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A Voice for Palliative Care in
Ireland



October Newsletter 2024

October Update

IAPC AGM

The upcoming IAPC Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Lecture Series on November 7th at 4pm promises to be an informative and engaging event for all members and stakeholders in the field of palliative care. Attendees can expect updates on key initiatives, discussions on current challenges and advancements in palliative care, and opportunities for networking with professionals and advocates in the sector. The meeting will also feature presentations from experts, as well as a platform for members to share insights and experiences. 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. To register for the AGM or for further details, please email admin@iapc.ie. Your participation is encouraged to help shape the future of palliative care in our community.

We're excited to share that plans for our upcoming Education and Research Seminar are

were excited to share that plans for our upcoming Education and Research Seminar are coming together smoothly, with the date now set for **February 11, 2025**. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare an engaging program filled with valuable insights and learning opportunities

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

MS Ireland Unspeakable Bits Webinar - MS at the End of Life

The recent MS Ireland panel discussion, hosted by Trevis L. Gleason and featuring a distinguished group of international experts, highlighted critical issues surrounding multiple sclerosis at the end of life, including the rare but serious complications faced by some individuals with MS. Dee Hickson, palliative care nurse manager and Irish Association of Palliative Care (IAPC) board member, was commended for her insightful contributions, which 'set a new standard for the series'. Hickson's expertise in palliative care brought a unique perspective to the conversation, reinforcing the IAPC's commitment to enhancing end-of-life care standards. The panel included renowned experts such as Professor Alessandra Solari, Head of Neuroepidemiology Services at Italy's Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta, and Dr. Rosalind Kalb, a clinical psychologist with nearly 40 years in MS care. Together, they provided a comprehensive overview of strategies to better understand, prevent, and manage complex MS-related issues, marking an important step in advancing palliative care approaches for those living with multiple sclerosis.



Webinar Now Available to Watch

The recent webinars on palliative care, which were hosted by the IAPC in collaboration with the Irish Hospice Foundation, Advance Care Planning, and the Think Ahead Planning

with the Irish Hospice Foundation. Advance Care Planning, and the Think Ahead Planning Pack are now available to watch. This session covers essential guidance on documenting end-of-life wishes, with insights from Valerie Smith (Think Ahead and Public Engagement Lead), Marese Damery (Dying Well at Home Programme Manager), and Marie Cantwell (Professional Development Coordinator for General Practice Nursing). Watch the recording to learn more.

[Watch Here](#)

OLH&CS in collaboration with the IAPC Pharmacists Forum have produced the following paper

We are thrilled to announce that OLH&CS, in collaboration with the IAPC Pharmacists Forum, has produced an outstanding paper that addresses key issues and advancement in pharmacy practice within palliative care. This collaborative effort exemplifies the dedication and expertise of our Pharmacy Forum members, who are committed to improving patient care through innovative research and best practices.

We invite you to take a moment to read this important paper and gain valuable insights into the critical role of pharmacists in palliative care settings. Please join us in congratulating our Pharmacy Forum on their excellent work and dedication to enhancing the quality of care for patients and their families. Your support and engagement are vital as we continue to advance palliative care together!

[See More Here](#)

"Dáil Votes to Accept Assisted Dying Report Amid Varied Party Support and Free Vote"

On Wednesday October 23rd, the Dáil voted 76 to 53 to accept the Final Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Assisted Dying, following a free vote allowed by the three Coalition parties. While several Government TDs opposed the report, it received support from Sinn Féin, People Before Profit, Labour, and the Social Democrats. The report, based on six months of committee hearings with over 70 witnesses, includes 38 recommendations and advocates for legislating assisted dying under specific, restricted conditions.

Among those voting against the report were Government Ministers Peter Burke and Norma Foley, as well as former Minister Simon Coveney. Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil state that their members were given a free vote on this conscience issue, with the Green Party

also supporting acceptance of the report. The motion text presented to the Dáil, "That Dá Éireann shall take note of the Report of the Joint Committee on Assisted Dying," was adopted.

Sinn Féin health spokesperson and committee member David Cullinane described the vote as an endorsement of the report, with further steps to be determined by a future government. Cullinane emphasized the need for extensive pre-legislative scrutiny, citing the complexity and importance of safeguards.

Online Bereavement Information Talk



These pre-recorded talks offer general information on grief and bereavement for anyone affected by loss, including bereaved individuals, their family, and friends. Designed to be viewed in a quiet setting, it may be beneficial to listen with someone for support or to speak with someone afterward. Recognising that bereavement affects not only close family but also friends, colleagues and community members, the talk addresses the powerful, often conflicting emotions that accompany grief. The presentation is divided into two parts, totaling approximately 35 minutes.

[Watch Videos Here](#)



Childhood Needs Magic Film

A short film titled Childhood Needs Magic was launched by Together for Short Lives on Hats on for Children's Palliative Care Day. The film aims to reshape perceptions of children's palliative care, highlighting the essence of childhood—regardless of its length—through the experiences of four children supported by palliative care teams. It effectively illustrates how palliative care can enable children and families to make the most of every

moment together.



Jobs and Opportunities

LauraLynn is seeking a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNSp) to join its Dublin Hospice Team
For a full job description, please see below.

Further Information

St. Francis Hospice
Grief Café
A safe space for people to come and chat over a cup of tea or coffee, with others who are grappling with similar feelings of loss and grief.

- **When?** First Friday of every month from 10am-11.30am
- **For who?** For family members of those who died under our hospice services. Adults only.
- **Where?** St Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown

Please register by scanning the QR code below:

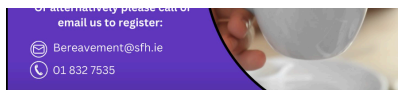


Contact us on 01 832 2222

Grief Café

St. Francis Hospice has announced the launch of the new Grief Café, which aims to provide a safe and supportive space for individuals who are grieving. This initiative allows participants to connect with others who are experiencing similar feelings while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. The Social Work team and bereavement volunteers will be present at each session to offer support.

The Grief Café is a free group for adults whose loved ones have received care from St. Francis Hospice



ones have received care from St. Francis Hospice services. It will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM on the first Friday of every month at the Blanchardstown Hospice. Attendees are welcome to drop in at any time during these hours for conversation and refreshments.

Dates for your Diary:

7th November: 3:45pm IAPC AGM and Lecture Series featuring Dr. Rachel Clarke. The Lecture Series will promptly begin at 4pm.

7th November: 3-4PM, webinar on the new National Adult Palliative Care Policy 2024. Registration link can be found [here](#)

8th November: IAPC Deadline for reviews of abstracts

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](#).

19th November: Platform and poster presenters confirmed and notified



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