



“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 Summer edition of our ECRF Newsletter. We are delighted to share our latest blog and podcast by Wei Qi Koh, member of the ECRF.

Thank you to everyone who took time to participate in our ECRF members survey which will support activity planning in 2022. “Making the most of non-traditional dissemination routes” was the most popular topic for an online workshop. We will keep you updated with our progress on this event. If you would like to nominate a speaker for the workshop please get in touch.

If you have a project or recent publication and you would like to explore options for disseminating them further, 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

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Get in touch:

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



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ECRF PODCAST & BLOG



The latest edition of our blog and podcast features Wei Qi Koh, a registered occupational therapist with clinical experience working in different health and social care settings in Singapore. Her interest in research was founded in clinical work, where she saw research as an avenue to advocate for patient-centred practice and meaningful activity engagement for older adults. Wei Qi was awarded with a Marie-Curie Fellowship within the DISTINCT (Dementia: Intersectoral Strategy for Training and Innovation Network for Current Technology) consortium and moved to Ireland in 2019. She is currently working on her PhD in the National University of Ireland Galway, where her project is focused on developing recommendations for the implementation of pet robots for people with dementia.

BLOG

Enhancing dementia care using pet robots; moving research into real-world practice?

In the latest edition of our blog Wei Qi Koh discussed the impacts of pet robots for people living with dementia, and factors that can affect their adoption in dementia care.

Read here: tinyurl.com/WeiBlog

PODCAST

Pet robots: A new path for dementia care

In this podcast, Rachel McCauley speaks to Wei Qi Koh about the novel ways in which the social health of older adults with dementia is being addressed and improved. Wei's recent research focuses on the use of pet robots in nursing homes, their effects on social health of older adults with dementia, and the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of this novel technology."

Available at: tinyurl.com/aiihpcPodcastEp09

Event report: Creating a death literate society in Northern Ireland



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Summary

Death literacy concerns the knowledge, skills and awareness of issues concerning death, dying, end of life care and bereavement. On 5th May 2022, Marie Curie NI hosted an online workshop to explore both the research surrounding death literacy, and the personal experience of the importance of being “death literate” when supporting someone at the end of life. You can find out more on Twitter using **#DeathLiteracyNI**

Speakers

- Patricia Donnelly, Chair of the NI Bereavement Network
- Dr Kerrie Noonan, Director of the Death Literacy Institute in Australia
- Dr Lisa Graham-Wisener, Lecturer at the School of Psychology, QUB
- Joan McEwan, Associate Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Marie Curie NI
- Dr Lauren Miller-Lewis, Lecturer in the School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences at CQ University, Australia
- Sally Paul, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of Strathclyde

Some interesting findings shared at the workshop

- 50% of 8yr old children in Scotland experience a bereavement. We need to support our children living through bereavement in all environments
- 73% of people in NI are unfamiliar with the term “advance care plan”
- 1 in 4 people in NI are uncomfortable talking about death and dying
- From a family perspective, language matters when talking about death and dying. Time and support is needed from clinicians to explain terminology
- “Dying 2 learn” MOOC was found to be a safe online space to share knowledge and experience among the community, and to talk about death and dying



Future events

Palliative Care Week 2022:

‘Palliative Care: Living as well as possible’ 11 - 17 September 2022

If you would like to get involved, please email [Yvonne McCahill](mailto:Yvonne.McCahill@mcusercontent.com), or call 087 094 7148

Together for Short Lives national conference ‘Unlocking Potential: The key to quality children's palliative care’

7-8 September 2022 [Manchester].
More information available [HERE](#)

7th Public Health Palliative Care International conference 20-23 September 2022 [Bruges].
More information available [HERE](#)



ECRF Survey

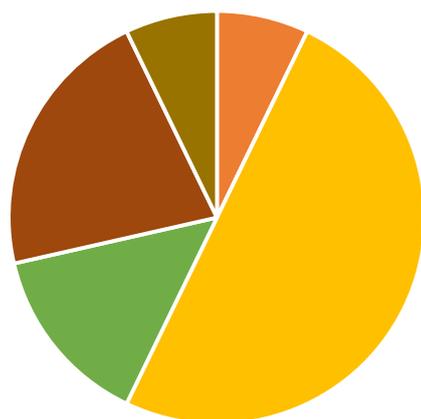
Thank you to all the members who took time to complete our survey. Here is what we found...



Preferred topics for an online workshop

Making the most of non-traditional dissemination routes	1st
Writing your first grant and developing a budget	2nd
The basics of trial methodology in palliative care	3rd
Navigating research ethics	4th-
Getting your message across when networking	4th-
Peer to peer mentorship	6th

Current position/role of respondents



- MSc Student
- PhD Student
- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Lecturer
- Other

Alternative events suggested for consideration

- Communicating with people receiving palliative care and their carers
- How to publish an article
- Philosophy in palliative care research
- Accessing existing databases for secondary analysis
- Simple statistical tests for quantitative analysis
- Mixed methods in palliative care research

Thank you for your feedback. We will use these responses to plan our next ECRF workshop

HAPPY NEWS

The current ECRF Chair and Vice Chair will be going on maternity leave shortly. AIIHPC would like to take this opportunity to thank the ECRF Chair, Dr Deborah Muldrew, University of Ulster; and Vice Chair, Dr Serena FitzGerald, University College Cork, for their considerable contribution to the Forum and their positive impact as leaders of the ECRF Committee. We wish them the best of luck with their maternity leave and look forward to welcoming them back towards the end of next year.

OPPORTUNITY: Maternity Cover for ECRF Chair and Vice Chair roles

As the current ECRF Chair and Vice Chair will be on leave, we are looking for **applications for Acting Chair and Vice Chair** to cover their roles. We foresee this to be until the end of October 2023. This is a great opportunity to work with a group of enthusiastic and dynamic palliative care researchers, and to develop your career and network.

Information on the ECRF Committee:

The ECRF Committee meets on a regular basis (4 - 6 times a year) and is made up of ECRF members from a variety of backgrounds. The committee includes a Chair, Vice-Chair, Membership Officer, Networking Officer, Communication and Social Media Officers, Activities and Events Officers and Ordinary members. The Chair and Vice Chair leads and supports this vibrant committee with a mission to support, enable, and empower early career researchers to conduct high quality and meaningful research. For more details, please see [this link](#) and [this link](#) for more information on the ECRF and these roles.

To apply:

If you are interested in applying for either of these roles, please contact [Clodagh O'Donovan](#) with 'ECRF Roles' in the subject line by 18:00 on Friday 26 August 2022. Please include your CV and short statement on why you think you would be suitable for the role (max 200 words).



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11th Annual Palliative Care Research Network Symposium – save the date: 25 November 2022

AIIHPC are delighted to announce that the 11th Annual Palliative Care Research Network Symposium will take place on Friday 25 November 2022. We are planning to have this year's event in-person at The Ashling Hotel, Dublin.

We will be launching the PCRN Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 at this year's Symposium. The **theme for the event** has not yet been decided; we welcome your ideas.

We are looking for a volunteer from the Early Career Researcher Forum to join the PCRN Annual Symposium Organising Committee. This committee provides AIIHPC with assistance on potential themes, keynote speakers nationally and internationally, and helps to shape the Symposium. AIIHPC looks after all event management and administrative aspects of the Symposium. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please let [PCRN Project Manager Clodagh O'Donovan](#) know by Monday 22 August @ 10am.

A **call for abstracts for ECRF members** will open shortly. More details and a registration link will follow in the coming weeks. We would ask you to save the date in your calendar now and look forward to seeing you there.



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 scoping review on the evidence for community-based dementia palliative care services and their related service activities, published in [BMC Palliative Care](#) [Niamh O'Connor].
- A protocol on strategies for implementing pet robots in care homes and nursing homes for residents with dementia, published in [Implementation Science Communications](#) [Wei Qi Koh]
- A descriptive qualitative study on the determinants of implementing pet robots in nursing homes for dementia care, published in [BMC Geriatrics](#) [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 Autumn edition of the ECRF Newsletter, please send your information to us before 1st September 2022.

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).