

NEWSLETTER



ABOUT US

The IPPCN comprises general practitioners, nurses 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 practised 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.

The IPPCN is particularly encouraged that the European Association of Palliative Care have confirmed the appointment of an EAPC primary care **reference group**. This reference group met for the first time at the EAPC Congress in Dublin (June 2016), and a key aspect of its work programme is to focus on core competencies that address identification of patients in the community with palliative care needs, and is co-chaired by Scott Murray and Sebastián Moine from our group. It is also seeking to have complete European representation – and we would like to increase our contacts from south and Eastern Europe. Contact marie.lynch@hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

We are very pleased to see that the research outputs of the primary palliative care membership are being increasingly recognised as you will see from the sample list of publications and the presentations at international conferences listed in the newsletter. We are encouraged to see that both anticipatory planning and identification seem to be emerging as predominant themes of primary palliative care research as well as addressing the palliative care needs of frail older people.

We are delighted that Dr Jordi Amblas, a geriatrician from Barcelona, has recently joined to help us take forward improving care in the community for frail older people. He has recently published an important article in BMJ Open, see below. We would encourage you to continue with this valuable work so that people with palliative care needs living in the community receive timely palliative care.

Prof Geoff Mitchell

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

Prof Scott A Murray

*St Columba's Hospice Chair of Primary Palliative Care, Primary
 Palliative Care Research Group, Centre for Population Health
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PUBLICATIONS

- David Nowels from Colorado USA and his team have recently published 'Advance care planning: understanding clinical routines and experiences of inter-professional team members in Diverse Health Care Settings' in the Am J Hosp Palliat Care in Sept 2016; they will also be presenting on this theme at the North American Primary Care Research Group Meeting in Nov 2016.
- On the same theme in April this year the BMC Palliative care published **Timely identification of palliative patients and anticipatory care planning by GPs: practical application of tools and a training programme** by Engels et al.
- The challenges and opportunities for identification has been addressed by Jordi Amblàs et al in **BMJ Open**, and Yvonne Engels et al are anticipating the publication on the impact of training to support GPs identify palliative care patients in BMJ Supp and Pall care.
- The UK OPTCare elderly programme, led by Evans and Higginson, identified the **four key factors** that are associated with transition from the community to hospital for older people at end of life as recently published in the American Geriatrics Society. This programme has also published in **Age and Ageing** on a model of short term integrated palliative and supportive care for frail older people in the community.
- This theme of integration was also identified in the Case Report on community nursing in palliative care by Shanagher et al from Ireland, which was published in the **Journal of Community and Public Health Nursing**.
- Finally we were encouraged to see this aspect of care highlighted in South America when Fernando Marcucci et al outlined the gaps in primary palliative care provision in Brazil in **BMC palliative Care** in June this year.



CONFERENCE CALENDAR

MONTH	CONFERENCE	DATE	DETAILS
November	WONCA World Conference Brazil	2-5 Nov	G Mitchell and S R Correa IPPCN and WONCA SIG Meeting 2 Nov
February 2017	Indian Association of Palliative Care, Coimbatore, India	10 – 12 Feb	Alan Bernard, Scott Murray IPPCN Meeting 10 Feb as pre-conference
	Compassionate Communities Symposium, Sydney	20-21 Feb	
April 2017	CAPRI, Edinburgh	18 – 20 April	David Weller, Geoff Mitchell
May 2017	EAPC World Congress Madrid	18-20 May	Welcome to open meeting of the EAPC Primary care reference group
June 2017	Wonca, Prague	28 June-1 July	
Sept 2017	National Palliative Care Conference Adelaide Australia	6-8 Sep	

