

National Delegate's Report: Health Psychology in Ireland 2014/2015

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For the period of 2014/2015 Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) Division of Health Psychology (DHP) had 61 members. The PSI DHP committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in May 2014 (up until May 2015). The committee included the following committee members: Frank Doyle (Chair), Philippa Coughlan (Previous Chair), Laura Coffey (Hon. Sec.), Catherine Darker (Hon. Treas.), Mary Ivers (Membership Sec.), Lisa Mellon (PR), Andrea Gibbons (PR), Deirdre Desmond, Pamela Gallagher, Stephen Gallagher and Molly Byrne. The current committee was voted in at the DHP AGM in April 2014, current committee members are listed at:

<http://www.psihq.ie/psi-division-health-psychology>. The current Chair of the Division of Health Psychology is Gerry Molloy, NUI Galway. The Hon. Treasurer is Lisa Hynes, NUI Galway. The Hon. Secretary is Lisa Mellon, RCSI.

Health Psychology Appointments and Awards for Irish EHPS members

In August 2014, at the AGM of the EHPS, Karen Morgan (past secretary of EHPS EC) was voted President-elect of EHPS. In addition, Molly Byrne was elected onto the EHPS EC, in the role of Grants and Education Officer. Ruth Curtis (Emerita Professor, NUIG) was awarded an EHPS Fellowship.

Professional Development in Health Psychology in Ireland

Currently available courses for health psychology in Ireland are as follows: a fully Psychological Society of Ireland accredited Masters degree programme (MSc) in Health Psychology at NUI Galway; a British Psychological Society accredited MSc at University of Ulster; and a 4-year structured PhD Programme in Psychology and Health at NUI Galway.

Over the last year, Molly Byrne has chaired a Psychological Society of Ireland Working Group to promote practitioner training for Health Psychologists in Ireland. The group has worked together this year to develop Guidelines for Postgraduate Programmes for Health

Psychology Practitioners. The draft guidelines are being reviewed by the Psychological Society of Ireland currently.

Psychological Society of Ireland Annual Conference 2014

A DHP-sponsored symposium entitled 'Psychosomatic influences on health' was convened by Stephen Gallagher at the November 2014 PSI Conference in Kilkenny, consisting of 5 presentations:

- Stephen Gallagher et al. Supporting others during times of stress: Think twice!
- Ann-Marie Creavan. A role for concordance?
- Siobhan Howard, Brian Hughes. Examining the role of personality Type D on cardiovascular health
- Páraic O Súilleabháin, Siobhan Howard, Brian Hughes. Personality, gender, cortisol and perceived stress in a large national sample: New evidence for openness to experience from the Big Five
- Samatha Dockray, Elisabeth Susman. An examination of the influence of social competence, stress and cortisol on weight trajectories in adolescence

Division of Health Psychology 12th Annual Conference 1st April 2015

The 12th annual conference of the Division of Health Psychology, 'Psychology, Health and Medicine' was hosted by Stranmillis University College, Belfast, and organised by Conference Chair Marian McLaughlin (www.kc-jones.co.uk/phm2015). The Division's annual conference is a joint venture between the Psychological Society of Ireland and Northern Ireland British Psychological Society Divisions of Health Psychology and embodies a valuable spirit of collaboration and creativity in the discipline throughout the island of Ireland. The aim of the conference is to promote high quality research at the interface of psychology, health and medicine, as well as to facilitate social and professional networks among people working in this area and it regularly attracts the interest of a variety of health professionals, as well health psychologists. It showcases important research in health psychology in Ireland and the UK and is a key event for people working in the areas of psychology and health in Ireland. Keynote speakers were: Marijn De Bruin, University of Aberdeen; Jane Walsh, NUI Galway; Nanette Mutrie, MRC Social and Public Health

Sciences Unit in Glasgow and also at the University of Ulster. Next year's conference (2016) will take place in Cork.

Early Career Investigator Awards

A new Early Career Investigator award, introduced this year, was awarded to Frank Doyle, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The award acknowledges excellence of the breadth of contribution to advancing the science and/or profession of health psychology nationally and internationally. It is also envisaged that a DHP student prize will be commenced in the near future.

Conference Bursaries

The PSI DHP Committee approves each year a number of conference travel bursaries to contribute towards conference registration fees, accommodation, and travel expenses for UK or European health psychology conferences. Three applicants were awarded a travel bursary last year – these were awarded to Teresa Corbett, Jenny McSharry and Noirin Lennox.

Innovations in Health Psychology: Celebrating 21 years of Health Psychology at NUI Galway

In 2015, NUI Galway's MSc in Health Psychology programme (founded in 1994) celebrates its 21st birthday. In recognition of this achievement, the School of Psychology at NUI Galway and the PSI Division of Health Psychology hosted a daylong event on 8th June 2015 and invited past graduates, researchers, practitioners and policy makers to a day-long celebration of Innovations in Health Psychology in Ireland

(<http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=426>). The event was a mix of invited speakers, panel discussions and poster presentations which showcased the past, present and future of Health Psychology at NUI Galway. Over 100 delegates attended the event and keynote speakers included: Prof John Weinman (Kings College London) and Prof Marie Johnston (University of Aberdeen).