

Advancing sustainable practices at Medway School of Pharmacy (MSoP)

About

Lynn Gallagher has led two complementary initiatives within the Medway School of Pharmacy (MSoP) that focus on enhancing sustainability in healthcare education and laboratory operations: the Planetary Health Report Card (PHRC) project and the Sustainable Greener Labs initiative. These projects not only improve environmental awareness and practices but also empower students to advocate for sustainability in their future careers.



Work

The PHRC is a student-led, staff-mentored initiative that enables students to assess the school's commitment to planetary health and sustainability within its curriculum, research and community engagement efforts. With the PHRC's metric-based approach, students evaluate the school's performance in sustainability, identifying areas for improvement and collaborating with staff to propose and implement changes.

Aiming to make laboratories more resource-efficient, this project focuses on reducing the environmental footprint of laboratory operations. Since labs are energy-intensive, the initiative explores sustainable practices such as reducing one-use plastics, incorporating reusable glassware and replacing outdated equipment with energy-efficient alternatives. Additionally, adjustments to vacuum taps and freezer temperatures help minimise resource usage without compromising lab functionality. These practices not only make the labs more eco-friendly but also serve as real-world examples of sustainability for students participating in the PHRC evaluation.

By embedding sustainability into MSoP's operations and curriculum, Lynn's initiatives give students practical, hands-on experience in sustainable healthcare practices, equipping them with skills that align with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). The projects cultivate an environmentally conscious mindset in students, who are encouraged to integrate these principles into their future work in healthcare.

Lynn's leadership in the PHRC and Sustainable Greener Labs projects exemplifies how sustainability can be seamlessly integrated into healthcare education. Through these initiatives, students gain a robust foundation in sustainability, ensuring that the next generation of healthcare professionals is equipped to promote both environmental stewardship and planetary health in their careers.

SDGs

