



5th Annual Symposium of the Palliative Care Research Network

Thursday 8th December 2016, Dublin

Introduction

The Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) will host its 5th Annual Symposium on the 8th December 2016 in the Ashling hotel, Dublin. This 1-day event will bring together researchers and clinicians from across disciplines and partner organisations to explore and enhance the wealth of expertise and innovation in palliative care research on the island of Ireland. This event aims to build on existing research and develop new collaborations towards advancing the field of palliative care research nationally and internationally. The symposium promises to be a dynamic event of speakers, discussion, debate and opportunities.

The symposium will feature an opening address by the new Chair of the PCRN Strategic Scientific Committee, Professor Sonja McIlpatrick (Ulster University) followed by keynote presentations from two of our most prominent international colleagues, Professor Lieve Van den Block (End of Life Care Research Group, Vrije University Brussel & Ghent University) and Professor Sheila Payne (Emeritus Professor, International End of Life Observatory, Lancaster University). The symposium will also include what is anticipated to be a lively and engaging panel discussion with our keynote speakers as well as Professor Philip Larkin (Professor of Clinical Nursing [Palliative Care], UCD & Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services/ Associate Dean for Taught Graduate Studies/ President of the EAPC), Dr Joan McCarthy (Lecturer, Healthcare Ethics Coordinator, MSc End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics Leader of End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics Research Theme School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork), and one other. A more detailed outline of the programme is presented below.

Target audience

This symposium is directed primarily towards academic and clinical researchers involved in palliative care research from across a range of disciplines (health sciences, social sciences, humanities, economics, etc). Due to the focus of the event, attendance is by invitation only and will be extended to the following groups:

- Current PCRN members
- Non-PCRN members¹
- Members of Voices4Care²

Background

Today, the PCRN is built on pillars of collaboration, innovation, capacity building, dissemination and knowledge transfer. It plays an integral role in engaging researchers, service users/ carers, practitioners and funders to advance palliative care research across the island of Ireland. This has been done through the production of high quality research, interdisciplinary collaboration, research capacity building, user/carer engagement, dissemination and knowledge transfer. To continue this advancement, it is essential that the PCRN evolves in order to:

- Respond to the national and global priorities for palliative care research
- Facilitate and nurture current and new generations of researchers and research innovation
- Maximise opportunities to undertake multi-site and cross-country research
- Leverage funding and resources to ensure sustainability of the Network
- Increase engagement in PPI and knowledge transfer activities to ensure impact
- Maximise links with key policy and practice stakeholders as part of AIIHPC

The Network seeks to prompt participation and involvement of researchers from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds and academic/clinical settings across the island.

Symposium Overview

This year's symposium marks a significant milestone for the Palliative Care Research Network in which the current set of projects, funded through the Health Research Board and AIIHPC, begin to conclude and new researchers/ projects continue to join the Network. The establishment of a new Strategic Scientific Committee (currently underway at the time of writing this proposal) together with the appointment of key strategic roles within this Committee, reflect the development and expansion of the Network into a national and international leader in palliative care research.

¹ Working in partner organisations of the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care.

² AIIHPC's user/carer forum

Programme

From 10am	Tea/coffee & registration
10.30am	Opening address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Sonja McIlfratrick, Chair of the PCRN Strategic Scientific Committee/ Postgraduate Tutor, Lead Palliative Care Research Strand, Institute of Nursing and Health Research
11am	Session 1: Introductions & research project posters Speed networking
12pm	Keynote address: “Priorities for palliative care research: taking stock of successes, challenges and future directions”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Lieve Van den Block, End of Life Care Research Group, Vrije University Brussel & Ghent University
12.40pm	Open discussion
1pm	Lunch
1.40pm	“Why supporting research activity and research leadership in hospices and other places of care matters”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Sheila Payne, Emeritus Professor, International End of Life Observatory, Lancaster University
2.10pm	Open discussion
2.30pm	Session 2: Addressing the research priorities for palliative care through interdisciplinary research, collaboration and innovation: how can we make a difference? Group activity with feedback
3.30pm	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK
3.45pm	Session 3: Panel discussion chaired by Professor Sonja McIlfratrick Panel Members: Professor Lieve Van den Block, Professor Sheila Payne, Dr Joan McCarthy, Professor Philip Larkin, and one other.
4.30pm	Summary of the day & next steps
5pm	Final remarks and closing

Keynote speakers

Lieve Van den Block is Professor of Aging and Palliative Care Research at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and chair of the Ageing and Palliative Care Research Programme at the End-of-Life Care Research Group of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University in Belgium. She holds a PhD in Medical Social Sciences and a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. Her work focuses on national and international public health and interventional research aimed at monitoring and improving palliative and end-of-life care for older people. Her research is multidisciplinary in nature and located at the intersection of primary care, palliative care, long-term care, and geriatrics. Her work places strong emphasis on studying palliative care both in community and institutional settings including palliative care for people affected by frailty and dementia.

Lieve Van den Block is the Principal Investigator and EU coordinator of PACE (Palliative Care for Older People), a collaborative research project funded under the EU FP7 Health programme and involving 12 EU partners. She was the Executive Coordinator of EURO IMPACT (European Intersectoral and Multidisciplinary Palliative Care Research Training; 2010-2014), and is currently the partner lead in INDUCT (Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Utilising Current Technology), both funded by the European Commission as Marie Curie Initial Training Networks. Furthermore, she is the coordinator of the EURO SENTIMELC (European Sentinel Networks Monitoring End-of-Life Care) study, which employs an epidemiological surveillance method using Sentinel Networks of General Practitioners to study end-of-life care from a population-based perspective in four European countries. Prof. Van den Block received the prestigious Early Researcher Award of the European Association for Palliative Care as well as several other scientific awards for her work. She has published more than eighty papers in leading peer-reviewed journals in medicine, public health and palliative care.



Sheila Payne is Emeritus Professor at the International Observatory on End of Life Care, Division of Health Research, Lancaster University. Professor Sheila Payne is a health psychologist with a background in nursing. She is the Director of the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University. She holds honorary visiting chairs at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She is the Past President of the European Association of Palliative Care. Professor Payne has a long track record in palliative care research and scholarship. Her research focuses on palliative and end-of-life care for older people. She holds a number of major international grants and has supervised over 30 PhD students. She has published widely in academic and professional journals and published 11 books.