

EHPS Annual National Delegate Report 2017/2018

Country: Ireland

National Delegate: Jenny Mc Sharry

i) Health Psychology in the country

Psychological Society of Ireland Division of Health Psychology (PSI DHP)

The PSI DHP has 64 members (53 Full and 11 Affiliate).

The 2017-18 DHP Committee was elected at the Division's 2017 AGM held on 3rd March at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. The Committee consisted of the following Members: Frank Doyle (Chair), Maria Pertl (Hon. Secretary; replaced by Emma Carr), Patrick Murphy (Hon. Treasurer), Jenny McSharry (Membership Secretary), Eimear Morrissey (Public Relations Officer), Gerry Molloy (Ordinary), Claire Donnellan (Ordinary), Lisa Mellon (Ordinary), Ailish O'Brien (Ordinary), Noirin Nealon-Lennox (Ordinary), Caroline Kelleher (Ordinary).

Work Related to Professional Recognition in Health Psychology

The employment of Health Psychologists in the Irish Public Health Service was considered as part of a Health Service Executive (HSE) Psychology Eligibility Review Group tasked with reviewing the eligibility criteria required for the recruitment and appointment of Psychologists at entry and promotional grades. This review group reported to the Director of Human Resources in the HSE and the report was made public in June 2016. The below recommendation was made in relation to Health Psychology:

"The review group recommended that a working group be established to further identify possible roles within the Health & Wellbeing and Acute Hospitals Divisions where the competencies of health psychologists can bring added value to the service provision in these areas".

PSI Council has advised that the HSE have formed an Implementation Group relating to the recommendations outlined in the report. The DHP are liaising with PSI Council as to how to contribute to the work of this Implementation Group.

Legislation

CORU, Ireland's Health & Social Care Professionals Council and multi-profession health regulator, is unlikely to open the Psychologist Registration Board this year. The DHP continues to operate its own Specialist Directory of Health Psychologists that been ratified by PSI Council.

II) Education, training & professionalization

1. PROMOTION OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

The Division continues to work on publicising health psychology in the PSI through contributions to 'The Irish Psychologist', regular newsletters sent to the membership, the DHP page on the PSI website, Social Media accounts (@PSI_DHP and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PSIDHP/) and other events.

DHP contributions to the Irish Psychologist this year include:

- April 2017 edition: Special feature on the 15th PHM conference and 30 years of health psychology at RCSI
- Jan 2018 edition: Update from the DHP featuring a report on the Inspire session at the PSI conference, piece on the 2017 DHP awards, a save the date announcement for PHM and congratulations to several members on recent achievements
- April 2018 edition: Announcement of the results of the vote to increase the chairs term to two years.
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2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS

Currently available courses for health psychology in Ireland are as follows: a fully PSI accredited MSc in Health Psychology at NUI Galway, a BPS accredited MSc at University of Ulster; a four-year structured PhD in Psychology and Health at NUI Galway and a four-year Structured PhD in Health Psychology Practice at NUI Galway. The PhD in Health Psychology Practice is a postgraduate research and professional training qualification that follows the BPS Stage 2 model and combines a PhD thesis with training and supervised practice to develop core Health Psychology competencies..

III) Activities

1. CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

PSI DHP Annual Psychology Health and Medicine Conference: 3 March 2017

The Psychology, Health and Medicine conference is an annual joint venture between the PSI and Northern Ireland British Psychological Society Division of Health Psychology. The conference aims to promote high quality research at the interface of psychology, health and medicine, and to facilitate social and professional networks among people working in this area.

The 15th Annual Psychology, Health and Medicine conference of the PSI DHP was hosted by University of Ulster, Coleraine in June 2018 and organised by conference chair Professor Tony Cassidy (<https://www.kc-jones.co.uk/aphm2018>)

Keynote speakers were Dr Catherine Darker (Trinity College Dublin), Professor Stanton Newman (City University London) and Professor Siobhan O'Neill (Ulster University).

Next year's conference will be hosted by the University of Maynooth, and will be organised by conference chair Dr Laura Coffey.

2. PUBLICATIONS

The DHP Annual Report 2017-2018 was presented at the DHP Annual General Meeting on the 28th of June at PSI HQ Grantham House

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS ETC

PSI DHP Early Career Awards

The PSI DHP Hannah McGee Excellence in Research/Practice Award was awarded to Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar from University College Cork. The PSI DHP Ruth Curtis Postgraduate Excellence in Research/Practice Award was awarded to PhD student Emma Carr from NUI Galway. The applications were independently reviewed by external international reviewers.

Conference Bursaries:

No bursaries were awarded this year,

4. PLANNED/FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

The 32nd Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society will be hosted by the National University of Ireland from 21-25 August. The conference theme is "Health Psychology Across the Lifespan: Innovations in Research, Practice and Policy" and Dr Gerry Molly is the conference chair.