



Irish
Gerontological
Society



Stepping Forward with Confidence

An All-Ireland Frailty Network event to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons 2021

Friday 1st October 2021 13:00 – 15:00 IST

Meet the Speakers



Rose Anne Kenny is the President of the Irish Gerontological Society (IGS). She is Professor of Medical Gerontology, at Trinity College Dublin. Rose Anne was appointed in 2005, to Trinity College and St. James's Hospital, as Head of the Academic Department of Medical Gerontology and holds the Chair of Medical Gerontology. Rose Anne is the founding Principal Investigator of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing TILDA : www.tilda.ie), Ireland's flagship research project in ageing - where she leads a team of multidisciplinary researchers focusing on psychology, nursing, medicine, physiotherapy, economics, bio-engineering, social sciences and health economics as aspects of the ageing process in Ireland. Rose Anne is also the Director of Trinity Ageing Research Centre (TARC) - the Centre for Research in Ageing at Trinity College, and in 2016 launched a new 120 bedded clinical research institute on the site of Ireland's largest teaching hospital (St. James's Hospital), Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing (MISA). Prior to her present appointments, Rose Anne held the Chair of Cardiovascular Research at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, where she was Head of the Academic Department of Medical Gerontology for 12 years. Rose Anne has held a number of senior positions including, Chair of the American Geriatric Society: Falls Prevention Guidelines (2001 & 2011), Chair of the European Cardiac Society/ European Heart Rhythm Association Guidelines for Syncope units (2015), Member of the European Cardiac Society (ECS) Syncope Guidelines Taskforce 2018, Board Member of the EU H2020 Advisory Group for Societal Challenge and Co-Chair of the working group "Transforming the Future of Ageing" lead by the Scientific Advisory Policy by European Academies (SAPEA). She is also Advisor to the Irish Government for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Irish Citizens' Assembly on Ageing. Her contribution to science and in particular, the field of ageing, has been recognised by many awards, including the Lady Illingworth Research Award in the UK, the UK National BUPA Foundation Care Award 'For excellence in the development of the care of older people' and NHS Modernization Award among many others. Rose Anne was elected as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy (MRIA) in 2014, and is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, London and Edinburgh.



Paschal McKeown is Charity Director with Age NI, responsible for services, programmes and activities which aim to improve outcomes for older people and ensure everyone can enjoy a better later life. Paschal had worked for over 30 years in the voluntary sector in a wide variety of roles, including policy, external relations, service delivery and advocacy.



Bibiana Savin is a community and social services professional, who has extensive experience in providing support & advocacy services to older people, vulnerable adults and healthcare patients. She has qualifications in Social Work, Sociology, Advocacy and holds a Master of Social Science - Human Rights & Social Policy. Last year she completed Oxford Leading Strategic Projects Programme with Said Business School, University of Oxford. Bibiana is involved in a number of committees within the Public Participation Network at regional and national level. She acts as a Patient & Public Representative on the Irish Hip Fracture Database Governance Committee in National Office for Clinical Audit and on the University College Dublin PPI Ignite Executive Committee. She is also a member of the National Patient & Service User Forum and recently joined the Irish Gerontological Society's executive committee. Bibiana works with Sage Advocacy since 2015 and is currently the Acting Regional Manager for the Southern Area.



Alison Patterson is the Coordinator for the Frailty Network Northern Ireland (FNNI) at the Public Health Agency. She is a graduate of the University of Ulster, having achieved a BA (Hons), a Post Graduate Diploma in Health and Social Care Management, and a Masters in Public Administration. Following a 2-year secondment, I am delighted to have recently been appointed as Frailty Programme Manager in the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. A key part of this role has been establishing and developing the NI Frailty Network. I have worked in Northern Ireland Health and Social Care for 30 years, my previous roles being within planning and commissioning.



Roman Romero-Ortuno is Associate Professor in Medical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Physician in St. James's Hospital, Dublin. In 2002, he graduated from University of Barcelona with a degree in Medicine, and in 2003 he completed an MSc in European Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has a music degree from the Conservatory of Barcelona. His basic postgraduate medical training took place in Manchester and London and his higher medical training in Geriatric and General (Internal) Medicine was completed in Dublin. Between 2014 and 2018 he worked as a Consultant Geriatrician in Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) and during that time he held an Honorary Visiting Fellowship to the Clinical Gerontology Unit of the Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge. Roman is Faculty member of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) where he brings clinical and academic expertise in frailty, dementia, delirium and comprehensive geriatric assessment. He co-chairs the Frailty and Resilience working group of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and the Irish Frailty Network Interest Group (IFN-IG) of the Irish Gerontological Society. In December 2020, Roman was appointed as Associate Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning (M.D. Studies) in Trinity's School of Medicine. His research contributions in the area of frailty have been recognised with the 2015 British Geriatrics Society Rising Star Award, the 2017 Count of Cartagena Award from the Royal National Academy of Medicine of Spain and the 2018 President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Award.



Rónán O’Caoimh is a Consultant Geriatrician in Mercy University Hospital Cork. A graduate of University College Cork, he has also completed a PhD in Medicine (University College Cork), an MSc in Geriatric Medicine (Keele University) and an MPH (University of Edinburgh). He is the academic secretary of the Irish Society of Physicians in Geriatric Medicine and co-chair of the frailty subgroup of the National Clinical Programme for Older People and Irish Frailty Network. He has been involved in several EU-funded frailty projects including the FP-7 funded PERSSILAA trial and the 3rd Health Programme-funded Joint Action on Frailty Prevention, ADVANTAGE.



Charlotte McArdle is the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Northern Ireland, the head of the Nursing and Midwifery professions, and is responsible for the professional leadership, performance and development of the Professions in Northern Ireland, including providing support to the Department’s lead Allied Health Professions (AHP) Officer. During the time that Charlotte has been in the role of Chief Nurse she has led a number of policy initiatives which underpin professional practice such as: Person Centred Standards for Record Keeping Practice; Policy Imperative – Delivering Care: Nurse Staffing Levels in Northern Ireland. Supporting Q2020,

Charlotte played a key role in the development of the Attributes Framework for Leadership in Quality Improvement and Safety. Charlotte also chairs the NI Key Performance Indicator Advisory Board for Nursing and Midwifery. The Office of the Chief Nurse leads on policy for patient experience and nutrition and for developing models of practice for Co-production in line with the Department of Health’s statutory responsibility for Personal and Public Involvement. Charlotte is a Visiting Professor at Ulster University Faculty of Health Science and became a QNI Fellow in 2020.



Rachel Kenna is the newly appointed Chief Nursing Officer in Ireland. She is a Registered Childrens and General Nurse (RCN/RGN) and has extensive clinical and managerial experience spanning 29 years in both in Ireland and the UK. Rachel has worked as a Deputy Chief Nursing Officer in the Department of Health since 2018 and her primary area of responsibility was nursing policy in the area of patient systems and clinical governance. Rachel previously held the Director of Nursing post in Irelands largest Childrens hospital, Childrens Health Ireland at Crumlin. Rachel has a real interest in Nursing and Midwifery policy but also in wider health policy and is educated in a wide range of areas to support this. She holds a MSc in Child Protection and Welfare and a BSc in Nursing Management. Rachel’s other educational qualifications includes a Higher Diploma in Professional Practice, critical

care, Leadership, Quality in Healthcare and a Diploma in Human Rights and Equality and a Professional Diploma in Governance. Rachel is selected as a Florence Nightingale Leadership Scholar for 2021. The Chief Nursing Officer role has an important strategic leadership and influencing role that includes the provision of professional policy direction and evidence-based expert advice for the nursing and midwifery and general health policy agenda. The role incorporates professional regulation, strategic workforce planning and provides an exciting opportunity to develop and strengthen the collaborative working across government and the wider public service.



Marina Cassidy is Artist in Residence, Creative Life Centre, Mercer’s Institute for Successful Ageing, St James’s Hospital. She is I am a dedicated professional musician with much performing and teaching experience. Marina is interested in ongoing professional development and exploring other ways of sharing the gift of music. She recently qualified as a professional Music Therapist adding to my teaching and performance qualifications.



Elizabeth Moloney is a Geriatrician and Clinical Research Fellow based in Mercy University Hospital, Cork where she is completing MD studies on frailty screening tools for use among older adults in emergency departments. She has recently completed a systematic review on frailty screening tools used in ED with a view to develop a frailty trigger for use at triage. She previously worked as dentist, providing community dental care to residential care residents prior to studying medicine. She qualified from UCC medical school in 2011 and completed HST training in Ireland. She has presented on frailty research both nationally & internationally and was the recipient of HSE SPARK Innovation Funding in 2020 for frailty related projects.



William McKeown is a ST5 Specialist Registrar in Care of the Elderly Medicine. He currently works at Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Western Health and Social Care Trust in Derry where he is also a clinical teaching fellow. His main areas of interest include frailty, multi-morbidity and acute elderly care medicine.



Deirdre Lang: RGN, Scottish Quality & Safety Fellow (Cohort 10), FFMRCISI, MSc Leadership, BNS (Hons), Dip Mgt, HDip Gerontological Nursing, HETAC level 6 Special award in coaching. Honorary Teach Associate FFMRCISI. Dierdre is the Director of Nursing/National Lead Older Persons Services/Clinical & Integrated Programmes, Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services Director. Deirdre initially trained in St Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, as a Registered General Nurse. During the early part of her career she spent a number of years working in acute services both in Australia and in Ireland. She has had a variety of experiences in healthcare, having worked in mental health nursing and in practice development. Her experience in Older Persons Services includes

the role of Clinical Nurse Manger 2, Assistant Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing both in the HSE and private sector. Her role as Director of Nursing Older Persons Services brings together all aspects of her experience to date, together with her passion for the older patient and those who provide their care.



Mark Bowman SEHSCT , is a Consultant Geriatrician in Ulster Hospital since 2019 and a Consultant Geriatrician in Care of the Elderly and Stroke Unit in Ulster Hospital since 2019. Mark is Co-Chair of the Northern Ireland Frailty Network (NIFN) Education subgroup. He is also Subdean for 4th year medical students.



Sarah Penney, BSc(Hons) RGN, MSc in Dementia Studies, is a lecturer in Nursing at Ulster University and Associate Director for My Home Life, Ulster University. Sarah has a background in surgical nursing before managing several health & Social care projects. She worked as a care home manager and then as Dementia Lead for a Belfast charity. She has completed her MSc in Dementia care. Sarah is responsible for The My Home Life programme in NI and sits on the global My Home Life committee. Specific interests are supporting staff to develop practice in dementia care and dementia design and quality care for older people. She sat on the Northern Ireland expert panel to assist with the development of the national dementia learning & development framework. She won the RCN Nurse of the Year Learning in practice award for her work with NI care homes in the

My home Life programme.



Corina Naughton PhD, MSc, H.Dip., RN., is Professor of Clinical Nursing in Older Person's Healthcare, a joint appointment between University College Cork and the Health Service Executive South/South Western Hospital group. Corina's work and research focuses on translating evidence into clinical practice to develop an age-attuned workforce and environment with a particular focus on frailty and dementia. Her current research activity includes: design and implementation of the Frailty Care Bundle a multidisciplinary intervention to optimise nutrition, mobilisation and cognitive engagement of hospitalised

older adults. Her other projects include design and testing an education-career pathway in gerontological nursing (ECHO) to increase retention of early career nurses in the speciality; evaluation of nutrition optimisation strategies in acute care; and evaluating a dementia communication intervention for pre-registration nurses. She has written on topics including ethics and quality improvement, gerontological nurse education, elder abuse, older people in emergency departments, prescribing and deprescribing practice, and extended professional roles for nurses such as medication and ionising radiation prescribing.



Emer Ahern is a Consultant Orthogeriatrician at Cork University Hospital. She graduated from University College Cork and completed postgraduate speciality training in North-West Mersey Deanery. Emer held a Consultant Orthogeriatrician post in Royal Liverpool University Hospital before returning to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny and since 2019, Cork University Hospital. She is the Lead for the Irish Hip Fracture Database and Hip Fracture Audit SIG of Frailty Fracture Network (FFN).



John Travers is a GP registrar on the TCD/ HSE GP training scheme and a PhD candidate at UCD. He is leading research on primary care interventions to reverse frailty and build resilience



Rosemary Kelly is a Consultant in Geriatric Medicine at Lagan Valley Hospital with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. She is the Foundation Programme Director and the Consultant Lead for both Frailty and Osteoporosis at Lagan Valley Hospital. Rosemary is a Specialty Advisor to the Chief Medical Officer in Northern Ireland.



Aisling O'Halloran is currently Assistant Professor in Medical Gerontology (Inflammageing) in the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin. She holds a PhD in the genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and a B.A. (Mod) in Natural Science, specializing in genetics, from Trinity College Dublin. She has been a research fellow working with the TILDA study for nine years, where she leads the TILDA Biomarker Working Group. Aisling also manages the TILDA Biobank, one of the largest biobanks in Ireland. She is active in the research of frailty and the biology of ageing. Aisling also coordinates and teaches on undergraduate and postgraduate modules within the School of Medicine at TCD. She is a member of the EUGMS SIG on Frailty and Resilience in Older People, the NIH Biomarker Network, and the Irish Frailty Network. She is an associate editor with BMC Geriatrics and a member of the national executive committee of the Irish Gerontological Society.



Mark Tully is the Interim Director of the Institute of Mental Health Sciences and a Professor of Public Health at Ulster University. Mark's research focuses on addressing population levels of physical inactivity and sedentary behaviour, which are major causes of poor physical and mental wellbeing. His research includes interventions targeting older adults and socio-economically disadvantaged communities. In addition, he is interested in the effects of changes in the built environment on behaviours.



Bernadette McGuinness graduated in medicine from Queen's University Belfast in 1997. She trained in geriatric medicine and general internal medicine, completing specialty training in 2007. During this time, she graduated with MD for work on neuropsychological changes in Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Bernadette was awarded the Paul Beeson Career Development Award in 2007, a prestigious award from Atlantic Philanthropies and the American Federation of Aging Research. This afforded three further years of research into mild cognitive impairment and led to a PhD. She currently works as Professor in Geriatric Medicine within the Centre for Public Health at Queen's University Belfast and Consultant Geriatrician in the Belfast Trust. Bernadette leads a twice weekly memory clinic within the Belfast Trust where patients with a spectrum of neurodegenerative disorders are assessed, diagnosed and followed-up. From a research perspective she is especially interested in Alzheimer's disease, Lewy Body dementia, mild cognitive impairment, the role of inflammation and nutrition in neurodegeneration; she leads a research portfolio of studies in these areas. She is Clinical Lead of the Northern Ireland Cohort of Longitudinal Ageing (NICOLA) study and leads on an NIA funded study comprehensively assessing cognition in NICOLA participants.



Siobhan Casey is the Director of Marketing & Business Development at Age NI and is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute. Driving change in the ageing agenda to improve the health and well-being of older people is central to her work. Recent service innovation successes include: developing and securing funding for new programmes for people living with dementia, mild cognitive impairment and older people who are isolated as a result of COVID-19; leading a three-nation Age at Work programme to support older workers; and, creating high profile campaigns and partnerships to combat loneliness and promote healthy ageing. Siobhan is a Director of the International Federation on Ageing and a member of the UKRI Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee.