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## IAPC November Newsletter

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**From** IAPC <comms@iapc.ie>  
via mailchimpapp.net

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**To** Irish Association for Palliative Care Comms <comms@iapc.ie>



A Voice for Palliative Care in  
Ireland



November Newsletter 2024

### **November Update**

The recent Annual General Meeting of the IAPC was an excellent reminder of the strength and inspiration that comes from collaboration and shared purpose as we come towards the end of the year

We were honoured to have Dr. Rachel Clarke deliver an incredibly informative and insightful lecture on The Power and Impact of Storytelling as a Palliative Care Professional. Her words resonated deeply, highlighting how stories can bridge gaps, foster empathy, and underscore the humanity at the heart of palliative care. Dr. Clarke's talk left us motivated to carry these lessons forward in our practice and advocacy.

We would like to extend a thank you to the IAPC Board for their efforts in steering our mission. We extend our deepest gratitude to the outgoing members for their dedication and contributions, and warmly welcome the incoming members, whose fresh perspectives will no doubt enhance our journey.

Special thanks are to be mentioned to Hannah Linane for her outstanding leadership and commitment as outgoing Chair. Your impact has been immeasurable, and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavors. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Esther Beck as our new Chair. We look forward to working with you and are confident that your vision will guide us toward greater accomplishments.

Finally, a big thank you to Jacinta for her meticulous and thoughtful work on the Annual Report. Your efforts have ensured that we have a comprehensive and clear record of our progress and achievements.

To all members and attendees: thank you for your continued engagement and support. Together, we can continue to make meaningful strides in our field.

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

## IIPC Annual Report



The IIPC Annual Report is a comprehensive reflection of the organisation's activities, achievements, and progress over the past year. It highlights the dedication of our members, the impact of our initiatives, and our ongoing efforts to advance Palliative Care across Ireland.

The report showcases key milestones, financial updates, and insights into future priorities, providing transparency and accountability to our stakeholders and serving as a valuable resource for understanding the breadth and depth of our work. The Annual Report is available on our website, linked below.

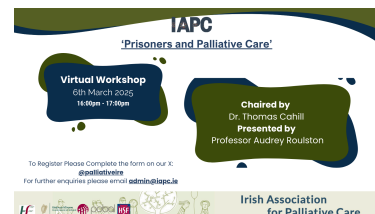
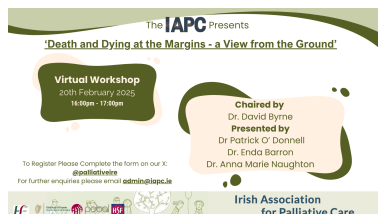
[IIPC Annual Report](#)

## Education and Research Seminar 2025

Thank you to everyone who has already expressed interest in our Education and Research Seminar 2025, scheduled for 11th February 2025.

We are excited to announce that the details for our three virtual workshops have been finalised!

You can find all the information below. The option to attend these workshops is available on our registration forms, and we look forward to your participation and engagement in these highly engaging and thought-provoking topics. Tickets will be available soon on our website. For updates and information, follow us on X or visit [our seminar page](#). We look forward to your participation!



## **Spotlight: Siobhan McCullough, Senior Speech and Language Therapist**



We are delighted to feature a spotlight on Siobhan McCullough, whose invaluable role at LauraLynn Children's Hospice touches countless lives. Siobhan's dedication and passion for her work offer a unique perspective into the daily operations and heartfelt mission of this remarkable organisation. We sincerely thank Siobhan for sharing her insights and giving us a glimpse into the compassionate care that defines LauraLynn:

Since 2022, I have been working in LauraLynn Children's Hospice in Co. Dublin. LauraLynn is a children's hospice providing palliative care, including end-of-life care, to children and their families in the hospice, and in their communities. This service currently caters counties in the Republic of Ireland. Prior to working in Paediatric Palliative Care in a dedicated service, my work experience included working in paediatric intellectual disability services and CAMHS.

The role of the Speech and Language Therapist in paediatric palliative care is to provide assessment and intervention to children and young people in our service who are experiencing a progressive deterioration and/or change in their oral feeding, eating, drinking, and swallowing [FEDS] skills, oral hygiene, and/or speech, language, cognitive and communication abilities including the use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication [AAC]. This includes individualised support, professional consultations, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary team working. Additionally, Speech and Language Therapy provides carer/family and staff training in dysphagia management and speech, language, and communication needs relevant to the population in the service.

I have developed the provision of Speech and Language Therapy in LauraLynn from a new service development initiative to a functional service as part of the LauraLynn Family Support Team. This has included attendance, contributions, and sharing knowledge/information pertaining to paediatric palliative care at many meetings and conferences with internal and external stakeholders including Children's Health Ireland, Children's Disability Network Teams around the country, and organisations representing Allied Health Professionals including universities such as Trinity College Dublin and the University of Limerick.

I believe the value in Speech and Language Therapy in paediatric palliative care is ensuring that the child and carer/family's wishes are centralised in the management of their dysphagia and communication needs. This is achieved through clear, professional communication, prioritising safety, use of the evidence base in paediatric dysphagia, and flexibly maintaining the patient's quality of life by carefully listening to the carer/family.

# Never Forgotten Night Run 2024

Join the Irish Hospice Foundation for the Never Forgotten Night Run 2024 on Thursday, 5th December, at 5pm—a 5km walk, jog, or run to remember loved ones. By registering for €25, you'll receive an exclusive beanie hat and an iDonate page to raise additional funds for vital end-of-life and bereavement care services, including the national Bereavement Support Line. Your participation helps keep this freephone service (1800 80 70 77) available throughout Christmas and beyond, offering comfort and support to those grieving. Sign up now through the Never Forgotten Night Run 2024 Facebook Group or email Emma at [challenge@hospicefoundation.ie](mailto:challenge@hospicefoundation.ie) for more information.

<https://hospicefoundation.ie/get-involved/events/never-forgotten-night-run/>

## Further Information

### Bereaved Children's Awareness Week



Supporting Bereaved Children:  
An Open Evening for Parents & Carers

Supporting Bereaved Children: An Open Evening for Parents & Carers

Tuesday, 26th of November

7:30pm - 9pm



Teachers: Supporting Bereaved Students  
With Anne Staunton, Rainbows Ireland

Teachers: Supporting Bereaved Students

Wednesday, 27th of November

4pm - 5:30pm

From 18th to 22nd November, the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network (ICBN) will lead a series of events to raise awareness about the needs of bereaved children.

Highlights include webinars for professionals addressing key challenges and compassionate support strategies, online support sessions for parents and carers, and a national media campaign. Additionally, members and friends of ICBN will host local and regional events to deepen community engagement.

Don't miss this important opportunity to learn, share, and support bereaved children and their families.

[Further Information Here](#)



### IAPC End of Year Survey 2024

We value your input! As we plan for the year ahead, we want to hear from you—our valued readers and members—about how the IAPC can better serve your needs and support the palliative care community. Your feedback will help shape our events, seminars, newsletters, and

initiatives in 2024, ensuring they address the topics and opportunities most important to you. Please take a few moments to answer the questions below and share your thoughts. Together, we can continue to grow and make a meaningful impact.

Start Survey

## **Dates for your Diary:**

**22nd November:** Exploring Safe Harbour - Supporting children bereaved by suicide. Register [here](#)

**26th November:** Webinar: Supporting children through grief, focusing on promoting emotional well-being, resilience, and social connection Register [here](#)

**27th November:** Webinar, Teachers: Supporting Bereaved Children. Register [here](#)

**12th December:** Webinar: 'Economic evaluation of palliative care: what is the state of the art?', Dr. Peter May. Register [here](#)

**11th February:** IAPC Education and Research Seminar 2025

**20th February:** IAPC Virtual Workshop 1: 'Death and Dying at the Margins - a View from the Ground', registration forms can be found on our website or X.

**27th February:** IAPC Virtual Workshop 2: 'Paediatric to Young Adult Palliative Care Challenges', registration forms can be found on our website or X.

**6th March:** IAPC Virtual Workshop 3: 'Prisoners and Palliative Care', registration forms can be found on our website or X.



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