



*“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 Winter edition of our quarterly ECRF Newsletter. The committee has been undergoing changes since the autumn edition, including Monika Pilch and Dr Mary Nevin completing their terms as ECRF Chair and Vice Chair respectively. I would like to start by thanking Monika and Mary for their commitment and hard work in growing the ECRF community and leading on a number of valuable projects. Moving forward, the committee is excited to build on their efforts and continue to benefit the early career research community in Ireland.

As the new incoming Chair of the ECRF, the committee and I have exciting plans for 2022 and we are looking forward to working with our members to deliver a range of events and activities which will benefit the wider research community. As always, please continue letting us know your ideas, and sharing your successes (please forward information to [Dr Deborah Muldrew](#)).

I wish you a healthy and happy 2022, and I look forward to working together. Let’s continue increasing the impact together!

Deborah  
ECRF Chair



## Overview

- Podcast featuring Dr Stacey Power Walsh
- Blog by Dr Anita Mallon
- Event highlight: PCRN Symposium
- 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](#)



# AIIHPC

Early Career Researcher Forum

## ECRF PODCAST & BLOG



Stacey is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, UCD. She is a registered Children’s and Intellectual Disability Nurse, and her background is in children’s palliative and complex care in the community and hospice setting.

### PODCAST Episode 07

***Dr Stacey Power Walsh:***

***Preparing for a PhD viva during COVID-19***

In this episode, Rachel McCauley speaks with Dr Stacey Power Walsh about writing up her PhD thesis ‘Experiences of pregnancy with major fetal anomalies’, and shares her experiences and advice on preparing for a PhD viva.

**Available at:** [tinyurl.com/AIIHPCpodcastEp07](https://tinyurl.com/AIIHPCpodcastEp07)

### BLOG

***How can we get young adults interested in palliative care?***

In the latest edition of our blog, Dr Anita Mallon explores how palliative care is understood among a community of young adults. Through her mixed methods PhD research, Anita identifies what they know about palliative care, what attitudes inform and determine their engagement with the subject, and how interest and advocacy can be promoted among this young population.

**Read here:** [Link](#)



Dr Anita Mallon has a background in nursing and nurse education and completed her PhD in 2020. She is presently working as a Research Fellow in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queens University Belfast. Research interests relate to palliative care, public health dementia and care homes/nursing homes.



## 10TH ANNUAL PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH NETWORK SYMPOSIUM

'EQUALITY AND EQUITY IN PALLIATIVE CARE'

Thursday 2 December 2021

09:00 - 16:15



### What is the PCRN Symposium?

The Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) Symposium is an island of Ireland event that promotes the impact of palliative care research to improve practice and change policy in palliative care. This year's event was online.

### Key Speakers

- **Sam Royston**, Director of Policy and Research, Marie Curie UK
- **Joanna Davies**, Dunhill Medical Trust PhD Research Training Fellow
- **Karen Ryan**, Clinical Professor, UCD School of Medicine
- **Merryn Gott**, Director, Te Ārai Palliative Care and End of Life Research Group, School of Nursing, University of Auckland, New Zealand



“Systems need to be designed to meet these needs and resources should be allocated fairly.”  
Prof Karen Ryan at [#PCRNSymposium10](#)

[Link to playlist of presentations](#)

### Future events

**Improving Adult Bereavement Care, Support & Services**, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 [online]. For more information and to book your place visit [Healthcare Conferences UK](#). 20% discount available with code hcuk20aiihpc

**Marie Curie Research Conference: improving end of life for all** 30<sup>th</sup> January-4<sup>th</sup> February [online]. More information available [here](#)

**The Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland (APM) Congress 2022 'Recovering, Rebounding, Reinventing'** 24 – 25 March 2022 [online]. More information available [here](#)

 [Link to recording](#)

## ECRF Abstract Session

The Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) invited early career researchers to submit their research for an oral abstract session during the Symposium. The standard of submissions was so high this year, 40 minutes were allocated to accommodate four presentations. We are delighted to share below the four successful early career researchers and their topics for presentation. The ECRF committee would like to thank the early career researchers across Ireland who engaged with the Symposium this year, and we are keen to support this high level of engagement in 2022.

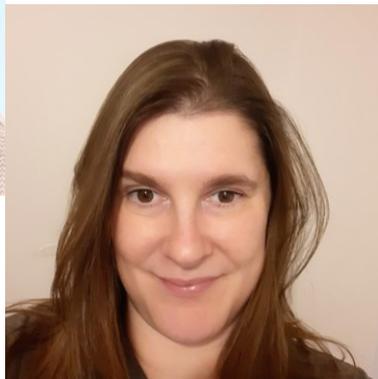
**Anne Jordan, Dublin Simon Community**

*'Developing and evaluating collaborative planning of future care – advance care planning in a long-term residential setting for older homeless adults. A qualitative study'*



**Dr Aoibheann Conneely, Trinity College Dublin and Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, Harold's Cross, Dublin**

*'Estimation of palliative care needs of people experiencing homelessness using mortality data and cause of death'*



**Lisa Cronin, Milford Care Centre**

*'Accessing Specialist Palliative Care for People with Dementia'*



**Dr Deborah Muldrew, Ulster University [winner]**

*'Public engagement and consultation with advance care planning in Ireland: Findings from a virtual workshop'*



## 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 our early career researchers have been working on:**

- A new methodological paper on social media as a research tool, published in [JMIR Paediatrics and Parenting](#) [Julie McCullough].
- A systematic integrative review on Arts engagement facilitated by artists with individuals with life-limiting illness, published in [Palliative Medicine](#) [Jenny Baxley Lee].
- A new systematic review and meta-analysis on C-Reactive Protein and C-Reactive Protein-Based Scores to Predict Survival in Esophageal and Junctional Adenocarcinoma, published in [Annals of Surgical Oncology](#) [Cliona Lorton].
- A protocol and scoping review on barriers and facilitators to the implementation of social robots for older adults and people with dementia, published in [Systematic Reviews](#) [protocol] and [BMC Geriatrics](#) [Review]. [Wei Qi Koh].

### 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 Spring edition of the ECRF Newsletter, please send your information to us before 1st March 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).