



## **Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing AGM**

### **Report from the Chairperson**

This year was a relatively busy year with submissions, publications and events.

#### **Submissions**

During the year a number of detailed submissions were made on behalf of the membership: A submission was made to:

- The Department of Health and Children on the draft National Consent Policy;
- The National Clinical Programme (Mental Health) and associated subgroups consultation document on First Episode Psychosis Early Intervention, Eating Disorder, and Suicide
- The review of national policy for Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing
- Review of Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery Programme,
- The Review of the Mental Health Act 2001
- Mental Health Commissions consultation on Draft Seclusion and Physical Restraint Reduction Strategy

A letter was also published in the in response to 'Behind the Walls' documentaries (Screened RTE on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September)

#### **Co-sponsoring of events: Prof David Healy lecture**

In association with the School of Nursing and Midwifery TCD the institute organised a public lecture by Prof David Healy. The lecture was titled 'The Eclipse of Medical and Psychiatric Care' and took place in TCD and were attended by very large audiences with over 120 people from general public and university staff. Feedback from attendees was very positive.

#### **3-Day Hearing Voices Group Facilitation**

Funding was received from the NMPDU to host two hearing voices workshops. These workshops will take place in Dublin and Galway and will be facilitated by Jacqui Dillon. The Dublin workshop will take place on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September and has over 20 participants enrolled. The Galway workshop is scheduled for October.

I would like to thank Mark Monaghan, Padraig McBennett and Siobhain Smith for their work in organising these events.

#### **Annual symposium**

The third Annual Symposium was held at the School of Nursing, Athlone Institute of Technology on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. This year's theme is 'Advanc-**ing** Mental Health Nursing' with the emphasis placed firmly on 'advance-ing'. The morning session opened with a welcome address from Agnes Higgins (Chairperson of the IIMHN) and was followed by a keynote address from Prof Gary Rolfe Chair in Nursing,

4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

School of Health Science, Swansea University. Prof. Rolfe spoke to the title Advancing Practice: Why be excellent when you can be good?'

The annual debate discussed the motion: 'Nurses should advance their practice by departing from the psychiatric paradigm', and was chaired by Mick O'Hare. Speaking in favour of the motion were Mr. Liam Minogue, and Ms. Ann Cleary; speaking against the motion were Mr. Tommy Healy, and Dr. Anne Jeffers. We also had a short presentation by Dr Richard Lakeman and Dr Mary ?? on advancing practice in Australia.

The afternoon session was chaired by Teresa Tuohy and featured a number of nurses from around the country who are at the forefront of advancing their practice. These included Laoise Renwick who spoke on 'The experiences developing the advance practice role in early intervention psychosis'; Alison van Laar who spoke about 'Improving access and developing mental health services in primary care; James O'Mahony addressed the title 'incorporating an advanced nurse practitioner in mental health and psychotherapy into general practice' and Gordon Lynch who spoke on 'Advanced Nurse Practitioners: Who do they serve?'.

The day was closed with the second keynote delivered by Dr. Maura Pidgeon, Chief Executive Officer, An Bord Altranais who spoke on the future possibilities and challenges in Advancing Nursing Practice.

Throughout the day there was an opportunity to view some excellent posters presentations with prizes sponsored by the PNA.

I would like to say a sincere thanks to Mick O Hare for being such an excellent host and organiser. I would also like to thank Teresa Tuohy, Ashling Cullhane Siobhain Smyth, Elaine Collins, and Philip James, for helping to make the day a success.

## **Newsletter**

This year the IIMHN published its second newsletter both in hardcopy and online. The newsletter was designed by Mark Monaghan and Siobhain Smyth and edited by both Mark and Harry Gijbels. Following production of the hard copy it was distributed through the country via Nursing Practice development Co-ordinators and other key personnel within the services. Informal feedback on the newsletter has been very positive.

## **Website**

Mr Mark Monaghan has done a lot of work on the website, which has been a central medium for communication with mental health nurses and links with other professional organisations within and outside of the country. On behalf of the membership and executive and the wider Institute membership, I would like to acknowledge all Mark's work to date.

## **A Vision for Mental Health Nursing**

The chairperson of the Institute represented the organisation on the national steering group that is conducting research on Mental Health Nursing in Ireland. This report was launched earlier this year, and is the first formal strategy for psychiatric/ mental health nursing in Ireland which outlines a vision for the profession for the next 10-20 years. The study was co-funded by the National

4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery, the NMPDUs and the ONMSD, and is available on the Institutes website.

### **Membership**

Membership now stands at 254, and increase from 217 members from last year. I would like to thank Padraig McBennett who took over the role of membership secretary late in this year.

### **Acknowledgements**

Over the year we have received support from many organisations and people. On behalf of the Executive I would like to say a sincere thanks to all of them. Firstly the Nursing Practice Development Units for support with conference and Hearing Voices workshop. The PNA who willingly sponsored the prizes for the poster competition at the annual symposium. Athlone institute of technology for support in hosting the symposium. Likewise thanks is due to Trinity College Dublin, and DCU for their generosity in offering venues for our meetings and events since our inception.

I would personally like to extend my thanks to the members of the executive who assisted me throughout the year.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Dr Denis Ryan Colum Bracken and Dr Eddie McCann who are resigning from the committee and who have made an extraordinary contribution to the organisation since its inception.

Thank you

Prof. Agnes Higgins  
Chairperson  
Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing

4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Padraig McBennett mother RIP

Dr Agnes Higgins	Chair Person
Mr Philip James	Conference Convenor
Mr Pádraig Mc Bennett	Membership Secretary
Mrs Siobhan Smyth	Newsletter Editor
Dr Harry Gijbels	Secretary
Ms Teresa Tuohy	Treasurer
Dr Denis Ryan	Vice Chair Person
Ms Elaine Collins	Vice Treasurer
Mr Mark Monahan	Web Master
Mr Colum Bracken	Executive Officer
Ms Aisling Culhane	Executive Officer
Dr Malachy Feely	Executive Officer
Mr Liam Mac Gabhann	Executive Officer
Mr Mick O'Hehir	Executive Officer
Dr Ann Sheridan	Executive Officer
Mr Jonathan Spendlow	Executive Officer

Agnes Higgins Chair (3 year term)  
Aisling Culhane (3 year term)  
Ann Sheridan co-opted post-2011 AGM  
Elaine Collins (3 year term)  
Jonathan spendlow (3 year term)  
Liam MacGabhann (3 year term)  
Siobhan Smyth (3 year term)  
Teresa Tuohy Treasurer (3 year term)  
Harry Gijbels Secretary (3 year term)

Dear Agnes,

4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Thank you for your response. Your kind comments are very generous and much appreciated. I had developed a social media and general strategy for this election. Since I contacted you, on taking further advice from friends and supporters, I have decided against standing in this election. Without the support of a professional body, and given the time constraints, I believe it would be beyond my current personal resources to deliver the campaign I feel would be befitting of this election.

I would be delighted to become more involved with the Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing at all levels, up to and including the Executive. I feel now I have a good strategy moving forward with my academic studies and will be in a position to invest more time into other areas of professional interest. I have discussed the work of the IIMHN including the Symposia with my colleague, Elaine Collins. The organisation provides a valuable forum for nurses and it would be great to see the membership and scope grow over coming years.

Sincere thanks to yourself and the Executive for considering my proposal and I understand why you are deciding not to field a candidate on this occasion. I believe with improved preparation I can provide nurses with a genuine choice in a future ABA Election. I do feel that the timeframe for selection of candidates has been shorter than is desirable.

I regret that I cannot attend this year's AGM due to clinical commitments. However, I wish both yourself and the Executive continued success and would be delighted to become involved in any capacity.

Best Wishes,  
Timmy.  
Clinical Nurse Manager (1),  
Centre for Living,  
Cluain Mhuire Service,  
Blackrock.