

Social Paper – Gillian O’Neill, PhD Candidate

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For details about the EU Horizon 2020 project CATCH (Cancer: Activating Technology for Connected Health), please see: www.catchitn.eu

Background

After completing an undergraduate degree and postgraduate MSc in Applied Psychology and Health Psychology in England, I went on to train as a Health Psychologist within Scotland’s national health service, based in NHS Tayside’s Older People’s Psychological Therapies Service. There I gained insight into the delivery and organisation of primary and secondary care for mental health and became interested in their applications to long-term conditions. Interested in applying psychological theory and research to novel ways of both improving healthcare systems, and individual wellbeing and self-management in long-term conditions, I decided to undertake a PhD at University College Dublin, Ireland, in the area of human computer interaction and wellbeing in people living with and beyond cancer. This industrial doctorate forms part of the EU Horizon 2020 project entitled ‘CATCH’ (Cancer: Activating Technology for Connected Health).

Current Research

My thesis is looking at how to design ehealth technologies to best support mental wellbeing in people living with and beyond cancer. With the diverse range and types of eHealth interventions for supporting the psychological wellbeing of people living with and beyond cancer, and the variety of research and design methods being applied to their development and evaluation, there is a need to establish a set of standardized practices and guidelines for their successful implementation.

My thesis will use user-centered design processes and a person-based approach to intervention development in order to: develop, test and propose a framework for the design of technologies supporting the mental wellbeing of breast cancer survivors; to provide recommendations for the involvement of users in the early design processes of technology development for mental wellbeing in cancer.

By attending the 4th Symposium on Computing and Mental Health, I would like to engage with this community and discuss research and best practices for understanding users and context of use for mental health digital support.

ACM Classification Keywords

J.4 Social and behavioural sciences, Social Paper, HCI