Dear Alumni

As incoming Head of School, I would like to welcome you to the summer edition of our newsletter.

This has been a very active year for international engagement as we attended meetings with universities in the USA, Taiwan and Sharjah and undertook a scoping trip to Sunway University and Sunway Medical Malaysia. We were delighted to host more international students on our postgraduate courses and the Science Without Borders programme. We saw the continuation of our highly successful International School and have also initiated an international internship for our Brazilian students.

The introduction of the GradLink mentoring programme this year gave us an opportunity to welcome our valued alumni back to the School, as did our public lecture series ‘Tell Me About’. This year’s speakers included, the Minister for Health, Mr Leo Varadkar and also Mrs Majella O’Donnell.

Research has been high on the School’s agenda with the continuous development of our longitudinal studies such as IDS-TILDA, MAMMI and OptiBIRTH, with publications and report launches in the areas of mental health, child health and chronic illness, to name a few. This year saw over 80% of our staff defined as research active by international standards.

Looking forward to 2015-16, we will aim to maintain our place as the leading School of Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland and also finalise our new strategic plan, which emphasises our place as a School of Nursing and Midwifery of ‘Global Consequence’.

We look forward to welcoming more of our alumni back to the School through our events and activities throughout the coming academic year.

With warm wishes

Catherine

Prof Catherine Comiskey
Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery
International Winter School for US Nursing Students

5 - 16 January 2015: The School held its second two-week International Winter School led by Prof Naomi Elliot, Ms Freda Neill and Ms Emma Duffy. Nursing students along with faculty members from the University of Scranton and California State University, Channel Islands travelled to Trinity College to learn about nursing, midwifery and global healthcare issues. The Vice-President for Global Relations, Prof Juliette Hussey closed the International Winter School and highlighted the importance of building global relationships in nursing and midwifery.

One of the students commented “Wonderful program, recommend to all international students. This two weeks changed my life forever in the sense of becoming more broad-minded to other culture’s nursing practice. Amazing!”

Science Without Borders and Study Abroad programmes

The School were delighted to welcome one Science Without Borders student (Brazil) and one Study Abroad student (USA) to the School this academic year. In addition, three Science Without Borders students (Brazil) are currently undertaking summer internships on research projects within the School. These initiatives were led by Dr Deirdre Daly, Dr Frances O’Brien, Dr Colm O’Boyle and Ms Gráinne Curistan.

Visit to Sunway University, Malaysia

In May, representatives from the School travelled to Sunway University, Malaysia to carry out a scoping exercise and offer consultation on their current nursing programme. Irish nurses and midwives are recognised throughout the world as leaders within their respective professions and, as the leading School of Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland, we have been approached on many occasions for consultation purposes. Over a four-week period, the team visited Sunway University and Sunway Medical Hospital and found that both have state of the art facilities, a great teaching and learning environment and potential for development. In addition to the staff members pictured, Dr Deirdre Daly was also part of the delegation to Sunway.
I was delighted to take up my new post as CEO of the European Association for Palliative Care (EPAC) on 1 January 2015 having worked in the area of palliative care for the last 25 years; the first seven in the UK and the last 18 in Ireland.

I originally trained as a nurse at St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington and left there in 1990 to undertake an oncology course at the Royal Marsden Hospital. There, one of my placements was in palliative care so from there onwards, this became my career path.

I have worked in many different roles within palliative care, including primary nurse, research nurse, clinical nurse specialist and nurse manager, before working as an advisor on palliative care in the Department of Health in Dublin.

During my time in this post, I co-ordinated the development of the Irish National Children’s Palliative Care Policy. Respite is a key component of children’s palliative care and yet it became apparent that very little was known about how and where services were provided. This information is not only important for children and their families, but also for providers and planners of healthcare.

Having successfully applied for a Health Research Board Clinical Research Training Fellowship I undertook a full-time PhD at the TCD School of Nursing and Midwifery, focusing on exploring the respite needs and experiences of parents caring for a child with a life-limiting condition, requiring palliative care.

Most of my time as a doctoral student at Trinity College was spent working from home and I always regret that I did not spend more time in college, enjoying the facilities and fully immersing myself in college life. It almost felt that I was too old to enjoy all that was on offer on campus and now looking back I wish I had made more of this time!

I am first and foremost a palliative care nurse and so was delighted that following my research, I was appointed to the post of strategic development at LauraLynn Children’s Hospice. This gave me a unique opportunity to put into practice some of the findings from my PhD research. Parents want to care for their child at home with help so I am delighted that during my tenure at LauraLynn, I led the development of a pilot project of a hospice-at-home service providing ‘hands-on’ care for children with life-limiting conditions in the family home enabling my research to make a real difference.

My new post at the EAPC requires regular travel throughout Europe, which I enjoy. The work provides an exciting opportunity to influence change on a larger scale and I am really looking forward to the challenges ahead.

My everyday life centres on my family and friends. I have a 14 year old son, so my spare time is spent cheerleading (rugby and Gaelic), providing a taxi service (to matches, Wezz and the cinema), bankrolling shopping for training shoes at Dundrum and very importantly, walking my Labrador Oscar in Bushy Park.

Julie Ling, May 2015
Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing Service
Mary Nevin - Clinical Nurse Tutor, School of Nursing and Midwifery

In the summer months I work as a Night Nurse for the Irish Cancer Society. A Night Nurse provides end of life care for cancer patients and their families in their own home at night. I spend the night observing the patient closely, providing relief for any symptoms they have during the night, and making sure they are comfortable. Every week is different because Night Nurses work on an on-call basis, and they operate in every county in Ireland. The Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing Service is funded entirely by monies generously donated by the public each year. It is very rewarding to be able to offer the necessary support so that a person’s final journey to death can be a comfortable and peaceful one in their own home.

Mary was recently awarded a Health Research Board Fellowship and will be undertaking a PhD in the area of non-specialist palliative care in the acute care hospital setting.

Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing Service
bit.ly/1H1RfF2
Irish Times article on Mary Nevin
bit.ly/1MQ3fjY

Transformative Praxis: Malawi

Transformative Praxis: Malawi is a research-into-action project, grounded in critical theory and knowledge transfer, which brings together academics and students from Bishops University, Canada and Trinity College Dublin with Malawian academics and villagers with the aim of collaboratively developing evidence-based responses to the development priorities articulated by local community. They are developing a campus with community and to date, have completed: a community centre; multipurpose hostel building (for health and education); a new well; teacher/nurse house; football pitch; compostable toilets and a cooking space.

Dr Fintan Sheerin is Co-Director of the project (along with Prof Christopher Stonebanks, Bishops University) and he is leading the health initiative. In 2014, two students from the School travelled to Malawi with Fintan and engaged in initiating supports for people with disabilities, and their families. Two more nursing students accompanied Fintan in June 2015. If you are interested in becoming involved in or supporting this project, please contact Fintan at sheerinf@tcd.ie. For further information visit: www.praxismalawi.com and www.gofundme.com/lTkgA8

Research in the School of Nursing and Midwifery

Ever wonder about the research that School staff are engaged in? Most of you probably remember me, Dr Gabrielle McKee, as ‘the one who gave the hard biology lectures’ however, as with other staff I am also a researcher.

Our research webpage gives an overview of the School’s main areas of research interests: Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Women, Children and Families; Ageing in Intellectual Disability; Mental Health; Population and Community Health, and also the work of the Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation (CPHI).

If you are considering undertaking a research degree, a taught programme, or research as part of your role in practice, why not have a look at our staff members’ research profiles.

Explore these pages to find potential supervisors, collaborators and general support. nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/research/
Queries may be directed to me Dr Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research at gmckee@tcd.ie or alternatively to a chosen staff member.
The Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA)

IDS-TILDA is a large-scale study of people aged 40 years and over with an intellectual disability (ID) in Ireland, conducted in tandem with a national population study on ageing (TILDA). One of the key goals of the IDS-TILDA study is to influence policy to improve the lives of people with an intellectual disability. In September 2014, the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch launched the second wave report ‘Advancing years, Different Challenges: Wave 2 IDS-TILDA’, noting that this internationally recognised study is providing a voice for people with an intellectual disability in an academic and empirical way that must be listened to. Prof McCarron (PI) and the IDS-TILDA team then presented the findings from the study to key policy committees at the Department of Health in March. Another key presentation took place in April when Prof McCarron addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children. She was accompanied by IDS-TILDA Project Manager, Eilish Burke, and IDS-TILDA Research Fellow, Maire O’Dwyer. All Committees recognised and commended the IDS-TILDA team for their valuable work to date. www.idstilda.tcd.ie/info/reports/

The Centre of Practice and Healthcare Innovation

The Centre of Practice and Healthcare Innovation (CPHI) consists of a dedicated multi-disciplinary team based at the School, who share the common goal of developing and implementing evidence-based practice and healthcare research and innovation. The CPHI seeks to develop and build the research and service improvement capacity of individuals who are currently working or aspire to work in the areas of practice and healthcare innovation. A collaborative research model has been underway in St James’s Hospital since 2012 with a number of successful projects and outputs in the area of oncology, palliative care and acute care. The continued success of the St James’s/CPHI collaboration has led to expansion of the model to include Tallaght Hospital in 2014 and plans are advanced to commence a similar arrangement with Naas General Hospital, HSE Central Mental Health Services from September 2015. The success of the project is demonstrated in the development of pan-hospital projects and long-term project programmes, recognition of the work of the nurse researchers at national and international award ceremonies and successful funding applications for projects within the initiative. The CPHI is seeking to join internal and external networks to share information and ideas and to form relationships for future collaboration. For further information about collaborating with the CPHI contact cphi@tcd.ie or Dr Anne-Marie Brady (01) 896 3004/email: abrady4@tcd.ie

The MAMMI Study

Maternal health and Maternal Morbidity in Ireland is a longitudinal study, following 2,600 women through their first pregnancy and one year postnatal, gathering data on health issues including: incontinence; mental health issues; pelvic girdle pain; sexual health; domestic violence; c-sections; and diet and activity during pregnancy. Early results show that: >33% of women leak urine in early pregnancy and 50% experience leakage of urine three months after birth. This study is funded by the Health Research Board, Science without Borders, and the Coombe and Rotunda Hospitals, and is led by Dr Deirdre Daly, Prof Cecily Begley and Prof Mike Clarke.
Research

RDWIFI Research Study

In December 2014, Dr Honor Nicholl (PI) and research team members from the School launched a ground breaking study examining the information needs of parents of children with rare diseases in Ireland, and their use of web information. The study was designed to underpin the development of a specific website for families of children with rare diseases which is an important innovation and was funded by the Saoirse Foundation. Since then, Dr Honor Nicholl and the team (Ms Jessica Eustace-Cook, Ms Carole King, Dr Aileen Lynch, Ms Maryanne Murphy, Dr Catherine Tracey) have successfully obtained further funding from the Irish Research Council (New Foundations) to build on the previous work. This descriptive qualitative study aims to further explicate parents’ requirements for parent to parent support in a specifically designed website. These studies are fundamentally aligned with the National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland 2014-2018 recommendations recently published by the Department of Health.

Books

Working With Self Harm and Suicidal Behaviour

‘Working with Self Harm and Suicidal Behaviour’ is a new book by Dr Louise Doyle, Dr Brian Keogh and Ms Jean Morrissey who are Assistant Professors in the School. An authoritative introduction to identifying and assessing suicidal behaviour, this highly informative text explores both therapeutic interventions and post-intervention issues. Available from Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN: 9780230283671

The OptiBIRTH Study

Vaginal birth after a previous caesarean (VBAC) results in less mortality and morbidity than a repeat CS. Prof Cecily Begley in the School is leading a cluster randomised trial in Ireland, Germany and Italy, involving 15 hospitals with 120 women in each, to increase VBAC rates from 33% to 53% by introducing an evidence-based educational intervention designed to improve joint decision-making by women and clinicians. Recruitment is almost complete and results will be available in 2017. The study is funded by the European Commission under FP7 and involves 11 partners from 8 countries.

Report Launch

On 15 April, ‘Best Practice Principles for Risk Assessment and Safety Planning for Nurses working in Mental Health Services’ and ‘Risk Assessment and Safety Planning in Mental Health nursing; an exploration of practices, policies, and processes’ were launched by Minister Kathleen Lynch at the National Mental Health Nurses Conference in Dublin Castle. The research and best practice guides were completed by a team in the School, led by Prof Agnes Higgins, and included Dr Louise Doyle, Dr Jean Morrissey, Dr Michael Brennan, Dr Michael Nash, Dr Paul Costello, Ms Carmel Downes, Ms Ailish Gill and Ms Jade Bailey.

Dr Aileen Lynch, Ms Carole King, Dr Honor Nicholl (PI), Mr Tony Heffernan (CEO of the Saoirse Foundation), Ms Thelma Begley and Dr Catherine Tracey

Prof Agnes Higgins, Mr Colm Bracken, Area Director of Nursing, Dublin South Central Mental Health Service, Ethne Cusack, Director of Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development
The ‘Tell Me About’ public lecture series, now in its fourth year, has had over 1300 people in attendance to date. The committee also facilitated a number of other public lectures in conjunction with the Alumni Committee, the Spirituality Interest Group (SIG) and the Irish Institute for Mental Health Nursing (IIMHN).

In February the Minister for Health, Mr Leo Varadkar gave a public lecture on his role as Minister. An invitation to attend the lecture and a reception afterwards was issued to the School’s alumni. The April lecture ‘Kids’ Classics - Music in Healthcare, Education and Community Settings’ presented by Gráinne Hope and Dr Jane Bentley was integrated with the GradLink midway event.

The majority of lectures are recorded and published at: www.youtube.com/user/TCDSNM

Civic Engagement Committee

In November we welcomed 4th year students and alumni to the launch of the School’s inaugural GradLink Mentoring Programme. The programme aims to prepare students for careers in nursing and midwifery by connecting them with alumni mentors. Eighteen alumni mentors and 33 students signed onto the programme. The School hosted the GradLink midway event on 23 April, in conjunction with our ‘Tell Me About’ public lecture. The lecture was followed by a feedback session for the GradLink participants. The programme is run by the Global Officer, Ms Gráinne Curistan and supported by the Alumni Office, Careers Advisory Service and the School’s Alumni Committee. The feedback on the programme has been excellent and the School would like to thank all of our GradLink mentors for volunteering their time and invaluable guidance to our current Senior Sophister students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor in the 2015-16 programme, please contact Ms Gráinne Curistan at curistag@tcd.ie.

The names of the successful Scholars are:
- Sabina Okoye (General Nursing)
- Kiera Pienaar (General Nursing)
- Lauren Daly (General Nursing)
- Victoria Fox (Mental Health Nursing)

In May, the National Maternity Hospital hosted a midwifery student debate with the motion ‘Models of Maternity Care in Ireland offer Women Choice’. One midwifery student from each of the Third Level Institutions offering midwifery programmes DkIT, NUIG, UCC, UCD, UL and TCD participated in the debate. Trinity was ably represented by Gillian Doyle.

The debate was attended by guest of honour, Minister for Health, Mr Leo Varadkar and chaired by Dr Siobhan O’Halloran, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health.

Foundation Scholarship Award

Congratulations to the four Senior Freshman Nursing students who were recently awarded the Foundation Scholarship Award. This highly prestigious award has a long standing history in Trinity College and requires students to display a breadth of knowledge beyond their standard coursework and this year’s Scholars join a long list of nursing and midwifery students who have enjoyed such a distinction.

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For further information on the programme please visit www.tcd.ie/globalrelations/alumni/GradLink.php

Debate to mark ‘Midwives week’

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In addition to three public lectures throughout the 2014-15 academic year, the Spirituality Interest Group hosted the 1st International Spirituality in Healthcare conference in June, entitled ‘Sowing the Seeds’. The conference was attended by delegates from Australia, Brazil, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, The Netherlands and the USA. bit.ly/1UaugV1

Students

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Forthcoming Events

10 September 2015
Leadership for the Future of Healthcare
This one-day seminar will take place in the School and is open to all healthcare professionals. Registration fee: €50 (refreshments and light lunch included).
bit.ly/1K1Q1w7

4 and 5 November 2015
16th Healthcare Interdisciplinary Research Conference
Discounted registration fee offered to alumni of the TCD School of Nursing and Midwifery.
trinityhirc.com

23 June 2016
2nd International Spirituality in Healthcare conference. 1st Call for Abstracts to be published in late 2015
A full listing of all events and public lectures being held in the School is available at nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/events-conferences

Please contact Jeni Ryan (ryanjen@tcd.ie) if you wish to be added to the Events Mailing List.

Remember. The power of a legacy to Trinity

There’s an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you’re planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You’re empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You’re supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You’re helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations.

When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Eileen Punch.

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Get connected with Front Gate Online.
Update your details, search and contact fellow alumni, register for events, join the career network and other groups, all in one place!
Register today!
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Get Involved
Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, see www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

www.nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie

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