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A Voice for Palliative Care in
Ireland



**Irish Association
for Palliative Care**

December Newsletter 2023

Happy Christmas,

As we approach the end of 2023, we find ourselves reflecting on a year filled with collective achievements, shared dedication, and the unwavering commitment of our members. The IAPC community has truly thrived, and we owe it to your active participation and invaluable involvement.

First and foremost, we extend our deepest gratitude to each member for contributing to the success of our initiatives, events, and collaborations throughout the year. Your support has been instrumental in shaping the values of our organization.

Following our AGM in November, we bid farewell to our outgoing board members who have dedicated their time and expertise to ensuring a fully functional board. We would also like to welcome the new board members who will continue to guide the strategic plan implementation.

Looking ahead, the plans are well under way for the 23rd Education and Research Seminar in February 2024, titled: Ensuring dignity: Ethical reflections in Palliative Care.

This is an in person event, so we look forward to getting to meet you there. The event promises to be a cornerstone of inspiration and knowledge-sharing, and we welcome the opportunity to come together once again in the pursuit of academic excellence and collaborative research.

As we step into the new year, we are excited about the prospect of growing and developing the Irish Association for Palliative Care together. The collaborative energy within our community is a testament to our collective commitment to advancing and advocating for Palliative Care in Ireland.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Jacinta Cuthbert CEO

December Updates

HRB allocates €20 million for eight program awards targeting dementia, breastfeeding, speech and language interventions, autoimmune disease, pandemic preparedness, and climate-resilient healthcare. Notably, two projects support mental health aligning with the national strategy, Sharing the Vision. The Applied Programme Awards aim for high-impact, team-based research, addressing evidence gaps and building on previous HRB-funded work. Dr. Mairéad O'Driscoll, HRB Chief Executive, emphasizes alignment with HRB and wider health priorities, expressing gratitude for additional support. The awards emphasize swift translation of research into policy and practice, with an emphasis on user involvement, according to Dr. Anne Cody, Head of Investigator-Led Grants. Noteworthy recipients include projects on mental health, Sjögren's syndrome, dementia, climate-resilient healthcare, language intervention, and breastfeeding support. Award values range from €2,445,580 to €2,558,926.

The 12th Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) Symposium, hosted by the All Ireland Association for Hospice and Palliative Care at Dublin's Ashling Hotel on December 7th, centered on the theme 'Implementation of Research for Evidence-Based Practice'. During the event, a Special Interest Group (SIG) in Dementia Palliative Care, led by Dr. Siobhán Fox, Lecturer in the CGR, was inaugurated. Expressions of interest for group membership can be submitted at this link. Dr. Siobhán Fox also presented research from the Model for Dementia Palliative Care Project. Her oral presentation, "A Comparison of Four Dementia Palliative Care Services using the RE-AIM Framework," and poster, "Views on an Irish model for dementia palliative care," contributed to the symposium's insightful discussions.

Digital Legacies in Palliative Care:

In a recent study highlighted by palliative care professional Sarah Stanley, the growing importance of digital legacies is emphasised. Stanley points out that the impact of losing access to a loved one's

mobile phone, filled with digital memories, became a surprising revelation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital legacy encompasses information available about an individual after their death, including social media profiles, online conversations, photos, videos, gaming profiles, and websites or blogs. The research specifically focuses on understanding palliative care healthcare professionals' views on digital legacies. Stanley's insights underscore the urgency for more research in this area. As part of a broader study, her upcoming PhD will explore the knowledge and experiences of digital legacies among people in palliative care, caregivers, and bereaved individuals. This topic is expected to become a significant point of discussion in the coming years. To delve deeper into the study, you can read further [here](#)

IAPC New Board 2024

Introducing our new board members for 2024! While this list provides a comprehensive overview, it is not exhaustive of their qualifications. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate and work alongside you all.

Dr. Hannah Linane, Chair IAPC, Fellow in Adolescent and Young Adult Palliative Medicine, Children's Health Ireland, Dublin

Ms. Bettina Korn, Vice Chair IAPC, End-of-Life Care Coordinator, St. James's Hospital, Dublin

Ms. Liz O'Donoghue, Referrals Development Coordinator, LauraLynn Children's Hospice, Dublin

Dr. John Allen, Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care, Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Jide Afolabi, Clinical Specialist physiotherapist in palliative care based in Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services – on the Harold's Cross site, with supervisory roles on the Blackrock and Wicklow campuses as well.

Dr Daniel Nuzum, Pastoral Care and Education, Cork University Hospital and Marymount University Hospital and Hospice, Adjunct Lecturer, College of Medicine and Health, University College Cork.

Dr. Cliona Lorton, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow Hospice, Co. Wicklow

Dr Stacey Power Walsh, Assistant Professor at University College Dublin.

Mary Ann Larkin

Eimear Hallissey, CNM3, Kerry Specialist Palliative Care Services

Dr Esther Beck, Lecturer in Nursing, Ulster University

Dr Felicity Hasson, Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Nursing Research at Ulster University

Deirdre Hickson, CNM3, Roscommon Community Palliative Care

Geraldine Purcell, Lecturer/Tutor, Waterford Institute of Technology

Recognising the challenges that the holiday season can pose, we understand the need for additional support during this demanding time. The HSE have tools and services available to all members of staff to offer guidance on emotional support, managing expectations, and prioritising self-care. These resources are tailored to provide assistance during the holiday season, ensuring a collective effort to foster resilience and well-being. Access further information [here](#).

Upcoming Training Sessions for Board Members

10th Jan 2024: The Charities Governance Code, Online

Target Audience: Trustees, Chairs, CEOs, and those responsible for governance in their Charity.

Outline: The Charities Governance Code explains the minimum standards you should meet in your role as an active Board member

23rd Jan 2024: Board Roles & Responsibilities, Online 18:00-20:30

Target Audience: Are you a Board member of a voluntary or community group? Are you unsure of what is expected of you? Do you want...

0 Feb 2024: Board Member Induction, Online

Target Audience New Board Members, Directors, Charity Trustees of non-profit organisations.

16th May 2024: The Role of the Company Secretary, Online

Target Audience Company Secretaries or anyone thinking of becoming a Company Secretary.

Outline Learn about the practical and legal responsibilities and liabilities of the role of the Company Secretary

Dates for your Diary:

23rd January - 14th March: Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Online in conjunction with St. Francis Hospice. Further information can be found [here](#).

24th January 2024: Trinity College Dublin Micro-Credential Course, Enacting Human Rights in the Lives of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, see [here](#) for further information.

8th February 2024: The Gresham Hotel, Dublin. The IAPC Presents the 24th Annual Education and Research Seminar: 'Ensuring dignity: Ethical reflections in Palliative Care'. Registration will open in early January.

12th-15th March 2024: Course - Advanced European bioethics "Suffering, Death and Palliative Care". In-person, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. See [here](#) for further information.



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