

[#SundayWiMIN23](#) Week 10: Dr Odharna Ní Dhomhnalláin

Dr. Odharna Ní Dhomhnalláin is a Specialist Registrar in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Lead NCHD at Galway University Hospital. She was the inaugural recipient of the McGinty Scholarship for Female Physicians and is a recent graduate of the MBA Programme at University of Galway.

Dr. Ní Dhomhnalláin is a native of Ennistymon, Co. Clare, with proud roots in Rosmuc, Co. na Gaillimhe. She attended Scoil Mhuire, Ennistymon, where she was fortunate to be surrounded by formidable women, both staff and student alike. She proceeded to study Medicine at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in 2017 with both a medical degree and an Intercalated Masters in Biomedical Sciences.

She was part of the inaugural cohort of Academic Interns, conferring her the opportunity to avail of protected research time during her Intern year in University Hospital Limerick. She subsequently undertook her Basic Specialist Training (BST) in Medicine in the Saolta Group, predominantly Galway University Hospital (GUH), graduating in July 2020.

Following her BST, she began working as a Medical Registrar in the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) in GUH, which fortuitously coincided with the advent of the McGinty Scholarship for Female Physicians at University of Galway. Established by Dr. Geraldine McGinty (herself a former Sunday WiMIN!), the scholarship serves to “encourage and enable female physicians to engage in the MBA programme, to support them on a career path to leadership in the healthcare sector”. With the encouragement of Consultant colleagues, and graciously facilitated by her fellow AMU Staff, Odharna availed of the opportunity and undertook the two-year, part-time MBA programme as the inaugural McGinty Scholar. Not only did the scholarship make the endeavour more financially accessible, an enormous value-add came from the opportunity to engage with Dr. McGinty herself and with the board of luminary female leaders that she has engaged as advisors for the scholarship recipients. The AMU in GUH, with its culture of innovation and appetite for improvement, served as the optimal environment for her to apply her MBA learnings. The experience of working clinically throughout the COVID pandemic in a department adapting to the evolving healthcare system needs, while actively honing her leadership skills, was formative for Odharna, affirming her desire to pursue healthcare management roles.

She is currently pursuing her dual interests of clinical medicine and healthcare leadership, as a Year 1 Specialist Registrar (SpR) in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and as Lead NCHD in GUH. As Lead NCHD, she has the opportunity to engage with NCHDs to identify issues affecting them, utilising her MBA learnings to develop practical solutions, and relaying these to the Medical Directorate and the NDTP Team.

She is passionate about NCHD Well-Being, and was part of the trio responsible for GUH’s Inaugural Summer Ball in 2022. She is an accomplished pianist, with four High Achiever Awards from the Royal Irish Academy of Music and medals from Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan agus Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. She is a native Irish speaker, agus déanann sí gach iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt san ospidéal. She loves meeting people – both old and new – and she is locally renowned for her love of coffee and brunch.