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**Subject:** IAPC August Newsletter  
**Date:** 19 August 2024 at 16:56  
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A Voice for Palliative Care in  
Ireland



August Newsletter 2024

## **August Update**

We're excited to bring you a series of important updates and upcoming opportunities that highlight the dynamic work and future events at the IAPC.

### **Call for Expressions of Interest: Ethics Forum**

The IAPC is calling for expressions of interest from individuals to join our Ethics Forum. This essential forum addresses key ethical issues in palliative care and contributes significantly to our mission. We are seeking new members who can bring fresh perspectives and expertise to these important discussions. New members are expected to begin their roles immediately.

### **Abstract Submissions Opening Soon**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 29th, when abstract submissions will open for the IAPC 25th Education and Research Seminar 2025. This year's theme, 'Integration and Innovation Across the Lifespan,' will explore cutting-edge developments and collaborative approaches in palliative care.

### **IAPC Supporting Palliative Care Week 2024**

With Palliative Care Week approaching, we are excited to be supporting both the Irish Hospice Foundation and the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC).

The IAPC have been in discussions with the Irish Hospice Foundation about educational session for our members and we are delighted to be collaborating with them and to invite you to these webinars. The presentations will be on Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care across Community Settings, and will be held on the 10th and 12th of September 2024. Workshop detail will be available soon.

The IAPC are delighted to have a workshop in collaboration with the EAPC, and presented by Dr. Sonja McIlfratrick EAPC Irish Representative, and Joanne Brennan EACP Deputy Manager. The topic will delve into the benefits of being a member of the EAPC, together with an update on the ongoing work of the EAPC.

This week will feature a variety of events and activities aimed at raising awareness and celebrating the importance of palliative care. Our collaboration will enhance our efforts and broaden our impact.

**Dr. Rachel Clarke Announced as Speaker: 'The Power of Story in Palliative Medicine'**

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Rachel Clarke, an NHS palliative care doctor and bestselling author, will be joining our lecture series. Known for her impactful work and the critically acclaimed book *Dear Life*, Dr. Clarke will bring valuable insights and inspiration to our audience. Her participation is sure to be a highlight of the series. Rachel will immediately follow the 2024 IAPC AGM, free to all members.

**Stay tuned to our X account [@palliativeire](#), email [admin@iapc.ie](mailto:admin@iapc.ie) and visit our website at [www.iapc.ie](http://www.iapc.ie) for further updates and information.**

## **Speaker Announcement for Our Lecture Series**



We are thrilled to announce that our upcoming lecture series will feature Dr. Rachel Clarke, a hospital-based NHS palliative care doctor from the UK and a renowned author of three Sunday Time bestselling non-fiction books.

Rachel's book, *Dear Life* (2020), offers a profound exploration of her work in an NHS hospice, touching on themes of love, loss, grief, dying, and what truly matters at the end of life. The book was shortlisted for the 2020 Costa Biography Award, longlisted for the 2020 Baillie Gifford Prize, and selected as a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.

Recently, Rachel traveled to Ukraine to teach palliative medicine to doctors and medical students. She is also in the process of establishing a new charity, Hospice Ukraine, to support palliative care teams across the country. Rachel is passionate about helping patients live the end of their lives as fully as possible and believe in the power of human stories to build empathy and inspire change.

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Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear from someone who is  
making a significant impact in the field of palliative care.



## **Spotlight: IAPC Pharmacy Forum**

2024 has been a busy year so far for the IAPC Pharmacists Forum with several new members joining the group. In the previous year the group drew up a focused workplan after reflecting on the areas within palliative care pharmacy where it was felt greatest need was present and good progress has been made towards a number of these goals. The issue of frequent medication shortages is one that has impacted on palliative patient care nationally, within both inpatient unit and the community setting, and earlier this year Vice Chair Niall Manktelow met with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) Medicines Shortages Coordination Lead to discuss possible measures to reduce the risk of these shortages in medications particularly important for palliative care.

Following this meeting the group has been working collaboratively to construct a list of these essential medications to submit to the HPRA. The issue of medication reimbursement has been another area of focus for the group this year; as many frequently used palliative medications are not covered on the GMS this often leads to a financial burden on palliative patients being managed in the community. Through our pharmacist representative on the National Clinical Programme, Eimear O'Dwyer, the group are planning to submit a comprehensive list of core medications to advocate for their approval in our patients. The group meetings have also proved very valuable for allowing knowledge sharing between members on topics such as Section 38 redesignation, career restructuring, policy updates, and new developments in medication management.

## **Registration Now Open for the 3rd Explorations: National Palliative Care Conference**

Registration is now open for the 3rd Explorations: National Palliative Care Conference, scheduled to take place at the Radisson Hotel Sligo. This year's theme, 'Palliative Care in an In-Patient Setting – Acute Hospitals, Residential Care, Community Hospitals, and Specialist Palliative Care In-Patient Units,' emphasizes the importance of building a collaborative future in palliative care.

The conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn from leading experts, network with peers, and exchange insights. Maurice Dillon, National Lead for Palliative Care, will also be participating in the event.

Thanks to the support of the North West Hospice Charity, a reduced registration fee is available: €50 for one person or €75 for two attendees from the same department/organisation, with no additional cost for the third and subsequent participants. As spaces are limited, early registration is encouraged.

Book Your Place Today

## **Can virtual reality and AI be used to train for difficult conversations in palliative care?**

Explore the potential of virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing communication skills for palliative care. This blog, authored by Jan Hrdlička, Lucie Hrdličková, and Jiří Wild, delves into how AI and VR can be leveraged for training healthcare professionals in handling challenging conversations. The authors discuss their innovative approach, which includes VR workshops with virtual patients controlled by AI, aimed at improving communication effectiveness and scalability. They also highlight ongoing research and the future of integrating these technologies into medical training. For a comprehensive look at this emerging field, read the full blog post below.

Blog Post

## **Podcast Recommendation: "Showing Up and Standing Up for Patients" with Marie Cooper**

With her extensive background in clinical leadership and practice development, Marie delves into how nurses can better connect with seriously ill patients and themselves. Her discussion on the relational aspects of nursing and the importance of supporting one another in the profession offers valuable insights and inspiration for healthcare professionals committed to compassionate care.

Listen Here

## **100 Skips in September Challenge**

Join the 100 Skips in September Challenge with LauraLynn Children's Hospice!

Support children with life-limiting conditions by participating in the 100 Skips in September Challenge. To get involved:

1. Register for your pack and fundraising page.
2. Activate your iDonate Fundraiser.

3. Invite family, friends, and colleagues to sponsor you.  
For questions, email Cathy & Ciara at [challenges@lauralynn.ie](mailto:challenges@lauralynn.ie).



## **Dates for your Diary:**

**29th August:** IAPC Call for Abstracts Opens at 4pm. Topic of the Education and Research Seminar 2025 is 'Integration and Innovation Across the Lifespan'

**11th September:** IAPC, Online Research Workshop with Dr. Sonja McIlFPatrick and Dr. Felicity Hasson

**8th -14th September,** Palliative Care Week 2024 (All Ireland) To collaborate with the IAPC, please email [comms@iapc.ie](mailto:comms@iapc.ie).

**3rd October:** IAPC, Abstract Submission Deadline

**7th October 2024, 13:30-15:00 CET:** Join the 4th EAPC Reference Group Webinar to explore schools' role in public health palliative care. Chaired by Dr. Libby Sallnow, with keynotes from Dr. Sally Paul and Bert Quintiens. Registrations opening soon.

**16th–18th October 2024:** The 6th Maruzza International Congress on Paediatric Palliative Care will be held in-person. For more details, visit the Maruzza Congress website: [childrenpalliativecarecongress.org](http://childrenpalliativecarecongress.org).

**7th November:** IAPC AGM and Lecture Series featuring Dr. Rachel Clarke. Further information to come.

**11th-13th November:** The European Grief Conference will be held in Dublin. It welcomes abstracts on bereavement and grief, focusing on research, education, policy, and practice. For further details, click [here](#).



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