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**IAPC June Newsletter**

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



A Voice for Palliative Care in  
Ireland



**Irish Association  
for Palliative Care**

## June Newsletter

### **Welcome to Our New CEO – Fiona O'Malley**

The IAPC is delighted to announce the appointment of Fiona O'Malley as our new Chief Executive Officer. Fiona brings a wealth of experience in communications, leadership, and stakeholder engagement, with a background spanning journalism, public relations, and senior roles in the charity and health sectors.

She has previously led communications and fundraising teams at CMRF Crumlin and World Vision, and was previously CEO of Turn2Me, a national mental health charity supporting 10,000 people annually. Fiona also brings strong governance experience from her work with various boards and her familiarity with regulatory requirements.

With a proven track record in strategic planning, media engagement, stakeholder relations, and clinical service oversight, Fiona is passionate about palliative care and excited to lead our organisation into its next chapter.

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On 10th June, we had the privilege of hosting an engaging and energising Membership Workshop led by the incredible Marie Cooper. With her deep experience in clinical leadership and passion for palliative care, Marie created a thoughtful and inspiring space for reflection, learning, and connection.

Throughout the session, attendees explored the evolving nature of nursing roles and the need to continually advocate for the value of nursing in every care setting. Marie shared insights from her work with Hospice UK and her current role as Senior Nurse Advisor at St Christophers Hospice, including her leadership of the Global Palliative Nursing Network (GPNN).

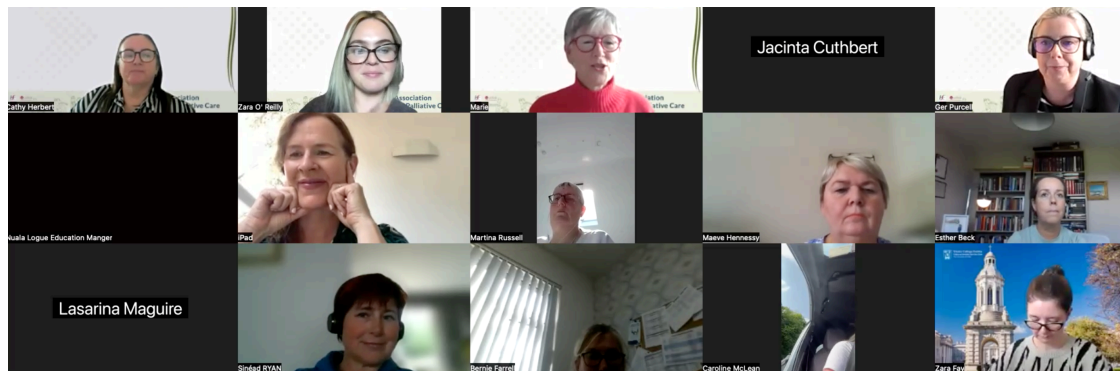
What made the workshop especially powerful was the level of engagement from the audience. Members brought their own perspectives and questions, contributing to a rich discussion that highlighted the strength of our community.

We also hosted two breakout rooms, which gave participants a chance to dive deeper into specific challenges and opportunities in their practice. These smaller group conversations helped spark practical ideas, peer support, and genuine connection—something we know is deeply valued.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it's clear that sessions like this are more than just informative—they're energising. They remind us of the shared commitment we have to improving care, supporting one another, and raising the profile of nursing leadership.

A heartfelt thank you to Marie, and to everyone who took part. We're looking forward to building on this momentum with more opportunities to learn and grow together.

Stay connected for updates on upcoming events—we'd love to see you at the next one.



## IAPC Ethics Forum – Position Paper on Nutrition and Decision Making in Palliative Care

We are pleased to announce the release of a new discussion document developed by the IAPC Ethics Forum: ***Nutrition and Decision Making in Palliative Care***

This resource was created through the dedication and expertise of our Ethics Forum members, who generously gave their time to ensure it reflects the values, professionalism, and collective voice of our membership. We are deeply grateful for their contribution.

Decisions around nutrition in palliative care can be medically, ethically, and emotionally complex. This document offers a compassionate, practical guide to support healthcare professionals, patients, and families in navigating these sensitive discussions.

We encourage all members to read and share this important resource within their networks. It's a valuable tool for thoughtful, person-centred care.

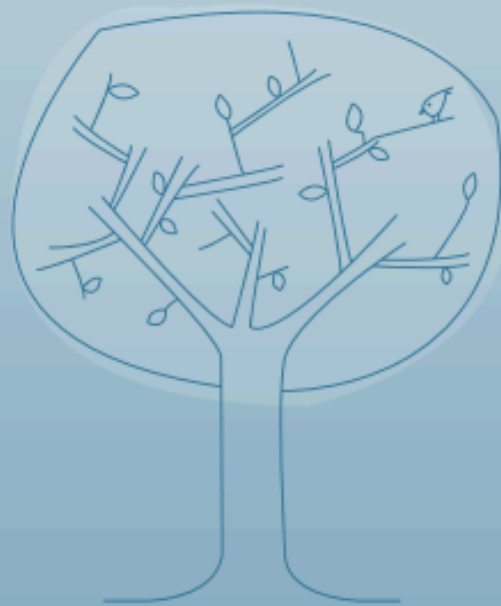
To the Ethics Forum—thank you for your outstanding work.

## Irish Association for Palliative Care

Position Paper on

# Nutrition and Decision Making in Palliative Care

May 2025



### EAPC Atlas of Palliative Care in Europe

The EAPC has launched its latest **Atlas of Palliative Care**, offering a detailed overview of palliative care access and integration across Europe. Despite an estimated 4.2 million people needing palliative care annually (including over 66,000 children), significant gaps remain.



[See Here](#)

This new edition, based on the WHO framework, highlights progress and ongoing challenges in areas such as national policies, service availability, training, opioid access, research, and community involvement. It is a vital tool for advocacy and advancing universal access to palliative care.

### Worth a Read: Can AI Help Modernise Irish Healthcare?

A recent BBC article explores how artificial intelligence is starting to reshape Ireland's healthcare system, beginning with initiatives at Dublin's Mater Hospital. From using AI to prioritise urgent radiology scans to developing "synthetic MRIs" for rural hospitals without 24/7 MRI access, the piece highlights how technology can help reduce diagnostic delays and support clinical decision-making—especially during staffing shortages.

Despite its potential, the article also outlines the challenges: outdated IT systems, a lack of shared electronic health records, and regulatory hurdles. Still, the work being done by clinicians and researchers across Ireland points to a growing recognition that AI could play a critical role in improving patient care.

[Read More Here](#)

### Have Your Say: Breast Cancer Radiotherapy Guideline Consultation

The National Cancer Control Programme is seeking feedback on the draft HSE National Clinical Guideline: *Treatment of Patients with Breast Cancer (Radiation Oncology)*. This guideline is aimed at healthcare professionals involved in breast cancer radiotherapy, and may also be of interest to patients and families. To contribute, please complete the attached feedback form (including the declaration of interest) and return it to [guidelines@cancercontrol.ie](mailto:guidelines@cancercontrol.ie) by **Friday, 18th July 2025**.

### Further Details



The Irish Cancer Society, with support from GSK and AstraZeneca, is now accepting applications for the Cancer Survivorship Seed Funding Award 2025. This award offers up to €50,000 for research projects (12–24 months) that address unmet needs in cancer survivorship. Open to academic and clinical researchers (post-undergraduate), the award is designed to kick-start impactful research that may not otherwise receive funding. Apply via the Irish Cancer Society Gateway Grant Tracker by **3pm on Wednesday, 9th July 2025**. For queries, contact [grants@irishcancer.ie](mailto:grants@irishcancer.ie).

### Further Information

## Enter the IAHPC 2025 Photo Contest

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is inviting members to submit photos that capture what palliative care looks like in their communities. Winning entries will receive cash prizes and membership extensions, with top prizes up to \$500 USD.

Photos should reflect real-life care, advocacy, education, or research—highlighting the human side of hospice and palliative work. The deadline is **31st October 2025**.

IAHPC members can submit up to 3 high-res images. Full details and submission links are available on the IAHPC website.

## AI in Irish Healthcare: A Transformative Tool with Caution

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept — it's already at work in Irish hospitals, supporting doctors in delivering better, faster care. From interpreting brain scans in stroke patients to helping GPs manage high blood pressure more efficiently, AI is becoming an important clinical ally.

Dr Conor Judge, consultant nephrologist and senior lecturer at the University of Galway, emphasises that AI must be held to the same safety standards as medications — rigorously tested in clinical trials before wide adoption. In his current research, AI is being used to personalise blood pressure treatment, with the potential to reduce the global burden of hypertension.

AI is already proving useful in medical imaging and stroke care, and with the right safeguards in place, it could enhance — not replace — the doctor-patient relationship. Dr Judge believes AI could free up clinicians' time by reducing admin, allowing more meaningful conversations with patients and improving overall care.

[Read the Article Here](#)

### **Lewy Body Dementia Survey – Share Your Insights**

As part of the Emerald Lewy project, funded by the Health Research Board, clinicians and support professionals are invited to take part in a national survey exploring knowledge, attitudes, and practices around Lewy body dementia (LBD). Your input will help shape care pathways and education efforts.

The survey takes 10–15 minutes and is open to those who may encounter individuals with LBD in their work.

**Take the survey here:** [https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6lfyc7h7sGdm3oW](https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6lfyc7h7sGdm3oW)

### **Survey: Advance Care Planning Among Palliative Care Staff**

Researchers at UCD are exploring how prepared palliative care staff in Ireland are to engage in advance care planning—for themselves and others. They're inviting nurses, doctors, consultants, and allied health professionals working in specialist palliative care to complete a short, anonymous survey (10–15 minutes).

**Take the Survey here:** <https://run.pavlovia.org/pavlovia/survey-2024.2.0/?surveyId=3bc127b1-d1de-4d73-9214-321e3852d3ec>

For queries, contact: [tadhg.gleeson@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:tadhg.gleeson@ucdconnect.ie) or [monika.pilch@ucd.ie](mailto:monika.pilch@ucd.ie)

## Webinar: Delirium in Specialist Palliative Care

Join Dr. Regina McQuillan, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at St. Francis Hospice, for a webinar on *Delirium in Specialist Palliative Care* on 25 June from 11:00am to 12:30pm.

[Register Here](#)



### Dates for your Diary

**25th June:** Webinar, Delirium in Specialist Palliative Care. Register [here](#)

**9–10th July:** “What is to become of me?” – Conference & Masterclass at St Christopher's Hospice. Register [here](#)

**9th July:** Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Conference 2025 (Online). Register [here](#)

**7th-13th September:** Annual Palliative Care Week. Further information can be found [here](#)



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