



Re: Schools Teaching Awareness of Randomised Trials (START)

Dear School Teacher / Principal

You can help your students become the

 **scientists of tomorrow** and the 
 **critical thinkers of today**

The pandemic of 2020 / 2021 has brought with it a lot of new information for everyone to understand. Our children have been asked to make significant changes to the way they live and interact with their communities.

Everyday children are faced with **health claims**, some reliable and some not so reliable. But how do we help children see the **fake news** from the credible information. How do we teach our children to develop a critical eye when it comes to all of the information they encounter every day, in particular when it comes to their health? We think we have the answer... and it's a lot of fun!

"The Need For Critical Thinking Among Children Is Now"

On May 20th every year, the world celebrates International Clinical Trials Day. This event marks the anniversary of the first well-documented clinical trial, which was conducted with sailors in the navy in 1747. Researchers in NUI Galway wish to celebrate this important occasion with the help of the younger members of our community. We invite your 4th, 5th & 6th classes to lead on an exciting project and create their very own trial. Teachers and students are asked to identify a suitable research question they can answer scientifically using the resources provided on the website - www.STARTcompetition.com. The purpose of this competition is to help students become aware of the trial process, and gain insights into the best way to conduct a fair comparison.

Pick a simple, easy to answer question, but use the proper steps of a trial to answer it and make sure to have fun!

This project addresses several key aspects of the school curriculum, as outlined below. The best part is that you can report the findings in any way you like, podcast, video, collage or poster, report, it's up to you to be as creative as you like! And the best bit.... the top three shortlisted schools will be invited to take part in an awards ceremony in NUI Galway on May 20th 2022. This event will showcase the excellent work done by all schools for this



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Health Research Board

TMRN

Trials Methodology Research Network

competition and give an opportunity for children to meet scientists and trialists from NUI Galway. At this event, the overall winner will be announced and presented with a START trophy and children will be interviewed on their work, which can be shared with friends and family.

The START competition does not cost anything to enter. Please visit our website www.STARTcompetition.com for further details and to see previous winning entries.

We look forward to receiving your entry.

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**Closing date
for entries**

Friday 22nd April
2022

 facebook.com/STARTCompetition

 twitter.com/STARTSchools