



*“Help us shape the way palliative care research is conducted on the island of Ireland. Let’s increase the impact together”*

## WELCOME

Dear Early Career Researcher Forum (ECRF) Members,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our ECRF Newsletter. We are delighted to share our latest blog and podcast by members of the ECRF. This month’s event highlights include the AIIHPC “PPI within the context of Palliative Care” workshop and the IAPC Education and Research Seminar; thank you to the early career researchers who shared their work and those who supported them at these events.

We are planning for some really exciting events this year for the early career researcher community across Ireland and need your input. We would welcome your feedback on the type of events you are interested in, so please [complete our survey](#).

If you have a project or recent publication and you would like to explore options for disseminating them further, such as through a podcast or blog article, please get in touch to see how we can support you. As always, please continue letting us know your ideas, and sharing your successes (please forward information to [Dr Deborah Muldrew](#)).

Let’s continue increasing the impact together!

Deborah

ECRF Chair

### Overview

- Podcast featuring Gwen Stevenson
- Blog by Viktoria Hoel
- Event report: PPI within the context of palliative care workshop
- Event report: IAPC Education and Research Seminar
- Member Celebrations

Follow us online at the [Professional Palliative Hub](#) or on [Twitter](#)

### Get in touch:

Email the AIIHPC’s Palliative Care Research Network [Project Manager](#) or the [ECRF Committee](#)

If you’d like to **invite a colleague to join the ECRF**, please send them this link:  
[tinyurl.com/joinECRF](https://tinyurl.com/joinECRF)



Gwen Stevenson is a digital media artist working collaboratively with community groups, and social and healthcare projects in Northern Ireland and beyond.

### PODCAST

#### *Palliative Care through an Artistic Lens*

Within this podcast, Rachel McCauley speaks to Gwen Stevenson, a freelance digital media artist working in socially engaged, interdisciplinary, community and health care art projects in Northern Ireland. She discusses her own work, and her collaboration with palliative care community project, The Heart of Living and Dying in Northern Ireland.

Available at: [tinyurl.com/aiihpcPodcastEp08](https://tinyurl.com/aiihpcPodcastEp08)

### BLOG

#### *How can technology support people with dementia and their caregivers to socially connect?*

In the latest edition of our blog Viktoria Hoel explores the role of technology in promoting social health in a dementia caregiving context. Her PhD topic evolves around dementia caregiving relationships and the use of technology to promote the social health and dyadic relationship of both caregiver and care recipient in the context of dementia.

Read here: [Link](#)



Viktoria Hoel is a health economist by background, with most of her research experience evolving around geriatric care. Since 2019, she has been working at the University of Bremen, Germany, as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) Early Stage Researcher (ESR) Fellow in the EU Horizon 2020 funded project DISTINCT ([www.dementiadistinct.com](http://www.dementiadistinct.com)).



## Recent event report: AIIHPC's “PPI Within the Context of Palliative Care” workshop



AIIHPC

Early Career Researcher Forum

### Report by Nikki Dunne, ECRF member and Research Officer with Family Carers Ireland.

I was lucky enough to attend this thoughtfully organised workshop recently. There were two presentations from researchers, with each presentation followed by smaller, facilitated breakout sessions. The first presentation by King College London's Dr Lisa Brighton and Margaret Ogden set out the key principles underpinning their PPI work and provided much food for thought. Their focus on finding the 'right' people, flexible approaches to involvement, and building and maintaining relationships resonated with my own experience of facilitating involvement of carers in research. Taking the time to build trust and relationships, a willingness to have honest conversations, a commitment to flexibility, and early engagement with the relevant people are critical to the success not only of PPI but also to the research project, and this came out clearly in the breakout session.

The second presentation by NUIG's Dr Ruth McMenamin and UCC's Prof. Nicole Müller was really insightful. They discussed the practicalities of meaningfully involving people with communication impairments in research, highlighting potential barriers and suggesting innovative and practical methods for supporting people with different background to access PPI roles in health research. This led to a rich discussion in our breakout session where we were asked to consider the 'ethics of inclusion'. Recognition of the voices not in the room and a normative shift to acknowledge the different starting points we're all coming from were discussed as essential for fostering inclusivity and diversity in involvement. The discussion has prompted me to review my own practices and consider ways to embed ethics of inclusion in our research activities.

The final part of the workshop was a panel discussion with Dr Gail Johnston (Public Health Agency), Maureen Gilbert (Voices4Care member), Dr Lucia Prihodova (NREC), and Michael Foley (TCD PPI Ignite) which touched on many issues including the role of virtual meetings in involvement, evaluating PPI, the costs of PPI, and training for PPI contributors. I've grappled with many of these issues in my work with Family Carers Ireland, particularly ensuring that PPI activities and contributor costs are included in budgets from the outset. The discussion has also prompted me to think through other issues more carefully, especially the potential for asynchronous hybrid events.

Overall, the workshop was a great opportunity to think through the complexities of doing PPI, the importance of fostering inclusion and diversity, and the impact that good PPI can have on a wide range of stakeholders.

For more information about this event, please contact [Marie McKeon, AIIHPC Project Manager](#).

# Recent event report: Irish Association of Palliative Care (IAPC) 21<sup>st</sup> Education and Research Seminar



AIHPC

Early Career Researcher Forum

## Summary

The IAPC plays a vital role in shaping the provision of palliative care in Ireland and drives for national policy based on patient-centred, equitable and accessible palliative care for all who need it. The IAPC Education and Research Seminar consisted of a full day of oral and poster presentations, followed by three workshops throughout February 2022. You can find out more on Twitter using **#palcaresem22**

## Presenters included:

- **Dr Pauline Kane [presentation]**, Prevalence of advance care plans and emergency department transfers for frail older adults in residential care facilities
- **Dr Aoibheann Conneely [presentation]**, Estimation of palliative care needs of people experiencing homelessness using mortality data and cause of death
- **Dr Deborah Muldrew [workshop]**, How AIHPC supports early researchers in Palliative Care through Early Career Researcher Forum and Palliative Care Research Network. This workshop also involved Prof Suzanne Guerin (PCRN Vice Chair) and Dr Mary Rabbitte AIHPC.



## Future events

**12th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC® “Targeting pain and its co-morbidities in the digital age**

27-30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 [Dublin]

More information available [here](#)

**12th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care interactive**

18-20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 [online]

More information available [here](#)

## ECRF Survey

To help our members get the most from their involvement in the AIIHPC Early Career Researcher Forum, each year we run a survey to understand what types of events and activities you would like us to organise. These can include webinars, workshops, networking opportunities, capacity building exercises, social media events, the list goes on.

Please take some time to complete the survey (linked below or by scanning the QR code) to make sure we are offering events that will benefit you as an early career researcher.



## DETAILS

WHAT: Online Survey | WHO: All ECRF Members | TIME: 5-10 minutes

**DEADLINE: 30<sup>TH</sup> April 2022, 5pm**

 [Link to Survey](#)



## CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

**We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our ECRF members on all their hard work. Here are some examples of what some of our ECRF members have been working on:**

- A new protocol on the Co-Design of an Evidenced Informed Service Model of Integrated Palliative Care for Persons Living with Severe Mental Illness, published in [Healthcare](#) [Marianne Tinkler @mariannetinkler].
- A scoping review on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family carers in the community, published in [Heath and Social Care in the Community](#) [Deborah Muldrew, @DrDebMuldrew].
- A presentation at the Marie Curie Research Conference 2022 and published abstract in [BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care](#) on the MusiCAREER project [Katie Gillespie]

### Interested in sharing your successes?

If you would like us to share your successes through our newsletter, email updates, or twitter, please get in touch with [Dr Deborah Muldrew](#). Information for Twitter can be shared at any time, but if you would like to be included in the Summer edition of the ECRF Newsletter, please send your information to us before 1st June 2021.

### We need your help!

We are looking for people who would like to support the work of the ECRF from the island of Ireland and are particularly interested in members who are based in Northern Ireland. Some activities you may be involved in include writing/editing blogs, participating in our podcast series, and hosting online-based activities (e.g., webinars).