Ulster University

THE BENEFITS OF AIIHPC PCRN MEMBERSHIP

Like all Network members, the PCRN keeps us informed about opportunities and developments in palliative care research, policy and practice at home and abroad. The PCRN is a community of health professionals with a shared purpose to develop our palliative care research. Our individual efforts can be shared for better impact. Some joint working has also been achieved, as joint investigators: With Assoc Prof Suzanne Guerin (UCD) we have developed a new framework for knowledge transfer in palliative care: the “EMTReK model” which emphasises a structured and timely approach to research dissemination for maximum impact. With Drs Suzanne Timmons and Siobhan Fox (UCC), we have completed guideline development work for people with Parkinson’s Disease and now link closely with them on a project to develop a new model for dementia care.

OUR PCRN MEMBERS

- Dr Felicity Hasson, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing
- Professor George Kernohan, Professor of Health Research, School of Nursing
- Professor Gerry Leavey, Director of the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, School of Psychology
- Professor Sonja McIffatrick, Head of School and Professor of Nursing and Palliative Care, School of Nursing, Ulster University

OUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

We have funded projects to support a range of palliative care research at Ulster University

- Developing Public Health approaches: public awareness of palliative care and advance care planning;
- Education for health care professionals to help them manage constipation in hospice settings (DEMCoN);
- the Healthcare Assistant’s role in out of hours community palliative care provided by hospice organisations.
- Addressing agitation, advanced dementia and other mental health issues within palliative care

AT ULSTER, WE ARE KEEN TO COLLABORATE!

We would like to connect with researchers at any stage in their career who might consider undertaking research into any aspect of palliative care or a specific life-limiting condition mentioned here.

We currently have postgraduate students working on:

- perceptions of young people towards palliative care: a public health approach
- advance care planning conversations for children requiring palliative care using Experience-Based Co-design
- the role and experience of the healthcare staff in delivering palliative care in community settings;
- Supporting palliative care globally:
  - caregivers of patients with end stage cancer in Ghana.
  - palliative care education in Japanese long-term care facilities

A caring approach to a sensitive issue

Sonja McIffatrick, Head of School and Professor of Nursing and Palliative Care at Ulster University, talks to VIEW editor Brian Peat about a Marie Curie funded study which looked at the problem of constipation in people with terminal illnesses.