



# IRISH RESEARCH NURSES NETWORK

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**Title:** “Research Nurses/ Midwives Roadmap”

**Venue:** River Lee Hotel, Cork

**AGM & Masterclass:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Conference:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019



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The IRNN’s 12<sup>th</sup> AGM and Annual Conference was held in the River Lee Hotel, Cork. All conference material (where we have permission) is available on the IRNN website: <https://irnn.ie/resources/previous-conferences/12th-annual-national-conference-agm/>

The AGM was held in the afternoon on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. The minutes from the 2018 AGM were approved and the year’s (2019) IRNN activities and outputs were discussed. It was proposed by the floor that the IRNN change their name to include midwives. This motion was supported and there were no objections. It was agreed that that following the first meeting of the IRNN working committee in 2020 that an email would be sent to the IRNN membership to (1) decide on the new name for the IRNN to include midwives and (2) survey link to determine what workshops and/ or masterclasses the IRNN should host throughout the year.



Following the AGM a qualitative research masterclass was hosted by [QUESTS](#) co-chairs Dr Catherine Houghton (RN) and Dr Andrew Hunter (RN). Over ninety people registered making the qualitative masterclass the most popular to-date. A PDF version of the

masterclass presentation will be available on the IRNN website. The masterclass was supported by the HRB Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN) and was therefore open to both IRNN and non-IRNN members. The day ended with an evening meal in the Mirror Room.





We are delighted to say that over 100 people attended our 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference, which was held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of November. The Chief Nursing Officer for Ireland, Dr. Siobhan O' Halloran, gave the opening address stating her support to work towards achieving the recommendations of the 'Count Me In' Report.



Helen Pidd (RN, UK-CRF Network Director and Operational Director at the NIHR/WT Manchester CRF) outlined the journey taken in England to develop a career pathway (with standardised pay scales) for Research Nurses and Midwives. This was followed by Carole Schilling (IRNN Vice-Chair and Project Manager) launching the 'Count Me In' Report by presenting the findings and recommendations.

The second forum was open by Dr Darrin Morrissey (CEO of the HRB) and the third version of the IRNN Orientation Pack was launched. The Research Forum, chaired by Dr Patricia Leahy-Warren (School of Nursing & Midwifery in UCC), followed and included four presentations.



The first presentation was from Dr. Ruben Keane (Quality & Regulatory Affairs Manager, UCC) on the awareness among clinical researchers in Ireland of changes introduced by ICH-GCP E6(R2).



Ms Sinéad Plunkett (Clinical Research Nurse with RCSI Clinical Research Centre) discussed findings showing how INCA™ Technology directs the appropriate treatment path for uncontrolled asthma patients.



Ms. Cora O'Leary (Clinical Practice Specialist with Resilience Care) demonstrated the challenges for Advanced Community Care Nurses in Supporting Children with Complex Needs at Home.



The final presentation came from Ms. Orlaith Hernon (Clinical Research Nurse, NUIG) who showed her findings, through qualitative evidence synthesis, on Clinical Research Nurses' Experiences of their role.

Ms. Cora O'Leary (Clinical Practice Specialist with Resilience Care) won best speaker for her presentation "Supporting Children with Complex Needs at Home: Challenges for Advanced Community Care Nurses".



The third forum was chaired by Dr Avril Kennan (CEO of Health Research Charities Ireland). Dr Keenan opened the forum by presenting on the PPI Working Group Resource Platform. Prof Mary McCarron (RN and Director of the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability) then gave a presentation on her career to-date and how IDS-TILDA was developed and the impact it has had on the participants. Prof Eileen Savage (RN and Vice Dean of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine and Health, UCC) discussed, and gave examples, on we can enable a culture towards research and innovation in nursing and midwifery clinical practice. The forum finished with Dr Fionnuala Keane (COO of Clinical Research Coordination Ireland) discussing the reports launched this year on the research infrastructure in Ireland and closed by summarising the day (after taking seven pages of notes!).

There was a fantastic showcase of posters at the conference and for the first time we were asked to upload copies of the posters onto the IRNN website. The overall poster prize went to Ann-Marie O'Callaghan and colleagues from Clinical Research Facility Cork for their poster "Impact of New Data Protection Regulations on Clinical Trial Recruitment: A Research Nurse Perspective (The ImPaCT Study)".

The IRNN committee would like to 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 Regina Mundi, Cork, for their help on the day.

