



IAPC September Newsletter

As September draws to a close, we are taking a moment to reflect on Palliative Care Week 2026 and the conversations, learning and connections that took place across Ireland.

This year's theme, **"It's Not What You Think,"** invited us to challenge some of the common perceptions surrounding palliative care and to consider the breadth of support available to people living with serious and life-limiting illness, as well as their families and carers.

For the IAPC, the week was an important opportunity to reflect on what palliative care means in both practice and on the people and professionals who make that care possible. Palliative care is about much more than end-of-life care. It can support people with symptom management, quality of life, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing, rehabilitation, decision-making and planning for the future. It can also be provided alongside other treatments and in a range of settings, including hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, communities and people's homes.

What did we learn?

One of the most encouraging messages from this year's campaign is that people recognise the value of palliative care.

New research commissioned by the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care found that 81% of adults surveyed in the Republic of Ireland would want access to palliative care if they or someone close to them needed it.

The research also highlighted what matters most to people: relief from pain and symptoms, being cared for at home, and support for family and carers.

There are also encouraging signs that public understanding is changing. The proportion of people associating palliative care mainly with cancer fell from 52% in 2024 to 12% in

do in helping people understand the full range of palliative care and when it can be accessed.

Beyond Palliative Care Week

While Palliative Care Week provides an important opportunity to raise awareness, the conversations cannot end when the week does.

The challenge is to continue talking about palliative care throughout the year with patients and families, within our communities and across health and social care services. It is about making sure people know what support is available, feel able to ask for it, and can have conversations about what matters to them.

It is also an opportunity for those working in palliative care to reflect on how we communicate what we do, how we listen to the experiences of people and families, and how we continue to develop services around their needs.

Abstract Submissions Closing

‘New Frontiers, New Possibilities: Transforming Palliative Care Together’

The call for abstracts is **closing on October 2nd** for the **IAPC 26th Education & Research Seminar**, taking place on **4th February 2027 at The Gibson Hotel, Dublin**.

We’re looking for research, innovation, new approaches and ideas that can help shape the future of palliative care.

Abstracts are welcomed from across the multidisciplinary community, including:

- Research
- Clinical practice
- Education
- Service development
- Policy
- Other areas contributing to the development of palliative care

Key dates

Submission deadline: 5pm, 2nd October 2025

Seminar: 4th February 2027

Venue: The Gibson Hotel, Dublin

Late submissions will not be accepted

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Submit Your Abstracts Today

Plenary Speaker: Professor Sonja McIlfatrick



We are pleased to welcome **Professor Sonja McIlfatrick** as our plenary speaker.

Professor McIlfatrick is an internationally recognised expert in nursing and palliative care, with more than 20 years' experience across clinical practice, education and research. She has published more than 200 research outputs, secured over £4 million in research funding and held senior academic and international positions, including Board membership of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC).

She has received numerous honours for her contribution to nursing, palliative care and public health, including an MBE in 2022.

IAPC 'Lunch and Learn' Webinar Series

IAPC Presents, Lunch and Learn Webinars 📍

In conjunction with our Education and Research Forum, the IAPC presents Lunch and Learn - a series of Webinars for palliative care professionals to connect, learn and engage with the latest research, best practice and expert insights.

'Simulation Teaching - New Approaches in Palliative Medicine Teaching'

📅 Friday 9th October, 1-2pm

Chaired By: Dr. Jennifer Hayes
Presented By: Prof. Dara Byrne

Register Here:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/U2afWPzpvB>

Irish Association for Palliative Care

IAPC Presents, Lunch and Learn Webinars 📍

'Development of Tracheostomy Management Guidelines in Hospices'

📅 Thursday 29th October, 1-2pm

Chaired By: Dr. Claire Collins
Presented By: Dr. Kyle Taheny & Dr. Claire Parkes

Register Here:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/U2afWPzpvB>

Irish Association for Palliative Care

We are delighted to announce the **IAPC Lunch & Learn series**, a programme of six engaging webinars taking place across 2026 and 2027. Designed for palliative care professionals, the series provides an opportunity to learn, connect and share knowledge on a range of current topics in palliative care education, research and practice. The first three sessions will take place before the end of 2026:

9th October 2026 | 1–2pm

'Simulation Teaching – New Approaches in Palliative Medicine Teaching'

Chaired by Dr Jennifer Hayes and presented by Prof Dara Byrne. This session will explore innovative approaches to simulation-based teaching in palliative medicine.

29th October 2026 | 1–2pm

'Development of Tracheostomy Management Guidelines in Hospices'

Chaired by Dr Claire Collins and presented by Dr Kyle Taheny and Dr Claire Parkes. This session will explore the development of guidelines for tracheostomy management within hospice settings and the practical implications for palliative care teams.

26th November 2026

'Artificial Intelligence in Palliative Care'

Chaired by Dr Cian O Leary and presented by Dr Mohamad Saab and Dr Irene Hartigan. This session will explore the opportunities and considerations surrounding the growing role of artificial intelligence in palliative care, including its potential applications in education, research and clinical practice.

The series will continue with three further sessions in 2027, with details to be announced in due course.

IAPC members can attend all Lunch & Learn webinars free of charge, while non-members can register for €25 per session.

With six sessions across the programme, this is a great opportunity to make the most of your IAPC membership. If you are not yet a member, now is a great time to join and access the full series, alongside the wider benefits of IAPC membership.

Register Here Today

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Keep up to date with IAPC news, events, education and research opportunities by following us online

Follow [IAPC on X](#) for the latest updates and announcements.

We're also now on [Bluesky](#) — follow our newly established account and stay connected with IAPC and the wider palliative care community.

Thank you for your continued engagement with The IAPC. We look forward to sharing more news, opportunities and member updates with you throughout the autumn.

SAVE THE DATE

ALL-IRELAND CLINICAL AI CONGRESS & AI TECH EXPO

What every healthcare professional needs to know about AI today!

Supported by ATHENA PHARMACEUTICALS

Scan me!

DATE Saturday, 12th Sept 2026	VENUE O'Reilly Hall, UCD Dublin
ACCREDITATION CME / CPD pending	REGISTRATION Complimentary

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- General Practitioners
- Registered Nurses
- Hospital Clinicians
- Digital Health Leaders
- Pharmacists
- Medical Academics

O'REILLY HALL · UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Register now at AIClinicalCongress.com

IRELAND'S CLINICAL AI MOMENT

Ireland's health system is currently entering a significant period of digital transformation, with the HSE's national AI strategy, the One Health Record programme, and increasing real-world clinical AI deployment all converging at once.

This Congress is designed not just to debate AI in the abstract, but to help clinicians and healthcare leaders see it, understand it, use it, and leave with the means to deploy it safely and responsibly.

Specialist Palliative Care Information Webinar

6 October 2026

A 60-minute online webinar will take place on 6 October for physiotherapists, occupational therapists and students interested in working in specialist palliative care. The session will explore the holistic nature of rehabilitative palliative care and will include a patient experience video and audience Q&A.

[Register Here](#)

Dates for the Diary

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6th October – Specialist Palliative Care Information Webinar. [Register here.](#)

8th October – [North West Hospice Explorations National Palliative Care Conference](#), Palliative Care for All, Sligo Park Hotel.

9th October - IAPC Webinar 'Simulation Teaching: New Approaches in Palliative Medicine Teaching' [Register Here](#)

21st–23rd October – [7th Maruzza International Congress on Paediatric Palliative Care](#), Rome.

27th–29th October – [36th Alzheimer Europe Conference](#), Convention Centre Dublin.

28th October – [Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Annual Conference](#), Edinburgh.

29th October - IAPC Webinar 'Development of Tracheostomy Management Guidelines in Hospice' [Register Here](#)

November 2026

24th November – **Stronger Together: Palliative Nursing Across Ireland**, an IAPC event bringing together palliative care nursing professionals for education, reflection and shared learning.



IAPC 26th Annual Education and Research Seminar

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS OPEN

'New Frontiers, New Possibilities: Transforming Palliative Care Together'

4th February 2027, The Gibson Hotel Dublin

The Irish Association of Palliative Care's Annual Education and Research Seminar in February 2027 is seeking abstract applications for submission.

All applicants are invited to register at the link below. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submission Deadline: 2nd October 2026

Submit your abstracts here:
<https://iapcseminar2027.exordo.com/>

Irish Association for Palliative Care



IAPC Nursing Forum Presents

'Stronger Together: Palliative Nursing Across Ireland'

Driving Innovation, Quality Improvement and Shared Learning

This inaugural IAPC event will bring together palliative care nursing professionals for a focused day of education, reflection, and shared learning. The programme will feature keynote presentations and expert sessions on person-centred nursing, anticipatory medications, and advance care planning. Delegates will also have the opportunity to explore quality improvement initiatives and service innovations from across the sector.

When: 9:30am, Tuesday
24th November

Where: Ashling Hotel,
Dublin. D083P8N

Further information can be found on our website iapc.ie or by emailing comms@iapc.ie

Logos: IAPC, HSE Public Health Agency, Irish Association for Palliative Care, HSE, Health and Wellbeing Government of Ireland, pobal

[Become a Member](#)

Visit our website www.iapc.ie to learn more about membership benefits, categories, and become a member online. Take advantage of this opportunity to join a community that shares your dedication to improving palliative care outcomes globally.

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admin@iapc.ie. We look forward to welcoming you to the IAPC community and working together to make a difference in Palliative Care.

[Join Us](#)

Our mailing address is:

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