



11th Annual Conference

TOGETHER IS BETTER!

Celebrating Clinical Research in Ireland and 10 Years of IRNN

Venue: Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1

AGM: Wednesday 7th November 2018

Conference: Thursday 8th November 2018



This year the IRNN held their AGM and Annual Conference in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. The 11th Annual Conference marked the IRNN's 10th birthday.

The AGM was held in the afternoon on Wednesday 7th of November, followed by a masterclass by Ms Elizabeth Ness (RN). Deirdre Hyland and Carole Schilling also gave an introduction to the IRNN Scoping Project. The day ended with a meet and greet reception followed by an evening meal.

The masterclass by Ms Elizabeth Ness (RN), Director for the Office of Education and Compliance at the Centre for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, USA discussed aspects of the role of the research nurse with a special focus on study feasibility, patient recruitment and data management. Feedback from the masterclass was very positive with those following on-line requesting a copy of slides used during the masterclass.



We are delighted to say that over 100 people attended our 11th annual conference, which was held on Thursday 8th of November. Dr Darrin Morrissey (CEO of the Health Research Board (HRB)) gave the opening address outlining the value and need for research nurses/midwives. Both Ms Elizabeth Ness and Dr Susan Hamer (RN), Director of Nursing, Learning and

Organisation Development for the NIHR gave presentations on the changing world for research nurses in America and the UK.





Following their presentations there was a panel discussion on the future landscape for research nurses and midwives in Ireland, with a number of attendees addressing questions about their concerns to Dr Morrissey.

After the break the Research Forum was chaired by Professor Eileen Savage, Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery in UCC. We had five fantastic presentations from Dr Claire Magner (PPI in the paediatric intensive care unit); Róisín Walsh (national quality improvement collaboration programme in stroke care); Sarah Cullen (student midwives education needs in bereavement care); Hazel A Smith (Whitehouse Report) and Dr Dominika Lisiecka (MND and dysphagia). At the end of the conference the award for best research forum presentation was presented to Róisín Walsh (RCSI Clinical Research Centre - National Thombectomy Service).



The final forum of the day was opened by Dr Ana Terrés, Head of Research and Development with the HSE, on research in the health service. This generated a lot of feedback and question from the audience on the support and recognition of research nurses and midwives.



Dr Denise O'Brien then presented on rowing and nurturing a culture of research through the Joint Research Network between the National Maternity Hospital and University College Dublin (JRN-NMH & UCD).



IRNN always endeavours to include the patient perspective on conferences, and the final presentations of the day focused on Public & Patient Involvement (PPI) in clinical research.



A presentation on co’ design in research was delivered jointly by Simone Grey, Research Nurse, UCD, and Shirley Thornton, Family Carers Ireland. To round off the day, Julie Power, Vasculitis Awareness Ireland, and Dr Derick Mitchell (CEO of IPPOSI), co-presented on the theme of PPI and patient Education in Ireland.

There was a fantastic showcase of posters at the conference and the overall poster prize went to Evelyn Crowley (The DataCat Project). The conference’s hashtag, #IRNN18, was followed online national and internationally. #IRNN18 was trending on Thursday 8th of November! The annual #WhyWeDoResearch competition continued this year and am delighted to say that Niamh Kelly (@niamhmkelly68) was this year’s winner.

The IRNN committee would like to sincerely thank all the presenters at the conference – we do not underestimate the work that goes into preparing for the day, which was demonstrated not only by the quality, but also the relevance, of the topics presented. We also want to thank the chairpersons who gave their time and expertise, and the Transition Year students of Dominican College, Griffith Avenue, for their help on the day. Finally, thanks to all who attended – as the conference theme stated – Together is Better!

