and the Stanley Medical Research Institute, USA.

<https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/news-and-events/news/news-article/2022/04/delay-in-psychosis-treatment-worsens-quality-of-life-for-decades>

## Research News:

**Dr. Dónal O’Keeffe**

**The Research Seminar Series**



We would like to wish **Dr. Dónal O’Keeffe**, Research Psychologist at DETECT, all the very best in his new role as Recovery Co-ordinator for CHO6 with Mental Health Ireland. Dr O’Keeffe has been an integral part of research within SJOG for the past 16 years, having established the SOURCE service user research committee in Cluain Mhuire, trained clinicians in research methods in the SJOG Research Department, and helped design and implement the WRAP and peer support clinical programme in the SJOG Hospital. Since 2014, he has worked as a key member of the DETECT research team publishing important findings on psychiatric stigma, mental health service use experiences, and the meaning of and influences on recovery in psychosis. Dónal will be missed from our research community but we look forward to collaborations with him in his new role.

The Spring Research Seminar Series drawing to a close this month covered topics

including:

- Getting Started in Research
- Conducting a Literature Review
- Developing a Clinical Research Question
- Research and Ethics- Approval for your study
  - Quantitative Design & Methods
    - Conducting an Audit
    - SPSS - An Introduction
  - Qualitative Design & Methods
- Writing a Research Grant Proposal
  - Getting Published

### **Who should attend seminars?**

Any member of staff within Saint John of God Hospitaller Services who is engaged in research or simply interested in getting involved in research.

Each half day seminar takes place online through ZOOM Tuesdays 10.00 am to 12.00pm and the same seminar is repeated on Thursdays from 2 to 4pm, allowing staff flexibility in attending.

**We want to hear your views on FUTURE seminars**

**Please take our Short SJOG lime survey :**

<https://sjog1.limequery.com/978189?lang=en>

(Ctrl and click) or let us know your views by email: [researchadmin@sjog.ie](mailto:researchadmin@sjog.ie)

## Research Governance Framework Update

The Chair of the Board of the Saint John of God Research Foundation has asked me to inform our research community of changes to the research governance framework, which have been unanimously approved by the Board. While updating the research governance framework document may take some time, I want to let you know that these changes immediately apply. The changes are detailed below:

1. We will adopt the definition of 'health research' as described in the Health Research Regulations
2. We have removed the requirement for REC approval for the publication or presentation of research in the name of, or, with reference to Saint John of God Hospitaller Services Group.
3. Ethics approval for the publication of audits is not required but the REC approval route is still available to anyone who may wish to avail of it
4. All research involving human participants in their capacity as service users, caregivers or staff of SJOG HSG requires ethics approval through the SJOG REC pathway
5. Where the research does not use data from SJOG HSG, the researcher may choose to either seek ethics approval for their project through the SJOG REC pathway or through another appropriate REC.
6. Research using publicly available data, such as systematic reviews or literature reviews, does not fall under the research governance framework.
7. Studies using research databases e.g. TILDA or clinical registers e.g. National Cancer Registry must adhere to the governance requirements and REC approval pathway of the entity which controls the data. Where such data come from another country e.g. national healthcare registries in Nordic countries, it would usually be more appropriate that ethics approval comes from a relevant REC in that country (in accordance with the relevant legislative framework), rather than the SJOG REC.
8. A Principal Investigator who is a staff member of SJOG HSG is responsible for ensuring that ethics approval is obtained from the relevant research ethics committee
9. The scope of the Research Governance Framework does not extend to clinical audits, standard service evaluations, public health work, or advanced health analytics carried out by Saint John of God HSG for the purpose of discharging its legal obligations

The review of our research governance framework continues and more changes are likely. If you have any queries relating to changes to research governance please contact me, [Lesley.ohara@sjog.ie](mailto:Lesley.ohara@sjog.ie) and I will do my best to assist.

# Predatory Journals

## Things to be aware of with Open Access publishing

Open Access (OA) publishing is growing in importance in the research and scholarly publishing landscape. This is true across almost all disciplines, and it raises important questions for anybody involved in research. With the emergence in the last ten years of OA, a new lexicon of publishing and copyright norms now regularly feature in the discussions researchers must have when considering how to give their work the best chance of making an impact.

### PREDATORY PUBLISHING



One of these is the phenomenon of so-called predatory journals. Because they are not usually associated with subscription models and packages or databases sold by publishers to universities and other institutions, OA journals, especially if they do not have budgetary support from a given institution, sometimes need to raise necessary funds by other means. The commonest ways of doing this are known as Article Processing Charges (APCs). It is not unusual to encounter a variety of opinions among

librarians and researchers about APCs – some believe they are tantamount to vanity publishing, others believe that they are an indispensable part of the OA landscape, and that managed well, they confer security, support and authority on published research.

This latter view is one we share at Saint John of God Library. There are however caveats that are worth mentioning, and it is here that the question of predatory journals must be addressed. APCs should ideally entitle the researcher to a supported and accessible peer review process, freedom to contact and to reach out to the journal's editorial board, as well as the knowledge that this board and the advisory board are people chosen for their expertise in a given research area. Journals that charge APCs without in return offering these rigorous supports may be considered predatory. Beall's list is a common reference point to consult if you are in doubt, conversely, a hallmark of reliable and trustworthy OA journals is their presence on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The DOAJ maintains a detailed suite of criteria which must be met by any journal wishing to be listed on it, and these include but are not confined to those mentioned above relating to peer review and other strictures and supports.

**By Justin Smyth, Head of Library Services**

**Email:** [justin.smyth@sjog.ie](mailto:justin.smyth@sjog.ie)

# Library Services

## Literature Reviews at Saint John of God Library

For any researcher, surveying the literature in a given field can be a challenge, especially given time constraints. There are many ways in which the Library can assist and collaborate with researchers in this undertaking.

The task of surveying, assessing and summarising existing research is normally known as 'literature review', 'systematic review' or 'scoping review'. These terms are not entirely interchangeable, and nor are the definitions themselves entirely rigid. It is perhaps helpful to think of 'literature review' as a generic or 'umbrella' term for the practice of reading and synthesising existing published research. The distinction between 'systematic reviews' and 'scoping reviews' is one of ambit, but there is significant overlap between the two. Both involve evidence synthesis, but where systematic reviews are generally considered to be confined to answering one or a small number of particular questions, often in an attempt to provide an evidence base for policy implementation or clinical practice, scoping reviews - as the name suggests - tend to be broader in scope and are intended to garner an overall picture of a given research area in the literature, sometimes with a view to laying the groundwork for a systematic review. To put it another way, scoping reviews may be more likely to

address types of evidence rather than evidence itself, or to identify overarching gaps in the existing knowledge.

The period of the Covid-19 pandemic witnessed an increase in the rise of another type of literature review in the field of medicine, namely a 'rapid review', essentially a condensed systematic review intended to determine the efficacy of a particular intervention, and characterised by a swift turnaround time.

The Library at Saint John of God operates as a key support to researchers carrying out these types of study. There are a number of stages in these types of review where the Library can and does become involved. Usually, an interview/discussion with the researcher - who may be either working alone or as part of a group - is the first point of contact, and the issues addressed in such meetings include (but are not confined to) search terms and search strategies, what literature has already been sourced, how to recognise published material which may appear to be directly relevant but may lie outside the remit of the research, a date range for viable research, and other delimiters which may need to be understood when handling different data types and research papers. Once these co-ordinates are established and agreed upon, the Library then undertakes a search to attempt to source other publications, articles or studies which

## Library Services / Data Science

may have been missed, and using Library resources – our own databases, networked document subscription services and inter-library loans - attempts are made to source material that may be otherwise inaccessible to the researcher(s). At Saint John of God Library and in the Research Foundation, research integrity is a core value, so the Librarian is also a key resource when it comes to issues such as referencing and advice on reference management software solutions .

For further information contact

**Justin Smyth, Head of Library Services**

**Phone:** 01 2771605 (Hospital Library)

**Phone:** 01 4999309 (Lucena Clinic Library)

**Email:** [justin.smyth@sjog.ie](mailto:justin.smyth@sjog.ie)



### What is Data Science?

Data science utilises advanced analytical techniques and scientific methods to extract valuable knowledge from data. In turn, the actionable insights generated from the data helps organisation in decision-making and strategic planning. Data Science is an interdisciplinary field that incorporates predictive analytics, artificial intelligence, image processing, natural language processing and so forth.

Data scientists apply Machine Learning algorithms to data and create AI models to perform tasks with minimal human intervention. Data science technologies can be applied to Big Data (*e.g. data from mobile devices, remote sensing, geolocation, multimedia devices, Internet of Things and many more*). A primary component of Big Data is the *Three-Vs* representing Volume, Variety and Velocity.

Data science techniques are used in several aspects of modern research for example enabling high-resolution genetic sequencing at massive scale, studying large texts with information about human behaviour and interactions, capturing sequential and spatial regularities among variables, and analysing hundreds of terabytes of raw images.

<https://sjogclg.sharepoint.com/SitePages/Data%20Science%20terms%20defined.aspx>

# New Data Protection Officer Announcement

## *New SJOG Community Services DPO*

Jade Van Standen is an experienced data protection consultant from data protection consultancy firm PrivacyEngine. Jade is currently engaged with SJOG Community Services as the Data Protection Officer and has extensive experience in providing consultancy support in the mental health and intellectual disability services sector. She has a broad knowledge of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the national data protection legislations, the e-Privacy Regulations, and the Health Research Regulations. She has assisted on a significant number of Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), highlighting best practice approaches to data protection and privacy related considerations. Jade has strong project management and communications skills due to her experienced advisory role in lawful basis allocation and assessment, policy review, and report assessment. Jade's educational expertise includes a Bachelor of Civil Law with French and a Masters in International Business Law. Jade has also completed Law Society of Ireland examinations and a Certificate in GDPR Compliance which contributes to her strong understanding of, and consultancy support on, the legal requirements imposed under the data protection laws.

## *New SJOG Hospital DPO*

Saint John of God Hospital have recently confirmed Pembroke Privacy as the Data Protection Officer for the Hospital.



### **Pembroke Privacy Ltd contact details:**

Kate Colleary, David Normoyle and Greta Dineen-Kelly

**Address:** 3-4 Upper Pembroke Street  
Dublin, D02 VN24

**E-mail:** [DPOHosp@sjog.ie](mailto:DPOHosp@sjog.ie)

**Tel:** +353 1 6392958

**Hours:** Mon – Fri 9:00am – 5:30pm



## Notices of Interest: Dates for your diary

### Grant Expression of interest:

May 2022

### 2022 Grant Call:

July 2022

### SJOG 450 Year Celebrations



## CONTACT DETAILS

### Research Foundation clg Team (<https://sjogresearchfoundation.ie>)

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#### Louise Syms, Administrative Assistant

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#### Kalianee Boodoo, Data Scientist

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### Library and Information Services ([www.library.sjog.ie](http://www.library.sjog.ie))

#### Justin Smyth, Head of Library Services

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### Research Department (<http://intranets/research3/>)

#### Dr Aine Kelly, Research Department Manager

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#### Peter Gallagher , Research & Privacy Officer

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