

ADVANCED PRACTICE SECTION CONFERENCE

Theme: Demonstrating Impact: through Research, Innovation and Practice

Wednesday, 27 May 2026

The Richmond Education and Event Centre, Dublin

SPEAKERS BIOS – ADVANCED PRACTICE SECTION CONFERENCE 27 MAY 2026

1. Dr Martin Duignan is Director of Nursing for Research, Education and Innovation in HSE Dublin and Midlands where he provides strategic leadership for workforce development, research, and innovation.

He is a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner and has worked in emergency nursing for more than 20 years. In addition to his clinical roles, Martin has also worked across academia, national and international policy. He recently completed a secondment with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, where he supported nursing and midwifery health workforce reform, education, and regulation across multiple countries.

Martin holds a Doctorate in Nursing from UCC and postgraduate qualifications in sports medicine, policy analysis, education, and management. His scholarly works focuses on increasing the visibility of advanced practice roles, advancing nursing leadership, strengthening research capacity, and enabling nurses and midwives to influence health system transformation at scale.

2. Caitriona McGarrell is an Emergency Injuries Advanced Nurse Practitioner with over 20 years of nursing experience, including 18 years in the Emergency Department . Trained at St James's Hospital, she has held a range of senior clinical and leadership roles, including Clinical Nurse Manager 2 and Clinical Facilitator. She has worked as an Emergency Injuries ANP for the past eight years and currently represents ANPs on the St James Hospital Nurse Executive Team. Caitriona is an Adjunct Teaching Fellow in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin and the secretary for the Advanced Practice Section of the INMO.

3. Dr Wayne Thompson is an Assistant Professor (Ad Astra Fellow) at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, where he plays a leading role in advancing nursing education and research. He serves as Programme Director for the Graduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing (Adult) and is Module Co-ordinator for Advanced Practice Decision Making on the MSc in Advanced Practice (Nursing and Midwifery). A Registered General Nurse, Nurse Prescriber, and Advanced Nurse Practitioner (Emergency), Dr Thompson brings extensive clinical expertise to his academic work. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing from University College Dublin (2004), a Master of Science in Nursing (Emergency) from Waterford Institute of Technology (2007), and a Master of Education from Institute of

Technology, Carlow (2014). He completed his PhD at UCD in 2022, with a doctoral thesis focused on a discourse analysis of the positioning and role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) within the Irish healthcare system. Dr Thompson's clinical research centres on the development of advanced nursing practice in emergency and trauma settings. His academic interests focus on evaluating the impact of advanced practice roles, particularly in demonstrating their value, sustainability, and contribution to health research and service delivery transformation. He is committed to strengthening the evidence base underpinning advanced practice and enhancing its integration within healthcare systems. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Dr Thompson supervises several PhD students in areas related to advanced practice and healthcare innovation. He is currently leading a national review of the Standards and Requirements for Advanced Nursing and Advanced Midwifery Education Programmes, a project funded with €80,000 by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. This work reflects his leadership in shaping the future of advanced nursing education and practice at a national level.

4. Edith Donnelly is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Lead Heart Failure Nurse within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland. A Registered Nurse since 1996, she has dedicated the majority of her career to cardiology, developing extensive expertise in heart failure management and advanced clinical practice. Appointed as a Specialist Heart Failure Nurse in 2008, she has played a pivotal role in advancing specialist services and improving patient access to high-quality, evidence-based care. She has a particular interest in the development of integrated patient pathways that support timely diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing management for individuals living with heart failure. Edith is Chair of the Northern Ireland Heart Failure Nurse Forum and Deputy Chair of the British Society for Heart Failure Nurse Forum. More recently, she has taken up an observer role on the Royal College of Nursing Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum committee, where she supports the ongoing development and recognition of advanced nursing practice at a national level.

5. Jared Gormly is Head of HSE Spark, leading national work to support innovation across Ireland's health service. He is passionate about helping people find new ways of working through innovation, design and practical problem-solving, with a particular focus on empowering frontline clinical professionals to improve services from within.

With more than 26 years' experience across healthcare, HR, workforce planning and social care, Jared brings a strong blend of operational, strategic and people leadership experience. Through HSE Spark, he has supported hundreds of frontline clinical innovators to test and develop ideas that improve care, services and system performance.

His work is grounded in the belief that innovation in public services is most effective when it is human-centred, collaborative and closely connected to the realities of day-to-day practice. He holds postgraduate qualifications in HR, strategy and innovation, and is currently pursuing doctoral research on healthcare innovation ecosystems, with recent publications in health innovation.'

5b. Catherine Marsh is a Clinical Innovation Project Coordinator with Spark Innovation, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, and healthcare innovator with extensive experience in sexual assault services in Ireland. Alongside her Monday-to-Friday role with Spark, she continues to work clinically on the on-call out of hours rota within the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit.

Catherine has led national service improvement initiatives focused on trauma-informed, survivor-centred care and is the clinical lead for Ireland's pilot and national rollout of examiner-led forensic photography in sexual assault healthcare. This initiative was developed to reduce patient distress while strengthening evidentiary integrity, and today she will share her journey from initial idea through to national scale implementation.

A former National Nursing and Midwifery Fellow for Innovation with Spark Innovation, Catherine also holds a Professional Diploma in Service Design. Her work reflects the four pillars of advanced practice through expert clinical care, leadership in innovation and service development, education and staff support, and a strong focus on research, evaluation, and system improvement. She works at the intersection of clinical practice, innovation, and system change, with a strong emphasis on practical implementation, compassionate care, and translating ideas into meaningful impact

6. Shirley Ingram

Shirley Ingram, RGN; MSc; is a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Cardiology nursing and a Registered Nurse Prescriber. Shirley has over 35 years clinical experience in cardiology nursing, from coronary care, cardiac rehabilitation and over the last 13 years chest pain assessment. Shirley has pioneered the ANP-led acute chest pain service in Tallaght University Hospital and expanded her caseload and practice from the acute emergency department setting to the community.

She is passionate about Advanced Practice, registering in 2013, is a member of the TUH ANP Advanced Nursing Practice Governance Group and currently teaches on advanced nursing practice modules in UCD and Maynooth University.

As a keen researcher Shirley has published on the area of advanced nursing practice and chest pain assessment and has contributed to the European Society of Cardiology Textbook of Cardiovascular Nursing (2022) on the subject of advanced nursing practice. Shirley was honoured to award An Duais Mhor at the Irish Healthcare Awards 2021 recognising her leadership in creating and setting up an ANP led integrated community chest pain clinic now in its 6th year.

7. Bio Marie Lavelle, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Children's Cardiology

Marie is a qualified as a registered general nurse from St Vincent's University Hospital in 2001 (Diploma) and completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in UCD in 2002. She then completed her Higher Diploma in Sick Children's Nursing in UCD in 2004 and has practiced in children's nursing since then. She most recently a Graduate Diploma in Children's Cardiology nursing at UCD in 2024.

Marie has worked in various roles within the department of paediatric cardiology @ CHI Crumlin since 2004 including that of staff nurse and clinical nurse education facilitator. In her current role as clinical nurse specialist in cardiology she provides care to patients and families living with congenital and acquired heart disease, throughout all stages of the patient trajectory. As

part of her role she also teaches and supports students and staff and placements within the cardiology team.

Currently Marie is a board member of NMBI along with being an active branch member of DSW branch. Her main priorities remain being a mother of three small children.

8. Mairéad O'Donoghue RANP, RNP, RGN, BSc, PG Dip Emergency, MSc, PG Dip Emergency (Advanced Practice)

In 2015 I became the first RANP in St. John's Hospital, establishing the role in our Injury Unit (IU) as part of the Mid-West emergency care services. As a RANP I utilise my advanced clinical decision-making skills, knowledge and experience, to autonomously deliver full episodes of care to patients that attend the IU. This involves the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, discharge and/or referral of patients aged 5 years and over. My scope of practice mirrors that of IU's agreed at national level. I independently prescribe medications and refer for radiological investigations such as x-ray. I provide safe, independent and efficient care to patients who present with a range of injuries/conditions such as; joint dislocations, wound care, fracture management. Discharge pathways include referral to specialist services, e.g. Orthopaedics, Plastics, ENT, Maxillo-Facial and Ophthalmology if required.

I have a keen interest in improving patient outcomes through timely and expert care via PPPG development and quality improvement initiatives. Most recently, I co-developed an Electronic Patient Record and Unit Worklist with our IT department. This system plays a vital role in supporting the IU service by delivering effective patient flow tracking, and enables recording of detailed clinical information on all patients attending the IU.

Presentation title: InjuryNet - Transforming Patient Care through Digital Innovation

9. EMER KENNY

Emer trained in the Meath Hospital , Registered General Nurse Training and after this travelled to London to work in the “ Royal London Trust “and completed the Renal ENB 136 Diploma (in 1996).Further studies over the years , include:

Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Nursing Studies (TCD) and Tropical Nursing Diploma (2008-2009)in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She/I returned to education &after a “few years”, and completed the Diploma in Nurse Prescribing 2018 UCDand MSC Advance Nurse Practice/Ionising Radiation (UCD) 2020. Emer completed the Inclusion Health Course (Oct 2024-June 2025) TCD/SJH

One of six person international faculty –arranging The 15th Fresenius Medical Care Middle East & Africa and EDTNA/ERCA Renal Nurse Forum which was held Nov 2025 in Egypt. It was attended by 180 delegates from 25 countries and I was the only Irish Person x the meeting!

I returned to TUH May 2023 in the role of ANP ,RNP in Renal Home Therapies Vartry Unit.