

## Biographies for Presenters at HSE Bathing Water and Health Training Day

**Dr Easkey Britton** is a social ecologist with a PhD in Environment and Society from University of Ulster. Her work explores the relationship between people and nature, especially water environments. As a post-doctoral research fellow at the Whitaker Institute, National University of Ireland, Galway, she contributes her expertise in blue space, health and social wellbeing on national and international research projects including [NEAR-Health](#), [SHEER-Wellbeing](#) and [SOPHIE](#), an EU-funded Horizon2020 project on Oceans and Human Health. A life-long surfer, her parents taught her to surf when she was four years old and she channels her passion for surfing and the sea into social change. Named an 'Agent of Change' by Surfer magazine in their special Ocean Edition, surfing is Easkey's active metaphor for life. Her work is deeply influenced by the ocean and the lessons learned pioneering women's big-wave surfing in Ireland and introducing the sport of surfing with women in Iran, which led her to be invited to give an inspiring [TEDx talk](#): Just Add Surf. Her ground-breaking journey to Iran in 2013 introduced the sport of surfing to women and local communities and is featured in the award-winning documentary film, "[Into the Sea](#)". Passionate about facilitating creative & collaborative processes, she founded [Like Water](#), a platform to explore innovative ways to reconnect with who we are, our environment and each other, through water. She uses the sea and surfing as an active metaphor to dive deep into the power of presence & trusting in the process. Britton designs and delivers international summits and global leadership programmes specialising in experiential learning, nature connection, community engagement and social impact, including the annual [Wavemaker](#) retreat in Portugal this May.

Co-Founder, [Wavemaker Collective](#)

Founder, [Like Water](#)

Ambassador, [Finisterre](#)

Researcher, [SOPHIE](#)

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Watch: [A Lunar Cycle](#)

Read: [Irish Times 'The sea as liquid therapy'](#)

**Dr Dearbháile Morris** is a Lecturer in Bacteriology at the School of Medicine, National University of Ireland Galway. Dearbháile graduated from DCU with a B.Sc. in Biotechnology in 1997 and went on to complete a Ph.D. in Bacteriology at NUI Galway in 2002. Dearbháile gained postdoctoral experience at The Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin before returning to take up a lecturer post at the Discipline of Bacteriology, NUI Galway in 2004. Dearbháile established the [Antimicrobial Resistance and Microbial Ecology Group](#) in 2010 and is Deputy-Director of the Ryan Institute [Centre for Health from Environment](#). Dearbháile's research group works closely with national and international research groups and other agencies focusing on antimicrobial resistance mechanisms and epidemiology, food and water borne pathogens, emerging contaminants, and the wider societal impact of infection

Dearbháile is leading the four year EPA-funded "[AREST: Antimicrobial Resistance and the Environment – Sources, persistence, Transmission and risk management](#)" and "[PIER-Public health](#)

*Impact of Exposure to antimicrobial Resistance in coastal waters*” projects and will today outline what we know, what we need to know and how the AREST and PIER projects will fill some of these knowledge gaps.

**Mr Anthony Mannix**

I work in the Catchments Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency with a focus on characterisation of Protected Areas for the Water Framework Directive, including bathing waters. Prior to this role I worked in groundwater assessment for the Water Framework Directive in EPA. I have a BSc in Environmental Science and an MSc in Sustainable Management of the Water Environment.

The Catchments Unit is involved with catchment science, chemistry, ecology, hydromorphology, modelling, Geographic Information Systems and planning. We work with the wider EPA, our local authorities, the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office and Water Support and Advice Team, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and other public bodies and Departments to ensure we have the best available data and information about our catchments.

**Dr Katharine Harkin** is a Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine. After graduating from NUIG in 2012 she specialised in General Internal Medicine before moving to Public Health Medicine in 2015. Her interests include vaccine preventable diseases, vaccine hesitancy and the impact of the environment on health.

**Dr. Áine McNamara**, MB, BCh, NUI, Masters in Public Health Medicine, member of the Royal College of Physicians and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine. She works as a Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the HSE West Department of Public Health and is a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for that region. Under MOH legislation she has responsibility for the investigation and control of notifiable infectious diseases and outbreaks. She is a member of the HSE Public Health Bathing Water Group and the HSE Bathing Water Group.