



# Hospital Professional

As we look ahead into 2020, now is the time to reflect on those who have been, and who will be, empowering others moving into the future.

We're marking the end of 2019 with our unique HPN Professional Top 100 – a prestigious annual list which celebrates Ireland's top hospital and healthcare achievers.

The HPN Top Professional Top 100 is a carefully constructed network of the most influential hospital professionals across a range of disciplines, both in the healthcare and pharma industries, who act as ambassadors and role models for their peers, colleagues and the rising stars of tomorrow.

If you are looking for inspiration, you can read about these amazing individuals who shape the HPN Professional Top 100 for 2019 on the forthcoming pages.

Over the past many months, our team of writers has reached out to pharmacists, consultants, clinical specialists, representative bodies and organisations throughout the sector and encouraged them to put forward those colleagues they feel are redrawing the landscape for the future.

Those who have made our final list have displayed motivating behaviour and inspirational leadership affecting the development of hospital services across Ireland.

Featured in this year's list are professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Though the role our finalists play are diverse, every one of them has one factor in common – an unflinching commitment to the development of the hospital healthcare sector.





100



## **Dr Roisin Adams, Chief Pharmacist and Head of HTA Strategy & External Engagement, National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics at St. James hospital**

Dr Adams, is Head of HTA Strategy and External engagement for the NCOPE at St. James hospital. She led the HTA team for a number of years before being seconded to the HSE to lead a new unit tasked with overseeing and managing high cost drugs in acute hospitals.

Dr Adams co-chairs the HTA domain of the BeNeLuxA initiative and oversees the EUNetHTA work of the NCOPE. She is also one of the directors of the international horizon scanning initiative (IHSI) of which Ireland is one of the founding members with Belgium. She has been awarded a number of grants from the Health Research Board to examine health preferences in Ireland, the most recent examines patient preferences in HTA. Her areas of interest include methods for preference elicitation, combining different data for evidence synthesis and reimbursement mechanisms for high cost drugs. She has held advisory positions for Department of Health, the Health Information and Quality Authority and pharmaceutical policy direction at EU level.

## **Dr Elizabeth Barrett, Consultant in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street**

Dr Elizabeth Barrett is a trainer for SpR's in both Psychiatry and Paediatrics and teaches at undergraduate and postgraduate level for a range of interdisciplinary professionals as she sees training and interprofessional educational initiatives as crucial to early detection and intervention (and to longer term improved health outcomes) for children from a mental health perspective. At UCD she collaborates with international research examining European training and Trainee Burnout and vulnerability. Elizabeth is the Clinical Lead for Schwartz rounds at Temple st, the first Paediatric Hospital in Ireland to introduce these. She also leads Balint groups, and leads the Mindreading Narrative in Medicine project at UCD with collaborators at Birmingham and Oxford.

She is a Consultant in Child and Adolescent Liaison Psychiatry (Psychological Medicine) in Children's University Hospital, Temple St, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at University College Dublin.

As a Psychological Medicine specialist, Elizabeth has a clinical and research interest in the interface between Medical and Psychiatric co-morbidity, Eating disorders, Psychosomatic medicine & Anxiety and Neuropsychiatry.



## **Dr Matthew Barrett, Cardiovascular Imaging Specialist at Beacon Hospital & Heart Failure Physician in St. Vincent's Hospital**

Dr Matthew Barrett graduated from UCD school of medicine in 2009 and completed his clinical cardiology specialist registrar training in 2016. In the course of his subspecialist training, he worked as a clinical lecturer in cardiology and heart failure with both UCD and RCPI as well as taking an active role as clinical liaison in medical device innovation.

Subsequent to his lecturing position, Dr. Barrett undertook a radiology fellowship in advanced cardiovascular imaging in Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, completing this in 2018 and returning to Ireland thereafter to take up a dual role as a heart failure physician in St. Vincent's University Hospital as well as cardiovascular imaging specialist in the Beacon Hospital. In this latter role, he established a new cardiac MRI service for advanced MRI assessment of cardiovascular risk and structural heart disease.



## Ger Brennan - Managing Director, MSD Ireland

As the Managing Director for MSD Ireland, Ger Brennan has led the company through 2019 marking many achievements and focused success. Within this role he is also the Head of MSD's Country Leadership team, which oversees the development of MSD's presence in Ireland.

In his most recent role Ger was the Global Franchise Lead for Immunology. In this capacity he had responsibility for leading strategy development, execution and the business performance of the Immunology business across the EU, Russia and Turkey

Ger joined MSD in Ireland in 2010 as Business Unit Director for a newly established Business Unit – Biologics and Customer Support. In this role, Ger was responsible for delivering the business performance for Immunology. In addition, he was responsible for building the Customer Business Support team, whose remit was to provide strategic support to the broader organisation to enable the achievement of its business objectives.



## Jennifer Brown BSc. (Pharm), MSc., MPSI - Clinical Director of Operations, Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Directorate, Pharmacy Head of Operations Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Jennifer is the Clinical Director of Operations within the Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation (PAMO) Directorate, and the Pharmacy Head of Operations, in the MMUH.

In response to local and national changes, the economic, patient welfare, planning and strategic roles of the Pharmacy Department (PD) MMUH have expanded to meet emerging healthcare demands. The complex organisational, regulatory, research and economic considerations of the PD workload is intrinsically bound with the work of a variety of other Departments, Directorates and Hospital Management.

Under the leadership of Professor Ciaran Meegan, PAMO Clinical Directorate Lead and Director of Strategy, and Ms Jennifer Brown, greater cohesion and alignment of pharmacy services has been achieved by integrating the evolving PD roles and responsibilities into the hospital Directorate structure.

On completion of the RCSI MSc Leadership, Jennifer's research project established a procedure in the MMUH to optimise medicines selection and hospital approval processes. Jennifer has been instrumental in the implementation and evolution of medicines evaluation and approval strategies in the MMUH to provide greater quality, access and safety of medicines use.

## Dr Marcus Butler - Consultant Respiratory Physician at St Vincent's University Hospital and Associate Professor at University College Dublin & Medical Director, Asthma Society Ireland

Dr Marcus Butler is Medical Director of the Asthma Society of Ireland, which launched a major piece of research on asthma in June 2019. The research revealed the huge economic burden of asthma, with the Society warning that we are getting asthma management wrong.

*Easing the Economic Burden of Asthma – The Impact of a Universal Asthma Self-Management Programme* is the first prevalence and impact assessment of asthma since 2001 and confirms the national economic burden of the chronic disease to be €472 million per year. "Asthma death rates are falling in many developed countries but, alarmingly, over a 10-year period from 2008 to 2017, the number of asthma deaths in Ireland is rising. This research contends that a national self-management programme for all asthma patients, irrespective of age, has a high likelihood of substantial cost savings, not to mention the precious safe-guarding of human life and wellbeing that underpins our efforts," he says.





## **Professor Joseph Butler, Consultant Spine Surgeon, Mater Private Hospital**

In April 2019, the Mater Private Hospital became the first facility in the UK and Ireland to offer robot-assisted spine surgery, and became the fourth centre in Europe to use the highly advanced ExcelsiusGPS™ robot, a revolutionary robotic guidance technology for spinal surgery.

Prof. Butler, Consultant Spine Surgeon at the Mater Private Hospital, became the first surgeon in Ireland to use the new technology in a spinal surgery procedure carried out at the hospital. Prof. Butler had trained extensively in the use of this technology in spine surgery and observed its positive impact across comparable healthcare settings in the U.S.

Prof. Butler has over 100 publications and 150 presentations at national and international scientific meetings. He specialises in the area of Robotic and Image-guided spine surgery and sits on the Robotics and Navigation Committee of the North American Spine Society, the leading society in the field of spinal surgery.

## **Bernard Carr, Chief II Pharmacist, Clinical Services, St James's Hospital**

The pharmacy team at St James' were recognised for their achievement in implementing 'Project Oak' - the introduction of an Electronic Patient Record (EPR) including ePrescribing, medicines administration and electronic clinical documentation across 862 inpatient beds.

The implementation of the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) was a major challenge and the professional and personal commitment of pharmacy staff enabled a safe and successful transition. The Medications Workstream for Project Oak was led by a team of three pharmacists and one nurse. The Medications team and Informatics Dept in liaison with Cerner were responsible for the build and configuration of the ePrescribing system. This included building a medications catalogue, 14,000 medication prescription templates, prescription plans and configuring decision support.

The 'Go-live' was a major operational change for St. James' Hospital. Over a period of eight weeks 2,550 hospital staff attended training.



## **Dr Tomás Carroll, Chief Scientist, Alpha-1 Foundation Ireland & Senior Lecturer, RCSI**

Dr Tomás Carroll is the Chief Scientist with the Alpha-1 Foundation Ireland, who reached a new milestone earlier this year.

In May 2004, the Alpha-1 Foundation Ireland launched the national AATD targeted detection programme, supported by the HSE and Department of Health.

In October 2019 a milestone was reached: 20,000 people with COPD, asthma, and liver disease, as well as first-degree relatives of people known to have AATD, had been tested. Dr Carroll has led and championed this testing programme for over a decade and recently provided an overview of what has been achieved. He revealed that of the 20,000 tested, over 4,200 people were found to have a form of alpha-1, while 400 tested positive for the ZZ genotype – the most severe form of deficiency.



## Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri, Professor of Human Genetics at RCSI & Deputy Director of the SFI FutureNeuro Research Centre

Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri is Professor of Human Genetics at RCSI and Deputy Director of the SFI FutureNeuro Research Centre whose key scientific discoveries include the identification of one of the strongest signatures of natural selection detected in the human genome to date, characterizing genetic predictors of cutaneous adverse reactions to anti-epileptic drugs and describing fine scale population structure across Ireland, and within the indigenous Irish Traveller community.

His recent work, published in PNAS, has found strong genetic connections between the Scots and Norse Vikings, and sheds light on the Gaelic component to the Icelandic gene pool. Studying the DNA of individuals with extended ancestry from specific regions across Great Britain and Ireland, with a specific focus on Scotland, the team described the genetic map of Britain and Ireland in its entirety.

Professor Cavalleri has published over 100 articles in leading journals including Nature, Nature Genetics and the New England Journal of Medicine.



## Sheena Cheyne, Head of Pharmacy, National Rehabilitation Hospital

Sheena Cheyne, together with her pharmacy colleague Niamh Murphy, are active members of the IDT SCI Education Committee, during 2019 providing valuable input on the integration and expansion of team understandings of IDT work for the benefit of patients'.

They also worked on the 'Mind-the-Gap' survey, designed to identify gaps in patients' knowledge is completed prior to discharge to provide the IDT with information regarding issues still to be addressed. A post-discharge follow-up study is currently being implemented.

This survey is now being adapted for use in a number of UK spinal centres.

The Spinal Cord Programme at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin provides rehabilitation to 35 patients.

## Dr Dearbhaile Collins, MBBCh MA PhD IMRCS MRCPI

Dr Dearbhaile Collins MBBCh MA PhD IMRCS MRCPI is an Irish trained Medical Oncologist with speciality interest in lung cancer and gynaecological malignancies but also treats a wide variety of other cancers. She has both a PhD in translational oncology and MA in Medical Ethics and Law. She has extensive experience in both surgical and medical oncology with numerous publications, presentations, grants and awards.

She spent a number of years as part of fellowship training at the Drug Development Unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London under the expert supervision of the Regius Professor Johann de Bono. She is using this experience and training to attract international cancer clinical trials as well as develop and initiate novel drug and combination studies as well as translational research.

These endeavours aim to improve cancer patient access to promising new drugs.





## Professor Kevin Conlon, Professor of Surgery at Trinity College Dublin

Professor Kevin Conlon was elected to Honorary Fellowship of the American Surgical Association this year. This is the highest recognition that the American Surgical Association can bestow upon a surgical colleague from a foreign country.

Professor Conlon, a surgical oncologist, is Professor of Surgery at Trinity College Dublin, based at St Vincent's University Hospital and Tallaght University Hospital. He is internationally recognised and widely published in the field of Surgical Oncology.

He is the Editor-in-Chief of Digestive Surgery and has served on the editorial board of multiple international journals. He is a member of many co-operative groups. He is currently President of the European-African-Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary-Association (E-AHPBA) and Secretary General of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary-Association (IHPBA). He is a member of the European Surgical Association.

## Dr John Connaughton, Clinical Director & Consultant Physician, Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise

Dr John Connaughton, Consultant Physician, is both the Chairman of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and Clinical Director, positions which he has used to serve medication safety and patient care at MRHP tirelessly.

The Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise (MRHP) Drugs and Therapeutics Committee is a team of dedicated hospital professionals who are working together to standardise, strengthen and make safe all aspects of medication management. Under Dr Connaughton's stewardship, the committee has put medication safety at the top of its agenda – both literally and figuratively. Several medication safety developments have been undertaken in recent years.

The most novel development was the commissioning and implementation of the MRHP Medicines App. The committee recognised the challenges in communicating medication management and safety information in a timely, relevant and version controlled manner. The MRHP Medicines App has been fundamental in placing relevant and approved medication information at the fingertips of frontline healthcare workers in MRHP. The App was launched in October 2018 and usage continues to increase.



## Professor Martin Cormican, MB BCh BAO, Consultant Microbiologist, NUI Galway & HSE National Lead for Antibiotic Resistance

Just last month, the HSE launched a new video on taking antibiotics to mark the annual European Antibiotic Awareness Day. Professor Martin Cormican is the HSE National Lead for Antibiotic Resistance.

The video is one of five new videos aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge around antibiotics, superbugs, hand hygiene and preventing infection. Professor Cormican is director of the GUH National Microbiology Reference Laboratory services. His research interests include antibiotic resistance and food borne infection. With colleagues he established a Centre for Health from Environment at NUI Galway to promote research and advocacy on the central role of the environment in enabling people to live fulfilling and joyful lives.

## Clíodhna Cotter - Senior Pharmacist, Connolly Hospital

Clíodhna successfully led the pilot use of the PCRS Hospital Pharmacy Portal for the purposes of Medication Reconciliation in Naas Hospital. She recently graduated with an MSc in Health Informatics and was involved in pharmacist-led discharge medication reconciliation incorporating the emerging technology of eClinical Discharge Prescription Review. Clíodhna championed a ward-based technician pilot service as part of the HSE initiative CBAS (Caring Behaviour Assurance System-Ireland). This was subsequently extended to involve a larger HSE Quality Improvement Division initiative. Clíodhna joined the team at Naas General Hospital after graduating as a pharmacist from TCD and has enthusiastically worked as an active and committed member of the clinical pharmacy service. Working within the area of Antimicrobial Stewardship she developed firm relationships with the team and was widely regarded as a valued resource within the sphere of antimicrobial surveillance. She worked closely with the Chief and other stakeholders to become a dynamic participant in the implementation of Medication Reconciliation (on admission and discharge) within the hospital.

Clíodhna is a keen and enthusiastic advocate of Quality Improvement in Irish Healthcare and continues to bring this passion into each new challenge. She is currently based in Connolly Hospital, where she is establishing a clinical pharmacy service and promoting the role of the pharmacist as a crucial member of the MDT.



## Anna Cronin, Pharmacist, South Tipperary General Hospital

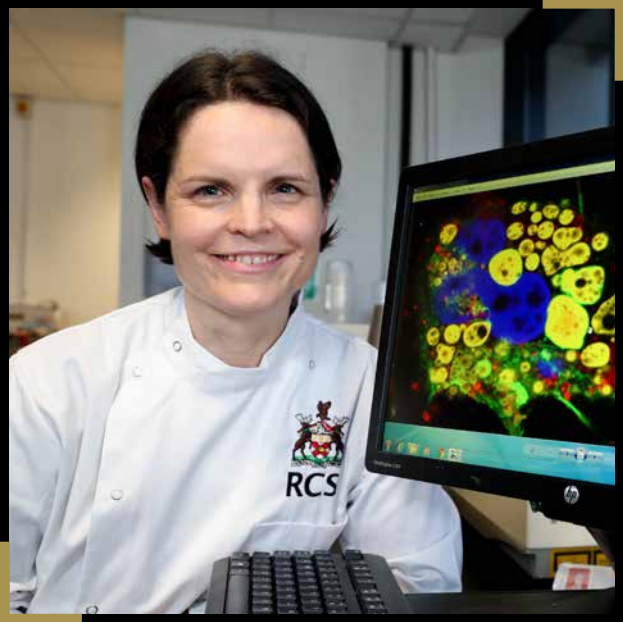
Anna Cronin has been practising as a basic grade pharmacist for almost three years and in this time has shown a proven commitment to medication safety and reducing the risk of medication related harm to patients admitted to STGH.

Anna has been the driving force behind many aspects of the STGH Medication Safety programme in 2019. Work Anna has achieved for the programme in 2019 includes completion of the STGH Intravenous Drug Administration Guidelines and a study demonstrating the benefits of a pharmacist-led NOAC prescription review service, presenting her findings at the STGH Annual Quality Meeting. Anna was also involved in the national VTE collaborative and this year collated the STGH results and presented findings and recommendations to senior hospital management in a bid to decrease the risk of VTE for patients admitted to STGH. Anna has completed an MSc in Clinical Pharmacy in 2019.

## Professor Sally-Ann Cryan, Professor of Drug Delivery in the School of Pharmacy & Biomolecular Sciences in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Professor Sally-Ann Cryan leads the RCSI Drug Delivery & Advanced Materials research team that focuses on the development of advanced therapeutics and drug-device combinations targeting a range of diseases.

One area of specific focus for her team is in the development of improved treatments for tuberculosis (TB). TB is still one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide and multidrug-resistant TB is seen as both a public health crisis and a health security threat. With funding from the Health Research Board (HRB), Prof. Cryan's team have developed an inhalable form of all-trans retinoic acid that works by reducing the bacteria in the lungs that causes tuberculosis while also helping the patient's immune system fight the disease.







## **Professor Gaye Cunnane, Clinical Professor of Rheumatology & Consultant Rheumatologist, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) & St James's Hospital**

Professor Gaye Cunnane's appointment as Director of Health and Wellbeing in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) was announced in April. She is working closely with Ms Hadas Levy who is the Lead of the Health and Wellbeing Department, RCPI. This is a strategic role whereby Professor Cunnane works as an advocate and spokesperson on behalf of RCPI to increase awareness of the importance of doctors' wellbeing. She is responsible for overseeing initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of Trainees and Trainees in the RCPI's registered training programmes.

Professor Cunnane announced the formal launch of RCPI's Health and Wellbeing Department at the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's Autumn Conference in October.

She is placing the significant issue of doctors' wellbeing on the agenda of key stakeholders in the Irish healthcare system. Part of her remit is to mobilise resources and influence national policies as these are critical to support doctors in the delivery of high quality and safe patient care.

## **Carmel Daly, Clinical Nurse Specialist St James's Hospital**

Carmel is helping to lead a one-day self-management programme (SMP) for chronic pain conditions introduced at St James's Department of Pain Medicine. The programme is delivered in a group setting by a multidisciplinary team of experienced health care professionals working closely with the patients.

The programme was audited over a three-year period with very positive results. All patients reported a better understanding of their chronic pain condition and made positive changes to improve daily function and quality of life. These positive results support the need to continually enhance the delivery of evidence-based quality care, helping patients to self-manage their chronic pain.

Carmel Daly, team lead and a Clinical Nurse in Pain Management at St James's Hospital said the programme gives patients a better understanding of how complex chronic pain can be.

The success of the programme led to the team being named as the first ever winners of the Grünenthal Advancing the Standard of Care in Pain Management category at the Hospital Professional Awards 2019.



## **Professor Anne Drummond, University College Dublin**

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) has just released a Model of Care for the delivery of Occupational Medicine services in Ireland.

Professor Anne Drummond, University College Dublin, co-authored the publication with Dr Norfazween Ibrahim, SpR, Faculty of Occupational Medicine, RCPI. The completed report was presented to the Faculty of Occupational Medicine Board at their meeting in May and Board members had an opportunity to provide their feedback on the contents of the report.

Early in 2019 an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was convened by the Faculty to work on producing a Model of Care for the future delivery of Occupational Medicine services in Ireland.

Professor Drummond is Professor of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in UCD. Her main research interest is in the utilisation of national-level data in OSH. She has also led and/or collaborated on research projects in the domain of public health (Traveller health, prisoner health).

## Dr Cormac Farrelly, Consultant Radiologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Dr Cormac Farrelly, Consultant Radiologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH), was awarded the top prize at this year's Clinical Innovation Awards for his 'E-ROD' concept. E-ROD is an endovascular re-entry occlusion device that can be used to purposefully occlude blood vessels. The E-ROD is described as having some unique advantages, particularly in certain procedures used to treat cancer patients.

As part of the prize, Dr Farrelly receives a €15,000 fund to investigate the commercial feasibility of his concept. The award also includes a funded trip to Ohio, US, to meet with experts from Cleveland Clinic Innovations. This will provide an opportunity for Dr Farrelly to showcase the E-ROD concept and access feedback and mentorship from the world-renowned medical device innovation group.

Dr Farrelly has published extensively on cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and interventional radiology.



## David Fitzgerald, Chief Pharmacist, National Maternity Hospital

Having previously undertaken the roles of antimicrobial pharmacist in the National Maternity Hospital (NMH) and secretary of the Irish Antimicrobial Pharmacists Group, David took on the position of Chief 1 Pharmacist in April 2019.

Since then David has led the pharmacy department as it has expanded both clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical technician supply services in obstetrics and gynaecology. Working with local and national MN-CMS (Maternal Newborn Clinical Management System) teams, David was instrumental in setting up an e-prescribing system for the NMH Colposcopy Clinic in September.

In preparation for the upcoming co-location of the NMH with St Vincent's University Hospital at Elm Park, David has worked tirelessly on the design and functional readiness of the new NMH pharmacy department along with hospital-wide medication management systems, leveraging the use of pharmacy robotics linked to automated dispensing cabinets at ward level. David is currently enrolled in the RCSI Leadership Development Programme where he is engaged in an MDT project aimed at replacing the hospital bleep system with mobile app and desktop-based communications technology.

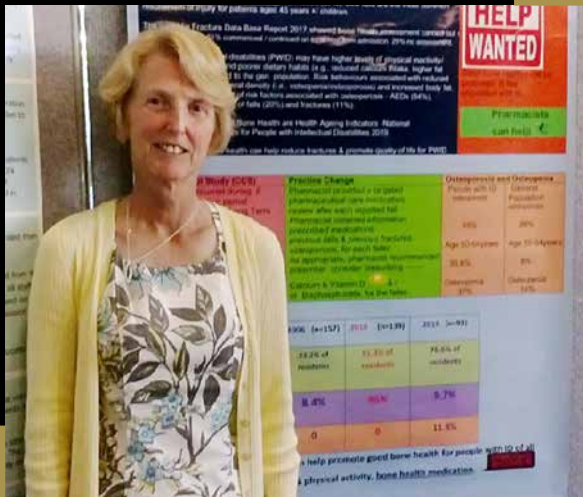
## Martin Flattery, Chief Pharmacist, Aseptic Compounding, St James's Hospital

Martin Flattery is Chief Pharmacist for the Aseptic Compounding Unit (ACU) at St James's Hospital in Dublin.

His team have undertaken a number of innovative initiatives that not only led to the development of an agenda that will shape quality improvement in the years to come and introduced process efficiencies considered safer and less time consuming, but also won them the Accord Innovation in Aseptic Compounding Award at the most recent Hospital Professional Awards.

Martin and his team show that effective teamwork and commitment can come together and drive real system and quality improvement through a process of continuous evaluation and audit.





## Bernadette Flood, PhD MPSI, Pharmacist

Bernadette Flood is a pharmacist who works with people ageing with intellectual disabilities living in residential care. She has a keen interest in raising the profile of this vulnerable population that experiences both health and healthcare inequalities and inequities. Her particular interests are human rights, vulnerable populations and vulnerable professionals and quality medication use.

While the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Bill 2018 provided conscientious objection for doctors and nurses, pharmacists were excluded. During 2018, Bernadette (with others) unsuccessfully lobbied politicians to introduce amendments to include pharmacists in the conscientious objection section of the Bill. During FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Abu Dhabi 2019 a number of Bernadette's publications on the issue of freedom of conscience for pharmacists were referenced.

Bernadette is currently interested in ensuring freedom of conscience, religion and thought for pharmacists in any legislation introduced in Ireland to provide for euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

## Mr David Galvin, Consultant Urologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital & Principal Investigator, Irish Prostate Cancer Outcomes Research (IPCOR) programme

Set up in 2016, IPCOR has established a nationwide prostate cancer registry capturing medical and quality-of-life information from newly diagnosed patients. This year, it put out a call for over 4,000 men with the disease across the country to help improve prostate cancer care by providing information on their cancer experience.

"Patient engagement is at the core of our research. We want our research to be a catalyst to enhance prostate cancer care, improve patient experience and maximise quality of life for men diagnosed in Ireland and we are calling on prostate cancer patients across the country to help us gain a greater insight into the disease," Mr Galvin said.

This registry generates data on a range of clinical outcomes of men with prostate cancer and assesses processes, consistency and quality of prostate cancer care. By providing evidence-based data and recommendations to clinicians, hospitals, decision-makers and the National Cancer Control Programme, the registry promotes equal access to services and improvements in care nationally.



## Professor Blánaid Hayes, Consultant in Occupational Medicine at Beaumont Hospital & immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Professor Blánaid Hayes has led a national study of the wellbeing of hospital doctors in Ireland which found that 50% of doctors are emotionally exhausted and overwhelmed by work.

While 70.6% reported strong or very strong desire to practise medicine, hospital doctors across all grades in Ireland reported low levels of work-life balance and high levels of work stress. Almost one-third of respondents were experiencing burn-out.

The study was described as the first national survey conducted on a cohort of hospital doctors working within the same health system in Ireland. As part of the study, 1,749 doctors completed workplace wellbeing questionnaires.

"These results give great cause for concern. Fifty per cent of doctors reported being emotionally exhausted and overwhelmed by work, which is higher than in hospital doctors from the UK, the US and Australia. There is a need critically to review the working conditions of hospital doctors in Ireland," Professor Hayes, lead author on the paper, said.



## **Dr. Dominic A. Hegarty, Consultant in Pain Management & Neuromodulation at the Orthopaedic and Spine centre, Mater Private Hospital, Cork**

In November 2019, Dr. Dominic Hegarty was recognised for his role as Chair of the World Institute of Pain's 9th World Congress. He was awarded the winner in the "Best Educational Meeting" category at the Irish Healthcare Awards 2019.

The World Institute of Pain's 9th World Congress is the largest international pain meeting, and this year's congress had the highest attendance of international delegates with 21 different nations represented. The meeting contributed to over €4.5 million to the Irish economy and had the full support of Fáilte Ireland and the Medtech and Pharma industry in Ireland.

Dr. Hegarty is recognized as one of the country's foremost interventional pain management doctors who is constantly developing new pain techniques to deal with the most complex cases in this area. He is the holder of a doctorate degree (Ph.D., UCC), Master of Science (MSc., Edinburgh) a Fellowship in Ireland, USA (FIPP) and London (Royal College of Medicine) in the area of Pain Management.



## **Eimear Heslin, Pharmacy Technician, Connolly Hospital**

Eimear has a proven track record in improving the quality and safety of pharmaceutical care in the hospital and has undertaken advanced training in medication management, clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical care. She has won awards at the Annual Conferences of both the Hospital Pharmacists Association of Ireland and the National Association of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians for her innovative work in providing a medication reconciliation service to the Emergency Department.

She also performs the role of Student Mentor to a number of trainee technicians and contributes to strategic service development and innovation. In her current role of Lead Technician, she balances the tasks of purchasing technician with that of mentoring a diverse team of pharmacy technicians.

## **Professor Shane Higgins, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Master of the National Maternity Hospital (NMH)**

Professor Shane Higgins became the new Master of the National Maternity Hospital (NMH) and began his seven-year tenure at Holles Street following his inauguration on New Year's Day, 2019, taking over from Dr Rhona Mahony.

The academic lecturer at the University College Dublin School of Medicine and Medical Science had been elected to the position in May 2018 following a selection process which considered a number of experienced Irish and international obstetricians.

Speaking following his inauguration, Professor Higgins said he was deeply honoured to take up his new post: "This is an extraordinary national institution with an international reputation for excellence and I look forward to working with the staff to bring it through what may be the greatest period of change in its 124-year history."





## Dr John Hillery, President of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

Dr John Hillery is the President of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, which marked a major milestone this year. The College celebrated 10 years in existence, having been set up in 2009. Fittingly, the theme of the College's annual Spring Conference in April of this year was 'Looking Back, Moving Forward'.

The conference programme reflected on the first 10 years of the College as well as looking firmly forward, with sessions exploring potential developments in psychiatry and Dr Hillery speaking on the topic of 'Building for the Future' in the opening session.

The conference celebrated some of the achievements of the College in its first 10 years and acknowledged the support and many hours of input and work provided by College members over the past decade.

Dr Hillery was a consultant psychiatrist in the services for people with intellectual disability run by Stewarts Care, Dublin, and St John of God Kildare Services as well as the HSE Mental Health Services at Tallaght. He is a former President of the Medical Council and the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities.

## Professor Mary Horgan, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Professor Mary Horgan was this year's recipient of a prestigious UCD Alumni Award in the category of Health and Agricultural Sciences.

Professor Horgan took up office as the 142nd President in October 2017 and will serve a three-year term. She is the first woman President in the 360 year history of the College. Originally from Kerry, Professor Horgan graduated from UCD in 1986. She was awarded her MD in 1995, MRCP in 1988 and FRCPI in 1997.

As a specialist in Infectious Diseases, Professor Horgan is a strong advocate for vaccines and has spoken out on the HPV vaccine,

Professor Horgan has also used her voice to emphasise the importance of a strategy for women's health in Ireland.



## Mr Emer Hoti, Director of the National Liver Transplant Programme at St Vincent's University Hospital

Mr Hoti was one of the surgeons who carried out Ireland's first-ever liver and double lung transplantation operation in June of this year. He worked with Mr Lars Nölke from the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital's (MMUH) Heart and Lung Transplant Unit on the life-saving 10-hour operation.

The recipient was Robert Sheahan from Askeaton in Co. Limerick, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis as a baby and led a relatively healthy life until his mid-20s when his condition deteriorated.

Mr Hoti said, "Robert has benefitted the most of any person I've seen or treated for transplant. The fact that this is a first for Ireland shows how far we have come in terms of our transplant programme. The operation itself, while complicated, was a success and our collaboration with the team at the MMUH was superb."



## Caroline Hynes, Senior Pharmacist, St John of God

Caroline Hynes, a Senior Pharmacist at Saint John of God Hospital, has developed a person-centred clinical pharmacy service for people with severe acute mental illness. Her service includes clinical review of medications, structured side effect monitoring, cardiovascular risk assessment, individualised and group-based provision of medicines information. She is a passionate advocate for patients and has an excellent working relationship with clinical colleagues from the community and hospital services. She was asked to present at a symposium on patient-centred care at the recent European Association of Hospital Pharmacists Congress in Barcelona entitled 'May I speak with my hospital pharmacist?'



## Dr Derval Igoe, Specialist in Public Health Medicine at the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)

Dr Derval Igoe is principal investigator on the Irish component of a wider European study of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). The study found that in Ireland most gay and bisexual men living with HIV are on effective treatment, have an undetectable viral load and cannot transmit HIV.

The national report from the European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey 2017 (EMIS-2017 Ireland) was launched in October of this year.

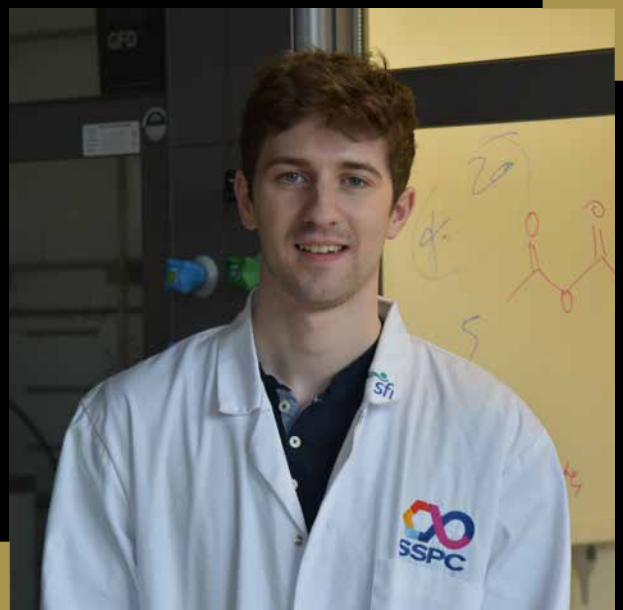
The EMIS-2017 Ireland report presents information from 2,083 gay, bisexual and other MSM who responded to an online survey about their sexual health and wellbeing. The Irish report was led by the HSE HPSC in partnership with the Gay Health Network and was supported by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

## Oisín Kavanagh, Pharmacist & PhD student at the University of Limerick

Oisín Kavanagh completed his professional exams in 2017 and was awarded the Gold medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland that year. Recently, he has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to visit the Pharmacy department of the University of Michigan.

The central motivation for his research seeks to bring about safe, effective and cost-effective formulations for specialist cases. He feels that pharmacists are best placed to deliver this, but they need to be enabled with the right training and technology to ensure safety and quality.

Although there are pockets of research excellence in Ireland, his recent work describes how to enable pharmacists across the wider profession to conduct research. This work was presented at All Ireland Pharmacy Conference and a manuscript is in preparation.





## **Dr Paul Kavanagh, Director of Public Health Medicine, HSE**

Dr Kavanagh is the Director of Public health medicine, HSE North East and Public Health Adviser to the HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme. It is within this role that, during 2019, he has been actively working with organisations across the country to promote smoke-free environments and de-normalise smoking among adults and young people. He has also co-authored a study with Dr Ian Quintyne which identified and evaluated the quality of methodological rigours and transparency used in guidelines for smoking cessation for specific groups including general adult population, persons with mental illness, and pregnant women.

In October of this year he was appointed to the Committee of the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC).

## **Dolores Keating, Head of Pharmacy, St John of God Hospital**

Head of Pharmacy at St John of God Hospital Dolores was the first Irish-based pharmacist to become a Credentialed Member of the College of Mental Health Pharmacy in the United Kingdom and was instrumental in bringing Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to Ireland.

As programme director of MHFA, Dolores demonstrated innovation, team building and leadership skills in bringing the team together to provide this new service. Her considerable passion and drive allowed her to successfully guide and inspire the MHFA team to deliver training to over 5000 participants in recent years.

An early vision for Dolores was the establishment of an academic partnership with the School of Pharmacy in RCSI, formalised by a Memorandum of Understanding. This partnership has resulted in a culture of research informed practice in the hospital pharmacy and inspired pharmacy staff to undertake research and gain academic qualifications.



## **Dr Paul Kelly, Consultant Radiation Oncologist, Bon Secours Hospital & Cork University Hospital**

Dr Kelly leads the new radiotherapy services at the Bon Secours Radiotherapy Cork in partnership with University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre (UPMC) Hillman Cancer Centre, part of the new Cork Cancer Centre at Bon Secours Cork Hospital which began treating patients this year as part of a €77 million expansion at the hospital.

The new radiotherapy service is part of a joint venture between Bon Secours and the UPMC Hillman Cancer Centre, one of the largest cancer treatment networks in the US.

Patients can now access advanced radiotherapy services previously unavailable in Munster, including stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), a non-surgical radiation therapy that uses concentrated radiation beams in high doses to destroy tumours in hard-to-reach areas of the body, while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissues.



## Professor Michelle McNicholas, Consultant Radiologist, Mater Private Hospital

In November 2019, Professor Michelle McNicholas became the first consultant qualified in the Republic of Ireland to use a new technology to reduce the long term side effects of prostate cancer radiation treatment.

The SpaceOAR™ Hydrogel technology is a clinically proven, minimally invasive spacer designed to minimise the long-term urinary, sexual and bowel side effects, and protect quality of life for prostate cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy. Professor McNicholas was instrumental in the technology's introduction at the Mater Private Hospital and working alongside a multidisciplinary team of cancer and surgical specialists in the Mater Private Hospital Dublin, will offer this new procedure to prostate cancer patients.



## Dr Brian McNicholl, Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Dr Brian McNicholl was singled out for special mention by organisers of a symposium on health and the environment in November of this year, having undertaken an 11-hour journey by bicycle to highlight the importance of environmental awareness.

Dr McNicholl cycled from Galway to Dublin to attend the Green Health Symposium 2019. The symposium was organised by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland with partners, APC Microbiome Ireland and the Irish Heart Foundation. It took place on November 6, 2019.

The event focused on the challenges and opportunities for health in Ireland in light of climate change and increasing environmental pressures.

It sought to inform doctors, allied healthcare professionals and policy makers about the imminent challenges for health, and to empower them to advocate for behaviour and policy changes to improve the health of the nation and our planet.

## Mr Kenneth Mealy, MD FRCSI, President, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

Under the Presidency of Mr Kenneth Mealy, 2019 has witnessed many innovations from RCSI. Mr Mealy is the current President and is a General Surgeon with a special interest in Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Surgery at Wexford General Hospital.

Most recently, in October of this year, he co-authored a study which looked at abdominal operations. Patients who undergo emergency abdominal surgery have a better chance of survival if their operation is carried out in a hospital where the procedure is done regularly, the study found.

The research shows that when abdominal operations are done by hospitals on an irregular basis, mortality rates are higher. Mr Mealy, says patients who undergo the surgery are "very vulnerable" and frequently have other medical conditions.

Mr Mealy has an active interest in surgical training, QI and process management in delivering surgical services. He was co-lead of the National Clinical Programme in Surgery and Medical Director of the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA).







**Professor Dominick McCabe, Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Associate Professor in Neurology, Chairperson of the Vascular Neurology Research Foundation, Department of Neurology/Stroke Service, Tallaght University Hospital/Trinity College**

Professor McCabe established and co-directs the 'daily, one-stop Rapid Access Stroke Prevention service', and established and chairs a weekly neurovascular multidisciplinary team meeting. He has been instrumental in clinical and academic neurology development, training and education at TUH/TCD, serves on several advisory groups, and is a member of several international organisations, with fellowship of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and American Heart Association (AHA).

His group is leading or collaborating in 16 local, national or international research studies/trials in ischaemic cerebrovascular disease (CVD) or general neurology and has published numerous peer-reviewed articles.

His vascular neurology research group has an international reputation for conducting innovative, clinically-relevant, collaborative research studies on translational platelet science, haemostasis and thrombosis in CVD patients and in assessing the response to commonly-prescribed antiplatelet regimens *ex vivo*.

**Sinead McCool, Senior Pharmacist, St Luke's Hospital**

Sinead McCool, a proud Mayo woman, and ardent follower of their Football team through thick and thin, has over seventeen years hospital experience as a Senior Pharmacist. During this time she helped develop the pharmacy service from a supply focussed service into the comprehensive clinical pharmacy service it is today.

Her achievements during this time include the oversight and implementation of a wide range of service developments projects such as ward based pharmacist service, medication reconciliation and pharmacist led discharge prescription service. Her expertise has also facilitated the effective introduction of a comprehensive risk management strategy including medication specific incident forms.

In the last 12 months Sinead has successfully managed the introduction of a smart-phone pharmacy app, the transfer of medication information from a paper based system to a comprehensive electronic version available at all points of care and is leading on the introduction of electronic discharge prescriptions into St. Luke's.



**Mark McCullagh, MSc MPSI Clinical Risk Adviser with the State Claims Agency**

Mark is a pharmacist with a background in hospital pharmacy and has worked in both the NHS and the Irish health service. He has a Masters in Healthcare Management (RCSI) and Diplomas in Clinical Pharmacy (Queen's University, Belfast) and Risk Management & Quality (UCD). He has a special interest in medication safety and has published widely in this area, most recently authoring an article entitled 'Medication related litigation in Ireland: A 6 year review' in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology (2019).

At the All Ireland Pharmacy Conference in October, Mark presented data on medication incidents reported by Irish acute hospitals in 2017 and 2018. Drawing on a dataset of over 20,000 medication incidents, the presentation revealed the nature and extent of medication incidents in Irish hospitals. This information highlights opportunities for improvement in the medication use process for healthcare providers. A paper based on the same data will be published on the SCA website.





## Professor Ray McDermott, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Tallaght University Hospital

Professor Ray McDermott led the Cancer Trials Ireland team that was part of a breakthrough trial for men with advanced prostate cancer. The landmark Australian-led cancer trial found that men with advanced hormone-sensitive prostate cancer taking the drug enzalutamide lived 33% longer than patients taking standard treatment only.

Under Professor McDermott's leadership the Cancer Trials Ireland team was responsible for enrolling 195 patients from seven hospitals in Ireland and 10 hospitals in the UK to the trial, and managing and monitoring their participation over five years.

The findings from the phase III ENZAMET cancer trial (ANZUP 1304, NCT02446405, CCTG PR17) were announced at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, US, in June.

## Professor Bill McEvoy, Medical & Research Director at the National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health

Professor Bill McEvoy is Medical and Research Director at the National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health (NIPC). The NIPC's research programme includes the Ireland-ASPIRE (I-ASPIRE) study, a cross-sectional nationally representative survey of the control of cardiovascular risk factors in patients who have recently survived a heart attack.

I-ASPIRE results published in October showed persistent behaviours among Irish heart attack survivors which drastically increase risk of further heart attack.

Professor McEvoy, who is Professor of Preventive Cardiology at NUI Galway and a consultant cardiologist at Galway University Hospitals, is recognised as a leading voice in the international debate on the use of aspirin to prevent heart disease and stroke.



## Ciara McGann, Senior Pharmacist, Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown

Ciara has been working as Senior Pharmacist in Connolly Hospital since July 2018. This is her second stint in Connolly, having previously worked in the hospital from 2007 to 2014.

Since re-joining the team in Connolly, Ciara has used her extensive clinical skills and experience to develop and enhance the pharmaceutical care of patients in the hospital.

Working closely with colleagues from other disciplines, she conducted a study to evaluate the impact of a ward-based clinical pharmacy service using a number of clinical, safety, and financial metrics. This study found that almost 9 in 10 patients had at least one intervention identified by the pharmacist.

In comparison to the 30-55% quoted in other Irish studies, the acceptance rate of interventions was particularly impressive (90%). The clinical pharmacy service was associated with significant cost avoidance (between €154,103 and €344,926 per annum, depending on the costing methodology employed).

Furthermore, during the course of the study, there was a five-fold increase in medication incident reporting from the ward, indicative of how pharmacists can catalyse and lead culture change to improve patient safety.





## Eimear McGowan, BSc., PG Dip (Clin Pharm), MPSI

Eimear graduated from Trinity College in 1996 and on, completing her internship in community pharmacy the following year, was encouraged to join the small hospital pharmacy team at Waterford Regional Hospital. After a little over a year away, travelling and experiencing working in a Dublin hospital compounding unit, by the end of 2001 Eimear was taking the lead in Waterford's chemotherapy service. In the years that followed, consultant and patient numbers grew and in 2005 she was appointed to the position of Chief 2 Pharmacist.

Eimear has overseen nearly two decades of development and growth of the pharmacy cancer services. She commissioned a new compounding unit in 2012 supporting substantial numbers of clinical trials and accommodating the emergence and proliferation of biologicals. The department is, effectively, self-sufficient in the provision of systemic anti-cancer treatment which has been a great benefit during the recent period of "overstretch" of commercial supplies in Ireland. Her unit has been in the vanguard of promoting the safer use of oral chemotherapy in the community and is presently engaged with the NCCP in developing an e-learning tool.

## Mr Barry McGuire, LRCP & SI, MB, BCh, BAO, Consultant Urological Surgeon

Prior to commencing his training in Urological Surgery, Mr McGuire received his academic Doctorate from University College Dublin (M.D.) for full time research in kidney disease. For this research he was awarded Young Investigator of the Year, "Best Poster" at the Annual European Association of Urology Congress and received three scholarship awards (The British Urological Foundation Edward Scott Memorial Scholarship 2005, The Mater College for Postgraduate Education & Research Award 2005, The Urological Research Foundation Scholarship Award 2010). He has also authored over 50 international peer reviewed publications and won the prestigious 'O' Moráin Medal 2012' for research.

Mr McGuire completed a 2-year Robotics, Laparoscopic and Endourology fellowship at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago (2013-2015). This was a high volume surgical fellowship learning techniques in robotic surgery for kidney cancer. He works as a consultant urologist in St. Vincent's University Hospital, specialising in the area of kidney cancer and kidney stones. Recently St. Vincent's was awarded status as a fellowship training centre for robotic surgery in Urology by the European School of Urology/European Association of Urology.



## Niamh McMahon B.Sc. (Pharm), M.Sc. in Clinical Pharmacy

Lead Liaison Pharmacist to the National Clinical Care Programme for Older People, & Chairperson of the Hospital Pharmacists' Association of Ireland. In 2019, Niamh won the Dean of Health Sciences award, for Outstanding Teaching in Professional Practice.

Niamh McMahon completed a B.Sc. (Pharm) in the University of Brighton in 1995 and an M.Sc. in Clinical Pharmacy in Queen's University Belfast in 2000. She is programme manager for the M.Sc. in Hospital Pharmacy, which has students based across six hospitals. She set up the Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice CPD module for hospital and community pharmacists with colleagues in 2013, and to date ~250 students have completed it.

In 2018, the MSc in Hospital Pharmacy won the Gradireland Postgraduate Course of the Year in the Health Sciences Division.

Her current research interests relate to the field of potentially inappropriate prescribing in older people. She is Lead Liaison Pharmacist to the National Clinical Care Programme for Older People, and Chairperson of the Hospital Pharmacists' Association of Ireland, Special Interest Group for the Care of Older People.





## Dr Reem Salman, MD FRCSI, Consultant Breast Surgeon

Dr Reem Salman is a specialised Breast Oncoplastic surgeon. She graduated from University College Dublin in 1996 and completed both basic surgical and higher surgical training in general surgery at The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and obtained the Surgical Fellowship in 2008 and the European Board of Surgery Qualification in Surgical Oncology in 2009.

Reem trained in numerous units throughout Ireland, UK, and Italy. Her experience in breast oncoplastic surgery has been refined by completing a breast reconstruction fellowship in Galway with Professor Michael Kerins. Reem worked in a number of medical institutions, including the European Institute of Oncology in Milan and The Nottingham Breast unit in the UK. Reem is a member of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) and the British Association of Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Breast Surgeons (ORBS). She is on the Specialist Register with both the Irish Medical Council and the General Medical Council for General Surgery.

## Dr Shomik Sibartie, Consultant Microbiologist, Mayo University Hospital, Infection Prevention and Control Team

The Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) in Mayo University Hospital (MUH) led by Consultant Microbiologist Dr Shomik Sibartie work at ward level and engage with staff on a daily basis collaborating closely with nursing, medical, surgical, hospital management, pharmacy and laboratory staff to ensure optimum care for all patients.

Weekly, monthly and quarterly structured IPCT team meetings and meetings between the IPCT and senior management and medical staff are held with Dr Sibartie chairing. The team report to D&T, SAOLTA group management, Hospital Management Team (HMT) and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee.

An antimicrobial stewardship intervention database was also designed to facilitate effective and efficient communication between the team so that patients started on antimicrobials are identified early and can be reviewed. This improves patient safety outcomes by ensuring patients are receiving appropriate antimicrobials.



## Richard Skelly, Specialist Registrar in Anaesthesiology, Sligo University Hospital

Richard has an avid interest in medical product design as well as process innovation. His career in anaesthesiology is grounded in his PhD in Physiology as well as his studies within the speciality, all of which place him perfectly in the role of perioperative physician. He is a keen cyclist and was previously an International oarsman representing both University College Dublin and Ireland, winning several national titles in the process.

During his anaesthetic career he has undertaken many innovative projects including pioneering the creation of a telecommunications clinic within the pain clinic in Sligo University Hospital. With this he aimed to reduce the burden of hospital attendance on a specific cohort for which prolonged travel and navigation of the hospital environment can negatively impact patient satisfaction. After extremely positive initial trials, successful full scale roll out has now commenced with continuing positive feedback from both patients and clinicians.

Richard hopes this facility will permeate through to other appropriate outpatient services.





## Laura Slevin, Deputy Team Leader Aseptic Unit, Tallaght University Hospital

Laura Slevin assists and manages the daily running of a safe, efficient and quality assured compounding service producing over 1000 items per month for haematology, oncology, rheumatology and gastroenterology patients.

This has required close co-ordination with her multi-disciplinary team of pharmacists, technicians, porters, healthcare assistants, cleaners, and nursing staff from clinical areas. She has liaised closely with the AU Manager in relation to training, error analysis and process flow. She is a team player, has great drive, determination and a 'can do' approach to all tasks. This attitude has allowed her to excel in all her roles.

## Niamh Stacey, Pharmacist Wexford General Hospital

Niamh joined the pharmacy department at Wexford General Hospital as a Basic-Grade Pharmacist in January 2019, having previously worked in Community Pharmacy for 13 years, with eight of those in supervising pharmacist positions.

On completion of the initial training and induction programme, Niamh then stepped into her role as a ward-based pharmacist on a general surgical ward. She rolled out a medication reconciliation service on a ward which previously had not had clinical pharmacy services. In addition to carrying out medication reconciliation, she also monitors antimicrobial prescribing and advises on dosage and therapeutic drug monitoring, monitors for drug interactions, assists with stock control and gives advice on queries from medical and nursing staff.

The addition of clinical pharmacy services on the ward has been very well received and has improved safe and effective prescribing and drug administration. Niamh has also trained other pharmacists, APPEL students and technicians on the medication reconciliation and clinical review processes.



## Professor Austin Stack, Consultant Nephrologist, University of Limerick Hospitals

Professor Austin Stack led research that found patients with gout are at increased risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure. Patients recruited in general practice with a diagnosis of gout were more than twice as likely to develop kidney failure as those without, according to the study led by researchers at UL Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS).

The study, published in *BMJ Open*, found that gout patients were also more likely to suffer a short-term deterioration in kidney function, as well as a sustained deterioration of function to less than 10% of normal, compared to patients without gout.

"Overall, we discovered that patients who suffered from gout had a 29% higher risk of advanced CKD compared to those without gout. Indeed, when we analysed each of the components of advanced kidney disease, we found that in general gout patients were at higher risk of a deterioration in kidney function compared to those without," said Professor Stack.



## **Keith Synnott**, HSE National Clinical Lead for Trauma Services & Consultant Orthopaedic & Spinal Surgeon, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Mr Keith Synnott was appointed as HSE National Clinical Lead for Trauma Services in July 2019.

Mr Synnott now leads the National Office for Trauma Services in the HSE and is responsible for planning for the implementation of the trauma system. The appointment was one of the actions prioritised in the report of the Trauma Steering Group, A Trauma System for Ireland, and provides an essential foundation for the implementation of that system.

The report sets out key recommendations for the organisation of trauma care and the provision of patient-centred trauma services.

The implementation of the trauma system is intended to support a reduction in the incidence and the burden of trauma, significantly improve the survival rate of major trauma patients and ensure every patient receives the best possible standard of care in the most appropriate facility, according to the HSE.



## **Dr. Gábor Széplaki**, Head of Cardiac Electrophysiology, Mater Private Hospital & Clinical Lead for the Arrhythmia Centre

Dr. Gábor Széplaki is the Head of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Mater Private Hospital, Dublin and Clinical Lead for the Arrhythmia Centre. Dr. Gábor Széplaki has led the development of a state-of-the-art Atrial Fibrillation Institute at the Mater Private Hospital, due to open in January 2020. The Institute will be a centre of excellence for those with Atrial Fibrillation (an abnormal heart rhythm with irregular heartbeats), offering a dedicated Electrophysiologist-led service using the integrated care approach, a novel initiative in Ireland.

Dr. Széplaki is one of the only consultants in Ireland offering high tech, non-drug treatments for atrial fibrillation, and is unique in what he offers patients who require catheter ablation – a minimally invasive procedure to treat heart rhythm disorders.

## **Eoin Tabb**, Senior Pharmacist University Hospital Waterford

Recently, Eoin has commenced a Masters in Digital Health in UCC, which aims to improve the use of technology within our workforce using evidence-based practice. Eoin is developing a video-based education platform for patients with cancer to try and alleviate some of the "fear of the unknown" which patients experience before starting treatment. This investigation aims to complete in July 2020 with the anticipation of widespread access to the platform in 2021.

Eoin has worked in the area of cancer services while working at UHW, developing the oncology and haematology services alongside a fantastic department. He has worked alongside the National Cancer Control Programme to establish protocols and policies to further the vision of cancer services in Ireland.





## Marguerite Vaughan, Clinical Pharmacist, Tallaght University Hospital

Marguerite Vaughan demonstrates excellent communication skills with patients who attend the atrial fibrillation clinic at Tallaght. Her role as clinical pharmacist is to provide education to patients who have commenced on novel oral anticoagulants (NOAC) and to support her medical colleagues in relation to the choice/dose of NOAC. Her work with patients in this area has recently been recognised by a HIQA report which highlighted her role as a potential quality improvement initiative that could be applied in other hospitals.

She is also passionate about expanding the role of the pharmacist in the future. On completion of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice with Independent Prescribing diploma she has learned about the benefits of pharmacist prescribers, particularly in the management of chronic diseases. At a local level, the PACT (Pharmaceutical care in Tallaght Hospital) initiative has shown how pharmacists involved in multidisciplinary teams can become involved in more advanced practice including collaborative prescribing activities and Marguerite has experienced this first-hand while working in the Age-related/stroke service.

## Professor Laura Viani, Consultant Otolaryngologist & Neurotologist

Professor Laura Viani received two prestigious awards this year in recognition of her pioneering work in the field of cochlear implantation and neurotology.

In May, Professor Viani was awarded the Philip Stell Memorial Award, made in the memory of Philip Stell, one of the leading figures in head and neck surgery worldwide, while in September she received the inaugural Cpl World-Class Talent Award, which was established to recognise outstanding individuals who have transformed lives and societies. The awards followed the official opening of the National Hearing Implant and Research Centre (NHIRC) at Beaumont Hospital in April 2019. Spearheaded by Professor Viani, the NHIRC carries out ground-breaking research into cochlear implantation and neurological disorders of the ear.

Professor Viani is an Honorary Associate Professor of Surgery in RCSI and an Honorary Adjunct Professor in the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin.



Picture by Conor Healy



## Professor Gerry Wilson, Consultant Rheumatologist & Arthritis Ireland/UCD Chair of Rheumatology

Professor Wilson leads the UCD Centre for Arthritis Research. His research goals include (1) to discover how inflammation is linked to tissue damage in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (2) to discover markers of response to therapy & build prognostic biomarker score for RA (3) Determine genetic causes of rare rheumatic conditions.

Professor Wilson graduated in Medicine from Queen's University Belfast in 1983. He was awarded an ARC Clinical Fellowship for a PhD thesis which he undertook at the University of Sheffield and successfully completed in 1995. He was subsequently awarded an ARC Copeman Fellowship for research at Stanford University.

He was appointed Professor in Rheumatology and Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist at the University of Sheffield Medical School and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust where he was Head of the Sheffield EULAR Centre of Excellence for Rheumatology prior to joining UCD in 2013.

## Sara Winward, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Earlier this year, Sara Winward designed a project which established masterclasses to reinforce the important lifestyle and medication information that patients receive at the time of lung transplant.

When patients receive a lung transplant they are critically ill and the focus is on rehabilitation and getting the essentials right in terms of diet, medication and exercise. In the masterclasses, established by Sara, education is provided on an individualised one-to-one basis. Feedback is then collected from staff and from the participants.

The project has been so successful that it has been opened to heart transplant recipients and ward inpatients. It has also received the endorsement of the Heart Lung Transplant Patients' group.

The format of the masterclass also facilitates peer to peer learning which is very powerful. Participants hear other transplant patients' stories, coping strategies and experiences of the benefits of following the advice given by the team.

