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A Voice for Palliative Care in  
Ireland



July Newsletter 2024

## **July Update**

The Irish Association for Palliative Care (IAPC) has had a busy month as we gear up to kickstart preparations for our 2025 Education and Research Seminar, titled "Integration and Innovation Across the Lifespan." We will do our utmost to make this an enjoyable and informative day, a space for networking and for sharing best practice.

The new Education & Research (E&R) Forum extends a warm welcome to its newly appointed members. We also welcomed a new Chair, Dr. Esther Beck, Vice Chair Dr. Thomas Cahill, and Secretary Nessa Keane Registrar. We're excited to announce that our first Education and Research Seminar meeting was a success, laying the groundwork for an engaging and insightful event next year. Additionally, we would like to remind everyone that the E&R Schedule is now set with the call for abstracts opening on August 29th at 4pm. We encourage all interested members to prepare their submissions and participate in shaping the future of research and education in the Palliative Care environment.

The new Nursing forum has also been very busy and has developed and agreed its new Vision and Mission statement. This statement forms the foundation for the Forum to pursue and deliver on the agreed workplan.

**Vision and Mission of IAPC Nursing Forum:**

#### VISION AND MISSION OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE NURSING FORUM.

To develop and promote Palliative Care nursing and expertise through education, advocacy, research and leadership ensuring patient centered care is at the forefront of service provision. The nursing forum aims to provide and deliver educational opportunities specific to the needs of our nursing members while creating a platform for the sharing of knowledge, practices and passion for palliative care nursing.

#### Vision: ( the why , the future)

To develop and promote palliative care nursing through education, advocacy, research leadership and peer support ensuring equitable patient centred care is at the forefront of service provision

#### Mission: ( The How, the present purpose and actions)

The nursing forum aims to :

1. Facilitate educational opportunities specific to the needs of our members
2. Create a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices and passion for palliative care nursing
3. Provide opportunities for representation on national and international committees to influence policy

These refreshed teams across our ever-busy Forums, brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, promising new dynamics for future initiatives.

We've been diligently organising and setting plans in motion to ensure a meaningful and impactful week dedicated to Palliative Care with a Research workshop being held on the 11th of September. Jointly hosted by Dr. Sonja McIlFattrick and Dr. Felicity Hasson. They will be there to answer all your questions on “how to develop a research question”, “how to get published” and “how to submit an abstract” and ‘how to document a QI project’.

### **Irish Cancer Society Cancer Research Seed Funding Award 2024**

The Irish Cancer Society is inviting applications for the Cancer Research Seed Funding Award 2024. This award offers researchers the chance to initiate projects that are both competitive and impactful, supporting activities that may not have been possible without seed funding. Applications are open to cancer researchers from all backgrounds, including academic and clinical researchers (post-undergraduate level). The deadline for submissions is 3pm on Thursday, 22nd August 2024. Up to €75,000 is available per project, with a duration of 12 to 24 months. There are two awards available: one for a Survivorship research project and another for a Translational-CAYA research project, focused on Children, Adolescents, or Young Adults. Detailed eligibility criteria and application guidelines are available on the grant website, and applications can be submitted through the Irish Cancer Society Gateway Grant Tracker online system. For further inquiries, please contact [grants@irishcancer.ie](mailto:grants@irishcancer.ie).

## **Analysis Reveals Only One-Third of Shifts Have Adequate Nursing Staff**



Full Report  
Here

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted severe workforce shortages in hospital and community services, revealing that only a third of shifts have adequate registered nurse coverage. The latest 'Last Shift' survey, conducted with over 11,000 nursing staff, indicates that many shifts are critically understaffed, with some missing up to half of the planned number of nurses. This shortage is leading to unsafe patient care, with nurses often responsible for excessive numbers of patients and inadequate support. The RCN is calling for legally enforceable nurse-patient ratios to ensure safe staffing levels and prevent further harm to patients. For more details, see the RCN's full report.

## **Compassionate Communities in Palliative and End of Life Care Conference**

The Compassionate Communities in Palliative and End of Life Care Conference will take place on Monday, 9 September 2024, from 09:30 to 16:00 at the Canal Court Hotel in Newry, Northern Ireland. This conference, coinciding with the start of Palliative Care Week 2024, aims to foster a compassionate community response to palliative care needs, end-of-life issues, and bereavement. It will address the challenges people face when dealing with dying, death, and loss; highlight successful community initiatives, and explore ways to create more equitable compassionate communities. The event, hosted by the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in collaboration with Foyle Hospice and the Irish Hospice Foundation, invites community groups, civic society organizations, individuals with life-limiting conditions, family carers, and the public from across Ireland. Keynote speakers include Prof. Allan Kellehear and Micheál Martin T.D. Additionally, the conference calls for submissions of exemplar community projects that support those facing life-limiting conditions or grief. Submissions are due by 5pm on Monday, 19 August. For more details and registration, please visit the conference website.

Further Information

## **PhD Opportunity**

A fully-funded PhD opportunity in the ethics of palliative care is available under the supervision of Professor Linda Hogan. This position is part of an interdisciplinary Trinity Research Doctorate Group-based Award, with four funded PhD positions focusing on Decision-Making for People with Advanced Illness in Palliative Care. The program addresses challenges in clinical decision-making, patient-family caregiver relations, and the legislative and ethical aspects of shared decision-making.

The research will explore how patients' care preferences are influenced by family caregivers, healthcare professionals' decisions on symptom management, the impact of Ireland's 'Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act' on patient autonomy, and other key ethical considerations in palliative care. The ideal candidates will have backgrounds in medical ethics, ethics, social sciences, health research, or related fields, and will employ primarily qualitative methods. Interested individuals should contact Professor Linda Hogan at lhogan2@tcd.ie or Dr. Geraldine Foley at foleyg3@tcd.ie for more information.

## Join the 'Return for Children' Initiative

The 'Return for Children' initiative by Re-turn encourages stadium and event attendees to donate bottles and cans at designated bins, with funds benefiting six charities, including LauraLynn. This initiative supports over 165,000 vulnerable children affected by poverty, abuse, neglect, bereavement, and serious illnesses.

Upcoming collection points will be at major events like Electric Picnic (August 16-18), and the National Ploughing Championships (September 17-19). By recycling at these events, you help support children in need while promoting environmental sustainability. Join us in making a difference—look for Re-turn bins and contribute to a compassionate future for our children and planet. For more information, visit the link below.

[Further Information](#)

## Updated Guidelines

The National Cancer Control Programme have updated the 'National Clinical Guideline: Diagnosis and staging of patients with prostate cancer' based on the implementation of recommendation (3.6.1) to include "very high risk" patients. The Guideline Development Group recommend that PSMA PET-CT should be considered for primary staging in high risk and very high risk prostate cancer patients who are suitable for definitive treatment.

HSE National Clinical Guidelines

### 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 McIlPatrick 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).

**Call to Action: IAPC Abstract Submission Deadline**

**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](https://childrenpalliativecarecongress.org).

**7th November:** IAPC AGM and Lecture Series. 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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