



# 8TH NATIONAL SEPSIS SUMMIT

# EARLY TREATMENT SAVES LIVES

03 SEPTEMBER 2024,  
DUBLIN CASTLE

## SUMMIT PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE



@NationalQPS

#Sepsis2024

# Welcome



Welcome to the 8th National Sepsis Summit.

This year's theme, "Early Treatment Saves Lives," underscores the critical importance of prompt diagnosis and intervention in the battle against sepsis.

We are thrilled to bring together leading experts, healthcare professionals, and advocates who are dedicated to advancing sepsis care. Our program features a series of insightful presentations and discussions aimed at enhancing our understanding and improving our response to sepsis.

Throughout the day, you will hear from esteemed speakers who will share their expertise on early detection strategies, innovative treatment protocols, and the latest research findings. Their insights will not only highlight the challenges we face but also inspire actionable solutions to save more lives.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants for your commitment to improving sepsis outcomes. Your dedication to early treatment is vital in our collective effort to reduce sepsis-related mortality and improve patient care.

Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to a day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against sepsis.

**Dr. Orla Healy**

National Clinical Director, Quality and Patient Safety,  
National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate.

**Dr. Michael O'Dwyer**

Clinical Lead  
National Clinical Programme for Sepsis.



|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 08:00 | <b>Registration open</b><br>Tea/coffee and networking   |
| 09:00 | <b>Welcome and introductions</b><br>Dr. Michael O'Dwyer, Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Sepsis and session chair  |
| 09:15 | <b>Chief Clinical Officer's welcome</b><br>Dr. Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer   |
| 09:20 | <b>My family's story</b><br>Yvonne Young  |
| 09:40 | <b>Early detection, improving outcomes - hard truths, hard lessons</b><br>John Welch, NHS Consultant Nurse in Critical Care and Critical Care Outreach and Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Advanced Critical Care Practice, University College London |
| 10:00 | <b>Panel questions and answers</b>  |
| 10:15 | <b>Morning break and poster viewing</b><br>Tea/coffee   |

## 10:45 - Morning workstreams

|          | <b>Maternal sepsis workstream</b><br><b>Main auditorium</b><br>Chair: Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health  | <b>Paediatric sepsis workstream</b><br><b>Puddle room</b><br>Chair: Kate O'Flaherty, Director, National Patient Safety Office  | <b>Advocacy workstream</b><br><b>Courtyard room</b><br>Chairs: Juanita Guidera, Programme Manager, NQPSD and Marie O'Haire, Organisation Development and Change Practitioner  |
|----------|--|--|---|
| 10:45    | <b>The long-term impact of sepsis</b><br>Dr. Kam Cliffe, Director of Professional Standards - Midwifery, Interim Head of Education, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland   | <b>Paediatric Sepsis - a General Practice Perspective</b><br>Dr. Andrea Fitzgerald, Irish College General Practitioners, Paediatric Sepsis Lead  | <b>Session one:</b><br><b>Exploring the current lived and heard experiences of sepsis survivors, family and advocates</b>   |
| 11:05    | <b>Surgical site infection surveillance post C-section surgery</b><br>Mary Fitzmaurice, Clinical Nurse Manager 2, SSI Surveillance, HSE South  | <b>Paediatric Invasive group A Streptococcal Infections during the 2022-2023 upsurge</b><br>Dr Deirdre Foley, ASPIRE fellow in Global Child Health & Inclusion Health, Children's Health Ireland on behalf of Dr. Cillian O Maoldomhnaigh, Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Children's Health Ireland   |   |
| 11:25    | <b>Maternal sepsis</b><br>Dr. Cliona Murphy, National Obstetric Lead for National Womens and Infants Health Programme  | <b>Pre Hospital Sepsis Paediatrics</b><br>Dr. David Menzies, Deputy Clinical Director, National Ambulance Service  |   |
| 11:45    | <b>Panel Questions and Answers</b>   | <b>Panel Questions and Answers</b>   |   |
| 12:10 pm | <b>QI project presentations</b><br><b>Sepsis: An Inter-professional collaboration- from General Practice- National Ambulance Service- Secondary care</b><br>Dr. Ellen Hayes<br><b>Early ward-based introduction of cardiovascular support in septic shock by Critical Care Outreach Team, followed by hospital-wide policy update and quality improvement</b><br>Niamh Feeley<br><b>Public Health Nursing Service: Maternal postnatal sepsis recognition and early referral</b><br>Sinead Lawlor | <b>QI project presentations</b><br><b>Promoting early diagnosis and treatment of neonatal sepsis using rapid diagnostic technology to detect Serum Amyloid A.</b><br>Julia Nowak, Prof Sean Doyle<br><b>Introduction of infant sepsis simulation to GP trainees</b><br>Cathy Mullen, Gary Foley<br><b>Bacterial Sepsis in a Tertiary Children's Hospital - Audit Cycles to Improve Patient Outcomes</b><br>Dr. Stephen Carroll, Mr. Nico Wyt | <b>Sharing the lived and heard experiences of sepsis survivors, family and advocates</b><br><br>with<br>Dr. Michael O'Dwyer, Clinical Lead, National Sepsis Programme<br><br>Bláthnaid Connolly, Programme Manager, Deteriorating Patient Recognition & Response Improvement Programme (DPIP), National Clinical Programme for Sepsis |

12.30 pm Lunch and poster viewing

## 13.30 - Afternoon workstreams

|       | <b>Adult sepsis workstream</b><br><b>Main auditorium</b><br>Chair: Dr. Michael O'Dwyer, Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Sepsis  | <b>Paediatric sepsis workstream</b><br><b>Poddle room</b><br>Chair: Dr. John Fitzsimons, Consultant Paediatrician, Children's Health Ireland   | <b>Advocacy workstream</b><br><b>Courtyard room</b><br>Chairs: Juanita Guidera, Programme Manager, NQPSD and Marie O'Haire, Organisation Development and Change Practitioner |  |
|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 13.30 | <b>Long covid clinic and the relationship to post sepsis syndrome</b><br>Dr. Patrick WG Mallon, Professor of Microbial Diseases in UCD and Consultant in Infectious Diseases in St Vincent's University Hospital   | <b>Paediatric Sepsis: A Decade of Insights from Critical Care Retrieval</b><br>Dr. Cathy Gibbons, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist Clinical Lead, Irish Paediatric Acute Transport Service (IPATS)                    | <b>Session two: Exploring patient partnership and advocacy in sepsis</b>   |  |
| 13:50 | <b>Pre Hospital Sepsis Adult</b><br>Dr. David Menzies, Deputy Clinical Director, National Ambulance Service  | <b>Ten Years of Neonatal Bacteraemia</b><br>James Powell, Surveillance Scientist and Irene Beirne, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Neonatology   |  |  |
| 14.10 | <b>The evolution of critical care outreach services in Ireland: The story so far</b><br>Derek Cribbin, Director of Nursing Project Lead, Critical Care Services, Specialist Acute Services, Access and Integration | <b>Updates on sepsis in children</b><br>Dr. Martina Healy, Associate Professor UCD Consultant Paediatric Intensivist and Anaesthetist, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Dublin, HSE Clinical Lead Critical Care |  |  |
| 14:30 | <b>Panel Questions and Answers</b>   | <b>Panel Questions and Answers</b>   |  | <b>Sharing insights</b><br>with Bláthnaid Connolly, Programme Manager and Sue Markey, Assistant Director of Nursing, Sepsis / Deteriorating Patient Lead |
| 14:50 | <b>Comfort break</b>   | <b>Comfort break</b>   |  | <b>Comfort break</b>   |

## 15.00 - Closing plenary session

Chair: Majella Daly, Assistant National Director, National Centre for Clinical Audit, NQPSD

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 15:00 | <b>Communicating the signs and symptoms of sepsis to support early recognition and treatment</b><br>Aoibheann Ní Shúilleabháin, Client Director, HSE Communications |
| 15:15 | <b>The patient advocate role - how do families influence change</b><br>Aisling O'Rourke, Advocate and Communications and Media Coach                                |
| 15:35 | <b>Human factors and sepsis</b><br>Prof. Eva Doherty, Director of Human Factors in Patient Safety, RCSI   |
| 15:55 | <b>Panel questions and answers</b>  |
| 16:10 | <b>Awards ceremony - presented by the Assistant Directors of Nursing, Sepsis</b>  |
| 16:20 | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Dr. Michael O'Dwyer, Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Sepsis  |
| 16:30 | <b>Close</b>  |



# Speaker biographies



**Aisling O' Rourke**  
**Communications and Media Coach**

Aisling is the founder of The Communications Coach, brings nearly two decades of media experience to her role as a professional communications coach. Living with an invisible disability, Aisling is dedicated to leveraging her extensive skills to advocate for enhanced communication between patients and healthcare providers. As the host of Cut Through the Noise, a podcast focusing on communications and marketing, Aisling offers invaluable insights to a wide audience. In addition to her broadcasting work, she serves as a college lecturer, imparting her expertise to the next generation of communicators.

Aisling's clients benefit from her ability to help them communicate with clarity and impact, ensuring their messages are both effective and meaningful. Aisling is a graduate of DCU, UAL, NCI and TCD, she holds qualifications in Journalism, Documentary Photography, Teaching and Entrepreneurship. Aisling is also a professional member of the Professional Speaking Association of Ireland the UK.



**Dr. Andrea Fitzgerald**  
**Irish College General Practitioners, Paediatric Sepsis Lead**

Andrea is a GP based in Cork. She graduated from Imperial College, London in 2005, and went on to train in paediatrics, first in England, and subsequently in Ireland. A career change to general practice afforded Andrea the opportunity to train on the Isle of Wight, before moving back to beautiful West Cork with her husband and four children.

She continued to combined her clinical and academic interest by through undertaking a RCPI Aspire fellowship in integrated care. In early 2024, she was appointed as the first ICGP / HSE GP Clinical Lead in Paediatric Sepsis.



**Aoibheann Ní Shúilleabháin**  
**Client Director, HSE Communications**

Aoibheann is Communications Client Director with the HSE, working with clinical and strategic programmes across the HSE. Her role involves providing communications support and strategic communications advice to the programmes and offices within the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer, including developing and implementing communications strategies. Aoibheann has many years' experience working in healthcare communications, leading on multi-channel marketing and advertising campaigns, managing press activity, market research, brand identity, social media and stakeholder engagement.

Aoibheann holds an MSc in Management from Michael Smurfit Business School and has also completed courses in Project Management, Internal Communications, and Event Management and Public Relations.



### **Bláthnaid Connolly**

#### **Programme Manager, Deteriorating Patient Recognition & Response Improvement Programme (DPIP), National Clinical Programme for Sepsis**

Bláthnaid Connolly has many years experience of working in the UK and Irish Health Services. She first trained as a general nurse in the University of West of England. Bláthnaid has held senior positions in the public and private health sectors in Specialist Nursing and Nursing Management, Operational Management and Programme Management. Bláthnaid's achievements include being awarded a scholarship by the University of Surrey to undertake a specialist practice degree programme. In 2005 Bláthnaid lectured on the newly developed QQI Fetac programmes for Healthcare Assistants and co-authored a text book for healthcare assistants working in caring roles. Bláthnaid won Beacon Hospital 'Innovation Nurse of the Year' (2013) and received JCI commendation for her work on developing safer pathways of care for diabetes patients & an accompanying clinical education programme.

Bláthnaid is the programme manager for the National Clinical Programme for Sepsis and the Deteriorating Patient Improvement Programme. In her own time Bláthnaid works for the Irish Cancer Society as a Night Nurse and is completing a four year Masters Programme in Integrative & Humanistic Psychotherapy.



### **Dr. Cathy Gibbons**

#### **Consultant Paediatric Intensivist Clinical Lead IPATS**

Cathy is a Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care and Critical Care Retrieval. She is currently the National Clinical Lead for the Irish Paediatric Acute Transport Service (IPATS). Following completion of training in Paediatrics, she completed critical care fellowships in The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto and Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK. During this time, she developed an interest in end of life care in the critical care setting through her training with the critical care outreach team and in the ICU.

Since taking up her post in PICU and IPATS in April 2016, she has enabled the development of a robust service to facilitate the transfer of critically ill children to a place of their families choosing for end of life care. She is an Associate Clinical Professor of Paediatrics in University College Dublin and plays an active role in undergraduate and postgraduate education. She delivers outreach education to each Regional Unit on the care and transfer of critically ill children on a monthly basis and has developed an extensive website with educational resources to facilitate the standardisation and improvement of the care of critically ill children around the country.



### **Dr. Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh**

#### **Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Children's Health Ireland**

Cilian is a Paediatric Infectious Disease Consultant working in Children's Health Ireland. He has completed clinical fellowships in Paediatric ID in CHI Crumlin and Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, New York. He was awarded a PhD from Trinity for work performed on neonatal immune responses to tuberculosis and is currently a HRB Postdoctoral Clinical Scientist Fellow. Cilian was part of the Group A Streptococcal Incident Management Team convened by Public Health in 2022/2023 and was the Clinical Lead for the national review of paediatric cases.



### **Dr. Deirdre Foley**

#### **ASPIRE fellow in Global Child Health & Inclusion Health, CHI**

Deirdre has completed her paediatric higher specialist training and is currently in the role of ASPIRE fellow in Global Child Health and Inclusion Health in Children's Health Ireland. She holds an MSc in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and a diploma in tropical medicine. She is on the ESPID committee for guidelines and holds the position of medical secretary on the National Immunisation Advisory Committee. She plans to sub-specialise in Paediatric Infectious Diseases (PID) and will be commencing a PhD in 2025.



## Dr. Cliona Murphy

### National Obstetric Lead, National Womens and Infants Health Programme

Cliona graduated in medicine from University College Cork in 1993. She trained in General Surgery and was awarded Fellowship of the RCSI in 1997. She followed that with training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and was awarded MRCP and MRCOG. She was appointed as Consultant to the Coombe and Tallaght hospitals in 2009 and was appointed as visiting consultant to Crumlin hospital. Special interests include benign gynaecology and colposcopy and maternal morbidity.

In Tallaght she served as lead colposcopist and head of department. She holds an Executive Masters in Healthcare Economics Policy and Management from the London School of Economics. She has been a member of RCOG council from 2012 to 2016. From 2018 to 2022 she was Chair of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and in 2022 took up position as Clinical Director for the National Women and Infants Health Programme.



## Dr. David Menzies

### Deputy Clinical Director, National Ambulance Service

David is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. He trained in Ireland, the U.K. and Australia and is a fellow of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine. He is Deputy Clinical Director of the HSE National Ambulance Service, Clinical Lead for the Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service (MICAS) and is also the Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

David has a sub specialty interest in Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine, Critical Care and Retrieval. Between 2013-2016, he was Clinical Lead for Emergency Medical Science at the UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science, with responsibility for undergraduate and graduate courses for Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics. He is a founding member of Bray Cardiac First Responders, CFR Ireland and Wicklow Rapid Response.

He is a Rescue Team member and former Medical Director with the Dublin and Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team and Motor Sport Rescue Services/MCI Medical Team. He is a founder member and current secretary of Irish Society for Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine (iPHEM), the professional society for advancement of research, training and education in Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine.



## Derek Cribbin

### Director of Nursing Project Lead, Critical Care Services, Specialist Acute Services, Access & Integration

Derek is the national Director of Nursing Project Lead for Critical Care Services in Ireland. He is responsible for the development of sustainable workforce planning for Critical Care Nursing. Derek was a member of the Guideline Development Group for INEWS2, and has led out on the implementation of Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) Led Critical Care Outreach Services in all Model 4 Hospitals, and 4 Model 3 Hospitals.

He also sits on the ICU Audit Governance committee, which has made recommendations relating to the implementation of these services. He has a Masters in Healthcare Management and Critical Care Nursing, with over 20 years Clinical Experience in Critical Care.





### Professor Eva Doherty

**Director of Human Factors in Patient Safety, DClinPsych, CClinPsychol (AFPSI), CPsychol (AFBPS), PFHEA, FEACH.**

Eva is a practising clinical psychologist, Associate Professor and Director of the Human Factors in Patient Safety (HFPS) training, research and assessment programme at the National Surgical Training Centre, Department of Surgical Affairs, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences. The HFPS training is a mandatory component of the postgraduate professional training for surgical, emergency medicine, radiology and ophthalmology trainees. The programme provides interactive workshops for trainees and more recently for consultants on topics which include medical error, risk management, communication, teamwork, conflict resolution, decision-making, open disclosure, emotional intelligence, crisis management, resilience, professionalism and leadership. Eva pioneered and directs the academic Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Human Factors in Patient Safety which is an inter-professional one/two year part-time online programme.

Eva has over 45 peer reviewed publications on topics relevant to clinical communication issues, personality factors in medical education and assessment. Eva acts as advisor to the National Healthcare Communication Programme in Ireland, HSE. In recognition of Eva's contribution to medical education and to communication training in healthcare, Eva was awarded a Principal Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy in the U.K. and an honorary fellowship by the International Association for Communication in Healthcare.



### Irene Beirne

**Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner Neonatology**

Irene is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Neonatology in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), University Maternity Hospital Limerick. Contributing to professional development in nursing/midwifery and health policy development at local, regional and national level is within her role. She sits on the 'National Neonatal Resuscitation Working Group' to develop national neonatal resuscitation training standards in maternity hospitals. She also sits on the National Expert Advisory Group for the revision of neonatal guidelines. She provides teaching in the classroom and in the clinical area to both nursing and medical staff as well as presenting at conferences, seminars and workshops to enhance the advanced nursing role.

In 2022 she presented at the ICN international conference, Dublin and the UL Research and Innovation Conference. In 2019 she presented at the International Euro Paediatric conference, Dublin and jENS conference, Maastricht. Irene leads on quality and safety improvement through audit, risk management and standard setting projects. Recent publications, co-authored 'A repeated cross-sectional analysis of breastfeeding initiation rates in Ireland for two decades and 10 recommended priorities for improvement (Maternal and Child Nutrition 2022). Lead author in 'providing culturally sensitive care in the neonatal setting to infants whose parents are from the Irish Traveller Community' (Journal of Transcultural Nursing 2020). Other publications 'Paediatric Research' (2019), 'Archive of Childhood Disease (2019).



### James Powell

**Surveillance Scientist and 3rd year PhD Candidate**

James has been a medical scientist in UL Hospitals for almost 25 years, and a senior medical scientist working on microbial surveillance for 18 of those years. His role is to monitor and report important pathogens that are detected in the laboratory including multi-drug resistant organisms such as MRSA, CPE and VRE, as well as viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, Norovirus etc. James maintains databases of these pathogens which are used to inform the local infection prevention and control team, the regional Public Health Department, the National Health Protection Surveillance Centre and other parties. He is passionate about research, has co-authored more than 50 peer reviewed papers and is currently completing his PhD thesis. In his "spare time", James also runs a beef and sheep farm in Tipperary and this gives him a good understanding and a keen interest in the "One Health" concept of human, animal and environmental health.





**John Welch**

**Consultant Nurse in Critical Care and Critical Care Outreach**

John is Consultant Nurse in Critical Care and Critical Care Outreach at University Collège London Hospitals - and sepsis lead, theme lead at the National Institute for Health and Care Research Central London Patient Safety Research Collaboration, and Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Advanced Critical Care Practice, University College London. He has previously been President of the International Society for Rapid Response Systems, National Clinical Advisor at NHS England, and UK lead of the EU Horizon 2020 ‘Nightingale’ wireless monitoring development programme. Since 2022, John has been co-lead of the NHS England National Patient Worry & Concern Improvement Collaborative - the precursor to the Martha’s Rule programme. He has been an investigator on three completed NIHR studies ‘Have interventions aimed at deteriorating patients made an impact?’ and ‘Psychological Outcomes following a nurse-led Preventative Psychological Intervention’, and, most recently, ‘Digital alerting to improve sepsis detection and outcome’.

John sits on the Royal College of Physicians National Early Warning Score Advisory Group - writing two editions of the National Early Warning Score - and a US Society of Critical Care Medicine Taskforce. He has been an invited speaker at critical care and patient safety meetings across Europe, the US, and Australia, and in Egypt, Mexico, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the United Arab Emirates; teaching and reviewing services too.



**Dr. John Fitzsimons**

**Consultant Paediatrician at Children’s Health Ireland at Temple Street**

John is a Consultant Paediatrician with Children’s Health Ireland at Temple Street where he is an Honorary Clinical Associate Professor with RCSI. He also works with the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety (NQPS) Directorate as Clinical Director for Quality Improvement (QI) and with the RCPI as lead faculty for QI. He course director of the HSE funded RCPI Quality Improvement and Leadership Post-Graduate certificate which has over 750 graduates and coached more than 250 improvement projects.

He has contributed to national improvement projects including Irish Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS), Situation Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) and the HSE Patient Safety Strategy 2019-2014. He is a visiting Research Fellow with the Centre for Innovative Human Systems (Human Factors), Trinity College Dublin. He is an editor of the Oxford Handbook of Patient Safety (2022) and a contributor to the Oxford Handbook of Quality Improvement (2024). He is a regular host and contributor to NQPS bi-monthly webinar “QPS TalkTime”.



**Juanita Guidera**

**Programme Manager, Staff Engagement for Quality, National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate**

Juanita commenced her career in the Irish health service over twenty years ago where she currently works as a Programme Manager within the National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate. In her role, Juanita contributes organisational support and expertise in engagement and patient partnership, communications, programme management, and guideline, policy and legislative review and development as required. She consults to and collaborates with individuals and groups at regional and national level on intervention design, large group facilitation and facilitated educational programmes to improve quality and patient safety.

Juanita holds a BA in Training and Education from NUI, Galway, an MSc in Healthcare Management from the Institute of Leadership, RCSI and a Certificate in Leading Organisational Design and Development from the CIPD. She has guest lectured on several undergraduate and masters programmes and has presented at conferences both nationally and internationally. She is a member of the management team of the Irish Group Relations Organisation.



## Dr. Karn Cliffe

### Director of Professional Standards in Midwifery, NMBI

Karn is currently the Director for Professional Standards for Midwifery and Interim Head of Education with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. She had previously worked with NMBI, as Midwife Project Lead, on a part-time basis from July 2023 to December 2023. She was Director of Nursing and Midwifery for Research, Practice Standards and Quality with the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group since November 2022. From June to November 2022, Karn was Interim Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery for the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. Karn qualified as a nurse in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin and later as a midwife from City University London.

She spent several years in Australia, working as a midwife. While there, she developed an interest in maternal morbidity and mortality. She undertook an MSc in Advance Nursing/Midwifery Practice in Clinical Education, through the James Cook University and wrote a Training Manual for Traditional Birth Attendants in South-East Asia.

On her return from Australia, Karn worked at the University Maternity Hospital Limerick briefly and at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. While working in Drogheda, she undertook a Clinical Doctorate in Midwifery through Stirling University, Scotland.

During the pandemic Karn was redeployed to various roles supporting acute settings and Residential Care Facilities on COVID-19 prevention and monitoring initiatives. From January 2021 to December 2022, she led out on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for Dublin Midlands Hospital Group and the Citywest Vaccination Centre. Prior to this, she worked with the National Sepsis Programme and the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group as an Assistant Director of Nursing and Midwifery.

In January 2023, Karn was awarded Adjunct Professor title at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin and in December 2022, Karn was conferred with The Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.



## Kate O'Flaherty

### Director of the National Patient Safety Office (NPSO), Department of Health

Kate is the Director of the National Patient Safety Office (NPSO). The NPSO provides leadership and strategic direction to deliver key patient safety policy objectives for Ireland, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations both nationally and internationally.

Kate took up the role of NPSO Director in April 2023, having worked in a number of other roles in the Department over the previous decade.

Kate led the implementation of the cross-Government Healthy Ireland initiative from 2013 to 2020. She was a member of the COVID-19 NPHE during 2020 and chaired its Behavioural Change sub-group, and also led Population Health Screening policy in the Department from 2020 to 2023. Kate's professional background includes pharmacy, professional regulation, journalism and communications.



## Marie O'Haire

### Organisation Development & Change Practitioner

Marie has a long career in enabling people and services develop for the better. Currently she is a member of the National Organisation Development and Design Team in the HSE formally working as a Leadership, Education and Talent Development Manager in HSE West. Her qualifications include RGN, RM, PHN HDIP, BNS Hons, MSc Health Services Management, ACC accredited ICF Coach, certified Mediator and Organisational Development and Design CIPD Certified Practitioner.

Working in health services in various roles in Ireland and abroad since 1986, Marie has acquired a rich and broad range of experience which she brings to her current work in OD and change.

In her present role she is part of the National HSE Organisation Development and Design team working with the Health Region Implementation Team. Her developmental role supports the building of change capacity and capability within the health services in Ireland.

She is passionate about enabling services to respond to people and community needs and her philosophy in life is to make sure that those who come in contact with her leave feeling empowered.



## Dr. Martina Healy

### Associate Professor UCD

### Consultant Paediatric Intensivist & Anaesthetist, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Dublin

### Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin

### HSE Clinical Lead Critical Care

### Clinical Lead Mortality NOCA

### Clinical Lead Critical Care (NCP)

Dr. Healy graduated in Medicine from University College Galway, and obtained her Fellowship in Anaesthesia from the College of Anesthesiology. She has worked in Paediatric Intensive Care and Paediatric Anaesthesia in many leading Children's hospitals around the world, including Alder Hey Paediatric Hospital, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. She was appointed Associate Professor UCD in 2021.

She was appointed as Consultant in OLCHC in 2000 and has been a strong advocate for the development of Paediatric Intensive Care Services in Ireland. She has been the National Clinical Lead for PICU. She led the HSE Steering Group for the Model of Care in PICU and led the publication of the first Model of Care for PICU in Ireland. She was appointed National Clinical Lead for Sepsis in Nov 2018 -2021 and has led the national programme for the early recognition and treatment of sepsis in Paediatrics and publication of National guidelines on Paediatric Sepsis.

She has a long established interest in the collection, validation and publication of data as a means to enable safe practice both in PICU and if possible nationally and is Clinical Lead Mortality in NOCA. She was appointed as HSE Clinical Lead for Critical Care in 2023 as part of the National Clinical Programmes in HSE.



## Mary Fitzmaurice

### Clinical Nurse Manager 2, SSI Surveillance, HSE South

Mary has nearly 20 years of nursing experience, including over 17 years in perioperative nursing both in Ireland and internationally. She has dedicated her career to enhancing patient care and holds a MSc in Healthcare Quality Improvement from University College Cork (UCC), which has fuelled her passion for translating evidence into practice. Mary's commitment lies in leveraging data to drive improvements in the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. She firmly believes that data is crucial for understanding and advancing the standards of care provided to patients.

In her session she will explore the baseline rate of surgical site infections (SSI) through surveillance and how to utilise the collected data to inform preventative strategies to decrease the occurrence of post c-section infections through system wide collaboration. She hopes to provide education to all women post C-section on the signs and symptoms of an SSI and inform them on how and when to seek help.



## Majella Daly

### Assistant National Director, National Centre for Clinical Audit

Majella was appointed to the role in November 2023 and leads a programme of work with the NCCA team focused on National and Local Clinical Audits aiming to improve governance and best practice in Clinical Audit.

Prior to this national role, she worked from 2016-2023 as Head of Services for Disability in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and as General Manager in Primary Care.

Prior to these senior management roles, she worked as Quality Manager in Kerry ISA from 2011-2016 and was responsible for supporting and enabling teams to implement and audit standards such as regulatory standards, clinical standards as well as supporting implementation of quality improvement. From 2000-2008 she worked as the Clinical Audit Manager in the Midland Health Board where she established the Clinical Audit and Research Team.

Majella holds an MA in Healthcare Management having previously qualified as a Diagnostic Radiographer with a Specialist Diploma in Nuclear Medicine. Majella also is accredited with a Diploma in Lean Six Sigma.



## Dr. Michael O'Dwyer

### Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Sepsis

Michael trained as an anaesthetist in Ireland and then completed his Intensive Care Medicine training in Australia. His research interest in the genomic response to sepsis stems from his PhD on the topic and he led a research group focused on sepsis during his time as a consultant in the NHS and an academic at Queen Mary, University of London.

He currently practices clinically as a Consultant in St Vincent's University Hospital and he is the current clinical lead for the National Clinical Programme for Sepsis.





## Dr. Patrick WG Mallon

### Professor of Microbial Diseases in UCD and Consultant in Infectious Diseases in St Vincent's University Hospital

Professor Paddy Mallon is Full Professor of Microbial Diseases in University College Dublin (UCD) and an Infectious Diseases Specialist at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin.

He is the Director of the UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research (CEPHR), which focuses on translational research into outcomes of infections such as HIV, COVID-19 and tuberculosis. He is the National Coordinator for the EU VACCELERATE network that provides a platform for COVID19 vaccine trials in Europe and is Chief Investigator on the international, multicentre BOOSTAVAC trial.

Professor Mallon's own research interests include age-related outcomes in HIV and host biological determinants of outcome from infection. He is on the governing board of the European AIDS Clinical Society, Head of Education for EACS and is a member of the EACS Comorbidities Guidelines Panel.



## Rachel Kenna

### Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Ireland

Rachel is the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Ireland and was appointed to the post in June 2020. Rachel was formerly a Deputy Chief Nursing Officer in the Department of Health leading on nursing and midwifery policy for patient systems, safety, and governance. She is a Registered Children's and General Nurse (RCN/RGN) and has extensive clinical and managerial experience, spanning 30 years in Ireland and the UK across a wide variety of clinical areas.

The Chief Nursing Officer role is an important strategic leadership and influencing role providing professional policy direction and evidence-based expert advice for Government on nursing, midwifery, and general health policy development.

As an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, in addition to Nursing and Midwifery policy Rachel has a wide health policy portfolio including professional regulation oversight, strategic workforce planning across the health service, workforce reform, population health screening and the National Patient Safety Office.

Rachel's interest in global health policy includes global patient safety action, implementation and aligning the sustainable development goals with policy in Ireland, workforce reform and workforce wellbeing, and active membership of the WHO European region Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Hub contributing to strengthening workforce to improve health outcomes.

She is educated in a wide range of areas to support her in her role and holds a MSc in Child Protection and Welfare and a BSc in Nursing Management. Rachel's other educational qualifications includes a Higher Diploma in Professional Practice, Critical Care Nursing, Leadership and Quality in Healthcare, a Diploma in Human Rights and Equality and a Professional Diploma in Governance. Rachel is also a Florence Nightingale Leadership graduate.

# Project Team Assistant Directors of Nursing, Sepsis



## Sue Markey

### Assistant Director of Nursing, Sepsis / Deteriorating Patient Lead

Sue joined the RCSI Hospital Group / Dublin and North East Region as Deteriorating Patient Lead in August 2021 and has since taken on the role as Sepsis ADON for the Group since September 2022. Sue works with hospitals and community in her region to help promote early recognition and management of sepsis. She is passionate about patient safety and has just completed a 2-year Masters in Human Factors in Patient Safety.



## Denise McCarthy

### Assistant Director of Nursing, Sepsis HSE South West

Denise is the ADON for Sepsis in the HSE South West region since 2023, she is also a member of the Global Sepsis Alliance fellowship programme since 2021. Denise has an extensive background in intensive care and infection prevention and control nursing. She holds a Master's in Public Health which focused on sepsis. Denise is an adjunct lecturer within the School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health in UCC, and is a BLS and ACLS instructor. In her current role, Denise leads and supports hospitals with initiatives in early sepsis recognition, staff education, and multidisciplinary collaboration. You can listen to Denise on the Walk and Talk improvement podcast "Could it be Sepsis?"



## Nuala Clarke

### Group Sepsis Lead ADON, Children's Health Ireland (CHI)

Nuala Clarke is the Sepsis Lead ADON for the CHI Hospital group and she works as part of the National Sepsis Team. She has an extensive background in resuscitation and the deteriorating child and is a seasoned Advanced Paediatric Life Support Instructor. She holds a Masters in Healthcare Simulation and Patient Safety and is an advocate for shared learning through simulation-based education. Her main objective is to drive the implementation of the National Paediatric Sepsis Guideline through multi-disciplinary collaboration, education development, audit and quality improvement initiatives.



## Karen Davis Holden, Rgn, PGDip ED & MSc

### Assistant Director of Nursing, Sepsis and Deteriorating Patient

Karen joined the Dublin and Midlands Hospital Group as Surgical Site Infection Surveillance and Sepsis Clinical Nurse Manager 3 in February 2022 and has since taken on the role as Sepsis and Deteriorating Patient ADON for the Group since April 2023. Karen has an extensive background in Emergency Medicine nursing. She holds a Master's in Advance Leadership - research focused on Timely Recognition of Sepsis in ED. In her current role, Karen leads and supports hospitals with initiatives in early sepsis recognition, staff education, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

# Exhibitors



National Quality and  
Patient Safety Directorate  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
An Stiúrtóireacht um Ardchaighdeáin  
agus Sábháilteacht Othar  
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúil



Patient  
Advocacy  
Service



**NOCA** National Office of  
Clinical Audit



Antimicrobial Resistance  
and Infection Control Team

# Poster presentations

## Paediatric sepsis workstream

### **Julia Nowak, Prof Sean Doyle**

Promoting early diagnosis and treatment of neonatal sepsis using rapid diagnostic technology to detect Serum Amyloid A.

### **Cathy Mullen, Gary Foley**

Introduction of infant sepsis simulation to GP trainees

### **Dr. Stephen Carroll, Mr. Nico Wytt**

Bacterial Sepsis in a Tertiary Children's Hospital - Audit Cycles to Improve Patient Outcomes

## Adult sepsis workstream

### **Mohammed Mansur**

Improving Sepsis Outcome: Compliance to the Golden Hour Rule in Neutropenic Sepsis

### **Niamh Feely**

Early ward-based introduction of cardiovascular support in septic shock by Critical Care Outreach Team, followed by hospital-wide policy update and quality improvement

## Maternal sepsis workstream

### **Sinead Lawlor**

Public Health Nursing Service: Maternal postnatal sepsis recognition and early referral.





## Quality and Patient Safety Matters #AllThingsQuality

Share or read about all things quality in [Quality and Patient Safety Matters](#). Read the latest quality and patient safety news, stories from teams around the country, educational content and upcoming training, events and networking opportunities.



## Walk and Talk Improvement Podcast

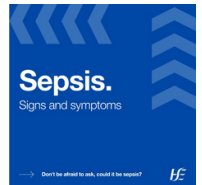
Listen to the Walk and Talk Improvement podcast to hear from national and international experts on topics which will help you in your work. Of particular note for the National Sepsis Summit are two episodes on sepsis. One is tailored for the public and one for healthcare professionals. Listen to one and share the other - or listen to both with your personal and professional hats on.

### Could it be sepsis?

What do you need to know about sepsis as a patient, carer or parent? How can you reduce your risk of getting sepsis? Join our guests Maevie Murphy, a busy working mother of three and a sepsis survivor and Denise McCarthy, an Assistant Director of Nursing for Sepsis, HSE to find out more.

### Reducing and managing sepsis - what do you need to know as a healthcare professional?

As a healthcare professional, you'll likely have heard the public awareness campaign for sepsis. You may be wondering what are the latest resources and tools to help you identify or diagnose the symptoms of sepsis and what you can do to improve patient outcomes. Join our guest Denise McCarthy, Assistant Director of Nursing for Sepsis to hear more.



# Interested in quality and patient safety?

# Find the latest resources from the National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate here...



## Learn about the Patient Safety Act, Open Disclosure, Just Culture or Incident Management

You can watch the latest webinars on the [Patient Safety Act](#) in the National Open Disclosure Office monthly webinars.



## QPS TalkTime webinar latest recordings



Watch our [NQPSD YouTube Channel](#) to see past QPS TalkTime webinars on everything from psychological safety, leadership, major causes of harm and so much more. Join us on the 17th September 2024 live from Dublin Castle to hear about diagnostic safety as part of World Patient Safety Day



## Patient Safety Together



Patient Safety Together: learning, sharing and improving



Patient Safety Together is the sharing of learning component of the patient safety programme to support the HSE Patient Safety Strategy. [Access HSE national patient safety alerts](#), [HSE patient safety supplements](#) or [patient safety stories](#).



## Interested in learning more about clinical audit?

Find out more about clinical audit on the National Centre for Clinical Audit website with information about upcoming training, [HSE NCCA Clinical Audit Practical Guide 2023](#), [Clinical Audit Toolkit](#), [National Centre for Clinical Audit Nomenclature – Glossary of Terms for Clinical Audit](#), [Data Protection and GDPR FAQ's for Clinical Audit](#) and much more.



## Use this QR Code to join our mailing list

You can also access our website to learn more about educational opportunities, data for decision making, becoming a member of the Q Community, the EQUIPS network and so much more...

**SEPSIS RESOURCES**  
**EARLY TREATMENT**  
**SAVES LIVES**

[WWW.HSE.IE/SEPSIS](http://WWW.HSE.IE/SEPSIS)

SCAN ME



## Access sepsis resources

### Listen to a podcast for healthcare professionals

HSE Walk and Talk Improvement:  
Reducing and managing sepsis - what do you need to know as a healthcare professional?

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### Listen to a podcast for everyone

- HSE Walk and Talk Improvement: Could it be sepsis? What do you need to know about sepsis as a patient, carer or parent?
- HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing podcast - Sepsis

### Watch a QPS TalkTime on sepsis

- A spotlight on sepsis in infants and children  
Hear from experts in the field of emergency medicine and paediatric medicine with key information for clinicians, carers and parents
- National Sepsis Summit Special  
Hear from Dr. Ron Daniels, founder and joint CEO of the UK Sepsis Trust on key learnings from the Trust.

SCAN ME



The National Sepsis Summit 2024 is organised by the National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate in collaboration with the National Clinical Programme for Sepsis and the Department of Health.

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