

# NEWSLETTER

The IPPCN comprises general practitioners, family practitioners, and researchers from a range of disciplines including social sciences and oncology from many countries. Every continent is represented in our membership.

The aim of the group is to provide collegiate support to like-minded individuals, who are committed to see palliative care practiced as a core part of comprehensive primary care practice. This involves advocating for improved recognition of the role of primary care in the delivery of palliative care. The group also aims to encourage primary palliative care researchers to present their work and to explore the possibilities of international collaboration. Finally, the group recognises the huge need for palliative care in developing countries and hopes to assist local practitioners in these areas to develop sustainable and effective services.

## Recent Achievements

**2013-14 was a landmark time for IPPCN and its members. In many ways primary palliative care come of age. Some of the highlights include:**



The World Health Organization passed a **resolution** that declared that appropriate palliative care is an essential element of every national health system, especially in **Primary care and the Community**. Our Network is currently advising the WHO on integrating palliative care in generalist settings.



Our Network created the EAPC Primary Palliative Care Taskforce developed a **toolkit** to enable countries to assess the extent to which primary care is involved in palliative care. It also provides guidance to member countries on how to influence policy to enable a greater role for primary care.

This tool has already been translated for use in France and Germany. See

[www.eapcnet.eu/Themes/Organisation/Primarycare.aspx](http://www.eapcnet.eu/Themes/Organisation/Primarycare.aspx)



In Lebanon Dr Hibah Osman has led the push to recognize palliative care as a medical specialty, and the largest hospital in the country now has a palliative care service.



**Overleaf** highlights new initiatives that have happened in specific countries, and there is also a conference update which demonstrates that primary palliative care is increasingly featuring as plenaries and workshops in International conferences.

These exciting developments have prompted an expansion of the Executive Members of the committee, as well as the development of our upgraded website. IPPCN now has over 230 members, and we are affiliated with the Cancer and Palliative care interest group of WONCA, the European Association of Palliative care and the European Forum on Primary Care 'Working Group on Primary Care and Palliative Care'.

### **Prof Scott A Murray**

*St Columba's Hospice Chair of Primary Palliative Care, Primary Palliative Care Research Group, Centre for Population Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh  
Co-Chair, IPPCN*

### **Prof Geoff Mitchell**

*Professor of General Practice and Palliative Care  
University of Queensland, Australia  
Co-Chair, IPPCN*



## International Initiatives

Across the world countries are supporting Primary palliative care developments from the perspective of education, research, advocacy and service development - some of these are listed below, and more details is available on the IPPCN website – please email us with any updates from your region.

In the UK, the SPECT tool and the Gold Standards framework have been introduced to provide a framework to identify and support those people with palliative care needs; and there will be a systematic review published identifying available tools to identify people at risk of dying in the foreseeable future. From an advocacy perspective Primary Palliative care has been discussed at parliamentary debates in both Scotland and Ireland. There have been several education and resource initiatives including the publication of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Palliative Care Handbook and the **Palliative Care Bridge** (Australia) and the THET Palliative care integration project in South Africa which is using a mentorship approach to support sustainable community palliative care. The evaluation from the Primary Palliative care conference in Ireland (May 2014) noted a strong interest from all MDT members in enhancing their role in primary palliative care. Finally, there has been considerable investment into research in this area in across Europe, Australia, and Canada.



## Getting our message across at conferences

In **2014** the annual **IPPCN** workshop was held at the North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Scientific Meeting in New York in November, in May the Irish Hospice Foundation hosted *Living and Dying well in Ireland – the future of Primary Palliative Care* in Dublin and the workshop on mentorship in Palliative Care was held in September as part of the National Conference of Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa.

In **2015** we are pleased to see that Primary Palliative Care is being featured at many international meetings, and these are detailed below. We hope you can make it to these presentations.

Month	Conference	Date	Title
May	<b>European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Palliative Care (EAPC)</b> <i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>	Fri 8 May 1.00 – 2.00pm (R173)	EAPC primary care taskforce annual meeting Future plans and dissemination
		Sat 9 May 4.30 – 6.00pm (A 12)	Primary Palliative Care Parallel Session
	<b>Public Health and Palliative Care</b> <i>Bristol England</i>	13 – 15 May	Developing an innovative model of palliative care in the community in Brazil: <i>Dr Santiago Rodrigues Correa, Brazil &amp; Primary Palliative Care in Japan, Dr Ai Oshi Japan</i>
	<b>Cancer and Primary Care research and International Network – CAPRI</b> <i>Aarhus, Denmark</i>	Thurs 21 May 4.30 – 5.30pm	Meeting of the IPPCN
		Fri 22 May 09.00 – 10.15am	Anticipatory palliative care: the role of the General Practitioner: <i>Yvonne Engels, Assistant Professor, Radboud UMC, Nijmegen, The Netherlands</i>
Sept	<b>European working group for Primary Care</b> <i>Amsterdam, Netherlands</i>	Tues 1 Sept 10.15 – 12.30am	Integrating palliative care in the Community EAPC <i>Marie Lynch, Adam Firth and Sebastian Moine</i>
	<b>Advance Care Planning and End of life care</b> <i>Munich, Germany</i>	9 - 12 Sept	Advance Care planning in Primary Care <i>Joel Rhee and Scott Murray</i>
Oct	<b>WONCA Europe</b> <i>Istanbul, Turkey</i>	22 Oct	Primary Palliative care <i>Dr Alis Ozcaker and Dr Hibah Osman</i>