

*Psycho-Oncology is concerned with the psychological, social, behavioural, and ethical aspects of cancer. This subspecialty addresses the two major dimensions of cancer: the psychological responses of the patients to cancer at all stages of the disease, and that of their families and caretakers, and the psychological, behavioural, and social factors that may influence the disease process.*

The Irish Psycho-Oncology Group was set up in 2005 as a professional interdisciplinary organisation with members from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with the aim of advancing education, research, and clinical practice in psycho-oncology.

The objectives of IPOG are to:

- *Provide a forum for professional clinicians, researchers, and educators to meet, present research, and to discuss new ideas and developments in psycho-oncology*
- *Encourage education, research, and higher standards of training in psycho-oncology*
- *Improve the quality of care of people with cancer by promoting better information-giving, communication, and psychological support*
- *Promote knowledge and implementation of the principles of psycho-oncology amongst those working with people with cancer and their families*
- *Provide advice and/or consultation to members of the group, to international, national, and local programs.*

*Oscailt*



*irishpsycho-oncologygroup*

c/o Irish Cancer Society, 43/45 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, Ireland  
Tel: 01 231 0500 Fax: 01 231 0555 email: ipog@irishcancer.ie Web: www.cancer.ie



*irishpsycho-oncologygroup*

Inaugural National Conference

11/12 April 2007 Dublin Castle Conference Centre

*Oscailt*

This conference marks the *opening* of North-South collaboration in Psycho-Oncology

## Day 1

- 9.00 am Registration & Coffee
- 9.30 am **Introduction:** Prof. Robin Davidson, Chair, Irish Psycho-Oncology Group, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, MacMillan Cancer Support and Information Centre, Belfast
- Opening:** Minister of Health for Northern Ireland (invited)  
Ms. Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health and Children, Republic of Ireland.
- Chair:** Ms. Ursula Courtney, Director of Services, ARC Cancer Support Centre, Dublin
- 10.00 am **Keynote address:** "Recognizing and Treating Distress in Patients with Cancer: An Imperative for Integration into Optimal Cancer Care".  
**Dr. Jimmie C. Holland, MD**  
Wayne E. Chapman Chair in Psychiatric Oncology, Attending Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York
- 11.00 am Coffee
- 11.15 am **Communication Issues**
- **Dr. Leslie Fallowfield**, Prof. of Psycho-Oncology, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex, Sussex, UK
  - **Dr. Cathy Heaven PhD. RGN. Cert Ed.** Senior Trainer & Unit Manager, Maguire Communication Skills Training Unit, Holt House, Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK
  - **Speaker to be confirmed**
- 12.45 pm **Lunch**
- Chair:** Dr. Ann-Marie O'Dwyer, Consultant Psychiatrist, Psychological Medicine Service, St. James's Hospital, Dublin
- 2.00 pm **Existential Issues**
- **Prof. Harry Van de Wiel**, Division of Medical Psychology, Department of Health Sciences, University Medical Centre, Groningen, The Netherlands
  - **Ms. Ursula Bates**, Principal Psychologist, Director of Psychosocial and Bereavement Services, Blackrock Hospice, Dublin
  - **Prof. David Clark**, Director, International Observatory on End of Life Care, Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
- 4.15 pm Coffee
- 4.30 - 6.00pm **Poster Presentation**
- 6.00 - 6.45pm **Irish Psycho-Oncology Group - Annual General Meeting**
- 6.45 - 8.00pm **Drinks Reception**

## Day 2

- 9.00 am Registration and Coffee
- 9.45 am **Introduction** Mr. John McCormack, CEO, Irish Cancer Society
- Chair:** Mrs. Olwyn Ryan, Patient Support Services Manager, Irish Cancer Society
- 10.00 am **Keynote address:** "Cinderella will go to the ball: Resources and Future Directions for the Psychological Care of Cancer Patients and their Families."  
**Dr. Maggie Watson**  
Head of Psychological Medicine, The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, UK
- 11.00 am Coffee
- 11.15 am **Cognitive Behavioural Issues**
- **Dr. Sonya Collier**  
Principal Clinical Psychologist, Psychological Medicine Service, St. James's Hospital, Dublin
  - **Dr. Rosemary Walsh**  
Senior Clinical Psychologist, Dept. of Pain Medicine, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin
  - **Dr. Aiveen Higgins**  
Principal Clinical Psychologist, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast
  - **Dr. Shawn Steggle**  
Hon. Research Fellow, School of Psychology, University College Dublin, Principal Clinical Psychologist Psycho-Oncology Services: Education, Clinical and Research, St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin
- 12.45 pm **Lunch**
- Chair:** Prof. Brendan Drumm CEO Health Service Executive (invited)
- 2.00 pm **International Issues**
- **Dr. Robbert Sanderman**  
Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
  - **Prof. Paul Redmond**, Professor of Surgery, Cork University Hospital, Chair, National Cancer Forum
  - **Prof. Robin Davidson**, Chair, Irish Psycho-Oncology Group, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, MacMillan Cancer Support and Information Centre, Belfast
- 4.00 pm **Closing Remarks** Prof. Drumm CEO Health Service Executive (invited)
- Poster Awards Presentation** Dr. Rachel Holland, Centre Manager, MacMillan Support & Information Centre, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast
- 4.30 pm **Conclusion**

## Registration Form

Please complete the following form (which may be photocopied) and return it to:

Irish Psycho-Oncology Group  
c/o Irish Cancer Society  
43/45 Northumberland Road  
Dublin 4

Places should be reserved before 11/03/07

Please reserve  place(s) for the Irish Psycho-Oncology Conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Dublin Castle Conference Centre, Dublin 2.

(Please print in block capitals)

Title:  Name:

Job Title/Position:

Address:

email:

Telephone:

Signature:

Cost (Includes lunch): €50 (£35) One Day  11/04/07   
€75 (£50) Two Days  12/04/07   
Both

Please enclose a cheque or postal order made payable to The Irish Cancer Society (IPOG).

For more info please contact Clíodhna at +353 1 2310522 or email [ipog@irishcancer.ie](mailto:ipog@irishcancer.ie)

  
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