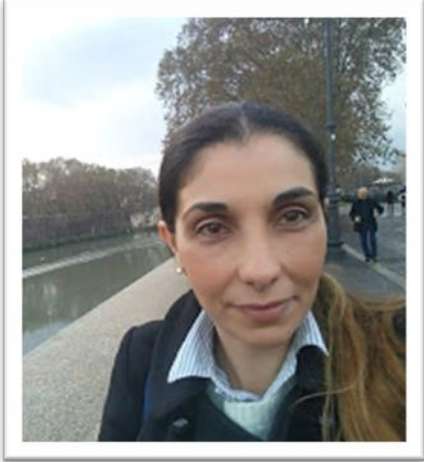


## Research Profile Template

<i>Name</i>	Ruth Cutajar <a href="mailto:119227204@umail.ucc.ie">119227204@umail.ucc.ie</a> 
<i>Title of study</i>	Phenotypic Categorization of Sensory Integration Difficulties in Children Diagnosed with ADHD
<i>Supervisor(s)</i>	Dr Helen Lynch and Dr Brian Boyle
<i>Background/Abstract (350 words max)</i>	<p>Sensory Integration Difficulties are observed to be highly prevalent in children with neurodevelopmental conditions and impact their daily participation in occupational tasks (Jorquera-Cabera et al.,2017, Minouni-Bloch et al.,2018) The DSM-5 acknowledges sensory integration difficulties to be one of the diagnostic criteria for autism as ,“Hyper-or hypo reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment”(DSM5).</p> <p>However sensory integration difficulties do not feature in the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for ADHD even though several studies have identified sensory integration limitations in children with ADHD. Children diagnosed with ADHD differ in Sensory integration abilities when compared to their typically developing peers (Allen and Casey, 2017, Pfeiffer et al.,2015).</p>

	<p>Although several studies (Parush et al.,1997, Ermer and Dunn, 1998 Ergeant et al.,2006, Davis 2009, Ghanizadeh, 2010) tend to indicate an increased prevalence of sensory integration difficulties in children diagnosed with ADHD, there is still a lack of research in the area particularly in identifying the categories of sensory integration difficulties that frequently feature within the ADHD population. Most studies tend to examine a relationship between the integration of one specific sensation (e.g., auditory processing, visual processing) and ADHD. Thus, there is very little information on the sensory integration impairment patterns that frequently occur in this condition (Shimizu et al.,2014).</p> <p>An understanding of how Sensory Integrative difficulties effect clients with similar conditions (as ADHD) will help to target intervention more accurately and to aid in understanding intervention dosage requirements.</p>
<p><i>Publications (e.g. articles, conferences etc)</i></p>	<p><b>Certifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Floor Time Practitioner -Dec2017</li> <li>• Basic certificate in the SOS approach to feeding – August 2017</li> <li>• Sensory Integration Certification- November 2011</li> </ul> <p><b>Publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Journal of Occupational Therapy: The Relationship Between Engagement in Occupations and Pressure Sore Development in Saudi Men with Paraplegia. July 2005 Vol. no.69</li> </ul> <p><b>Conferences Attended</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> European Sensory Integration Congress – June21-22, 2019</li> <li>• International Sensory Integration Congress – May 26-27, 2018</li> </ul>

<p><i>Biography e.g. qualification/training/work history</i> (200 words max)</p>	<p>Ruth graduated as an Occupational Therapist from the University of Malta in 1996. She obtained her Masters Degree from the University of Exeter in 2001.</p> <p>Ruth Has worked for several years in the Middle East mainly in acute paediatric care settings. In 2002 she was entrusted with setting up the Paediatric Out-patients Therapy service at the Shaikh Khalifa Medical Centre in Abu Dhabi. After 8 years working in the Middle East Ruth returned to Malta and continued working in Paediatric outpatients. She obtained her certification in sensory Integration in 2011 and completed her Advanced Floor Time training in 2017. From 2015 to date Ruth has been working on an EU project in Malta funded through the EEA Norwegian Grants. The Aim of the project is to develop a Sensory Integration (SI) Therapy Unit in Malta. Currently Ruth is heading the SI Unit which is due to open in 2021.</p> <p>Ruth also holds a visiting lecturer post with the University of Malta where she lectures and examines students for the B. Sc Occupational Therapy course. She has held this post since 2007.</p>
<p><i>Funding body (if relevant)</i></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme - through the Ministry of Education Malta.</p>