



THEME:

Health & Social Care

**FUNDING
(ERDF+MATCH):**

€10,601,181.20

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Health
Northern Ireland

Department of Health
Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Public Health Agency,
Northern Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Health Research Board,
Ireland

Start Date: 01/09/2016

End Date: 30/06/2023



[https://
research.hscni.net/
chitin](https://research.hscni.net/chitin)



@CHITINProject

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Funding Boost for Stroke Rehabilitation Research

The Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials in Ireland Network (CHITIN) is a unique partnership between the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland, who are working together to deliver 11 Healthcare Intervention Trials (HITs). The HITs will help to prevent and cure illness and promote improved health and well-being.

The REFLECTS (randomised controlled trial of mirror box therapy in upper limb rehabilitation with sub-acute stroke patients) project is just one of such interventions: investigating the effectiveness of mirror box therapy in improving movement of the arm with stroke survivors within three months of stroke onset.



At the end of March 2021, the project received some welcome news in the form of an additional €1.76m from the Health and Social Care Research and Development (HSC R&D) Division, Public Health Agency, to help to deliver a programme of specialist training and development activities to Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The REFLECTS study, led by Alison Porter-Armstrong at Ulster University, will deploy the additional funding to deliver a programme of specialist training and development from 2021 to 2023; specifically targeted to 1,500 Allied Health Professionals on a cross-border basis. This will include places on a range of post-graduate modules, as well as an annual stroke bootcamp, all of which will be provided at no cost to the AHP practitioner.

“At the core of the CHITIN ethos is enhanced opportunity of involvement in health intervention research and a sense of network identity, where multi-disciplinary trial delivery teams have formed a network wherein, mentoring, training and skills development is being supported. The Allied Health Professions have been pivotal in delivering CHITIN. The provision of additional funding dedicated to training and skills development, allows for expansion of network activity and will build capacity and capability, supporting continued and enhanced opportunity of involvement for the Allied Health Professions in health intervention research.”

CHITIN Programme Manager, Dr Rhonda Campbell

To read more about the REFLECTS trial click [HERE](#)