

Workshop Summary

On the 29th October 2024, I successfully hosted a workshop titled “How to Engage Diverse Communities in Health Research: A Patients Perspective” at The University of Galway for the National PPI Festival 2024.

The purpose of the workshop was to highlight the critical importance of involving, engaging and empowering diverse communities to participate in health research. It focused on three sessions: Reducing misconceptions around engaging with minority groups within public and patient involvement groups; Understanding the effects of poor engagement with minority patient groups; and Exploring ways to engage and utilise tools to work with minority patient groups.

The event welcomed 24 participants, ranging from PhD students, researchers, academics, charities, engagement practitioners and PPI contributors.

Key highlights included the interactive sessions such as the group activities and discussions which helped attendees engage deeply with the content. Participants particularly appreciated the real-life case studies, practical exercises and open discussions.

The workshop concluded with a Q&A session, providing attendees with an opportunity to ask questions and gain further insights. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting the practical suggestions for engaging minority groups in research and the practicality of the toolkit and case examples. It was a valuable experience for all involved.

By Charlene Young
Workshop Facilitator