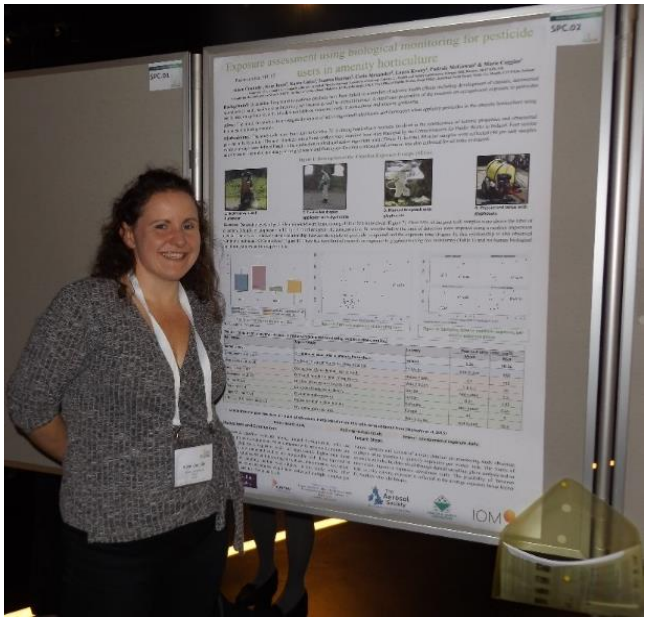
OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway

Ionad Aeráide agus Truaillíú Aeir
Centre for Climate & Air Pollution Studies
C-CAPS

EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST TRAVEL AWARD

PhD Candidate: Alison Connolly

a) Conference event:



The 2016 Annual International Society of Exposure Science (ISES) Meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 9-13 October 2016 whose objectives are to promote and advance exposure science. This includes the methods of data collection, taking measurements and developing exposure modelling tools. Exposure science is a complex interdisciplinary science between human populations, communities, ecosystems, chemical, biological, physical agents and non-chemical stressors and is a critical component for assessing and protecting human and environmental health.

The conference held 6 workshops, 4 keynote speakers, 9 parallel sessions per day with over 550 presentations given during the conference, 6 students and new researcher events and special events including the conference dinner and party, the women's networking event, the IT/Sensor and Exhibitor Fair, the ISES committee Fair and an excursion. This conference also held the first chapter of the European Strategy Workshop which was to develop a European exposure science community group to further enhance the research/progress in exposure science in Europe.

b) My participation at the event:

I attended the 'How to Write a Great Research Paper, and Get Published in a Top Journal' workshop for students and new researchers which was very beneficial as I am writing my first paper.

I presented a poster on my PhD research on occupational exposure to pesticides among horticulture and amenity gardeners. The study summarises the results from a biological monitoring survey involving horticulture workers using pesticides. The chemicals analysed were the pesticides of highest volume use among the horticultural sites, which were glyphosate and fluroxypyr. There were 80 urine samples collected in total, 40 pre exposure samples (before the work task begins) and 40 post exposure samples (samples taken within one hour of the work task completion) to determine the total body burden of common chemicals used in horticulture. Contextual information on each work task was also collected, to evaluate the potential factors that could contribute to exposure. I also presented an oral presentation as part of a symposium titled: Pesticide Exposure: Developing Monitoring, Methods and Modelling in Human Health Risk Assessments (Consumer and Worker Risk), which was a 15 minute presentation on the biological monitoring survey results previously mentioned.

While at the conference I participated in the student poster competition, I attended the student/new researcher breakfast workshop, the student/new researcher mixer as well as the excursion.

c) Benefit from attending the conference:

This was a large international conference specialising on exposure science with the highest attendance rate to date from more than 50 countries on six continents. The conference, that usually does not take place in Europe, was a great opportunity to meet international aerosol and exposure science experts. It gave me an opportunity to present my PhD work to an international audience, both in a poster presentation and an oral presentation. I also attended the first chapter on the European Strategy Workshop on exposure science and committed to be a part of this initiative. This conference was very beneficial for attending presentations on research that is being conducted in a similar area to mine, meeting experts in the field and seeking their advice and opinion on my research, developing new contacts that could potentially assist with my research project or become collaborators on future research projects.