

MEDIA DIARY NOTICE AND NEWS RELEASE

2nd October 2014

Attention News desks, Health and Science Correspondents

Diary Notice

**The 62nd Annual and Scientific Meeting of the
Irish Gerontological Society,
hosted by National University of Ireland Galway and West/North West
Hospitals Group,
will take place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Galway
on Thursday (evening), Friday (official opening) & Saturday, 9th, 10th & 11th
October 2014**

Media representatives and photographers are welcome to attend.

News Release

The 62nd Annual and Scientific meeting of the Irish Gerontological Society (IGS) will take place in Galway on 9th - 11th October 2014. The Irish Gerontological Society is one of the oldest societies in the world devoted to the study of ageing. It is dedicated to education and research and to enhancing the quality of life and health of the older person.

Over 250 papers will be presented at the meeting by health and social care professionals and by scientists from the field of ageing research. The overarching conference theme is '*Science for Healthy and Active Ageing*'.

Guest speakers include Professor Marion McMurdo from Dundee in Scotland, Prof Shaun O'Keeffe and Dr Leo Quinlan from Galway. Prof Eamon O'Shea, also from Galway, will give the annual Willie Bermingham Lecture. This lecture is dedicated to the memory of the famous Dublin fireman who campaigned in the 1970s and 1980s for proper living conditions for older people and who founded the charity ALONE.

Prof J Bernard Walsh, President of the IGS said: "The continued growth of the Irish Gerontological Society reflects the increasing importance of maintaining health and preserving the quality of living throughout one's life. Active living and full community involvement is crucial at all times". He also said that "especially as this is Positive Ageing Week, it is a joy to see so many young researchers and bright health and social care professionals dedicated to the field of ageing research"

On behalf of his Galway-based colleagues, Dr Tom Walsh, Prof Shaun O’Keeffe and Prof Martin O’Donnell, Prof Eamon Mulkerrin, consultant geriatrician at Galway University Hospital (GUH) and Lead of the Scientific Committee for the Conference, said: “The West-Northwest Hospital Group and NUI Galway are delighted to host this conference. We last hosted this keystone event in 2006, and services for older people have flourished in the region since then.

There are now 14 geriatricians working with highly skilled teams of allied health and social care professionals (AHPs) within the Group’s catchment area, and that number is due to expand shortly with the imminent appointment of a senior lecturer in Geriatric Medicine at NUI Galway and GUH”.

Prof Mulkerrin added: “A massive amount of work has been done locally by both clinical and academic consultant colleagues and AHPs which will guarantee a successful meeting of which the West will be proud. More than 300 delegates are already registered and the multidisciplinary nature of our conference, allied to the broad theme of promotion of healthy and active ageing, ensures that we will have an event which has widespread appeal for anyone with any interest in age-associated matters whether their background is in basic laboratory-based research or the psychosocial aspects of later life”.

Ends.

**Full event details available on the meeting website www.irishgerontology.com
Event programme and book of abstracts [available to view or download](#)**

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Photographic services are available from the event photographer:

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