



# NPEC Study Day

17th January 2025

National Clinical Audit into Action: Achieving Improvements in Patient Care.

## Prof Richard Greene

### Opening Remarks

Professor Richard Greene, a Trinity College Dublin graduate, gained clinical experience at Coombe Women's Hospital, Dublin. In 1999, he became a Fellow in Maternal-Foetal Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia. In 2001, he joined UCC as a Senior Lecturer/Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. In 2007, he became Director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) and Professor of Clinical Obstetrics, UCC. Prof. Greene helped establish new maternity services at CUMH. His research interests include maternal-foetal medicine, epidemiology, health services research, and translational research. He developed a national obstetrics chart and the MN\_CMS Project, aiming for a unified electronic medical record for all maternity hospitals. His clinical practice is at Cork University Maternity Hospital.

## Dr Colm Henry

### Opening Remarks

Dr. Colm Henry was appointed as the first Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) to the HSE in April 2018. He was previously the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Acute Hospitals from 2014 – 2018, and National Lead for the Clinical Director Programme from 2012 to 2014. Prior to these national roles, he was Clinical Director of the Mercy University Hospital Cork from 2009 to 2012 where he worked as Consultant Geriatrician since his appointment in 2002.

## Ms Edel Manning

### Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit: a body of evidence informing patient care and policy

RGN, RM, HDip Clinical Practice, HDip Diagnostic Imaging in Ultrasound of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, MSc Health Care Ethics and Law.

Edel is the project manager for two of the NPEC national clinical audits of the maternity services in Ireland: Perinatal Mortality (PM) and Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM). She has been intrinsic to the development and implementation of both these audits since she joined NPEC in 2009. Edel has fulfilled this role in conjunction with her role as co-ordinator for the maternal death enquiry (MDE) Ireland since its inception.

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## **Dr Emily O'Connor**

### **Characteristics of serious incident management team (SIMT) reviews in Irish maternity units**

Dr Emily O'Connor is pursuing a PhD in the area of perinatal medicine with INFANT and NPEC at University College Cork. Her background includes previous work as a Specialist Registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology with the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI). Her PhD is funded by Féileacáin, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association of Ireland. Emily's work aims to standardise the way reviews of perinatal deaths occur by developing and implementing a national perinatal mortality audit tool for all perinatal deaths occurring in every maternity unit across Ireland. A major focus of this work is the involvement of bereaved parents in the review process. This aim of this research is to offer a more inclusive, transparent process for parents who have experienced the death of their baby. Emily is conducting this research with the Pregnancy Loss Research Group based at University College Cork. Her supervisors are Professor Keelin O'Donoghue (INFANT), Professor Richard Greene (NPEC) and Dr Sara Leitao (NPEC).

## **Dr Sara Leitão**

### **Severe Maternal Morbidity Audit: Eleven years of data impacting on maternity care**

Sara is a researcher at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC), working on national perinatal clinical audits and related research studies. She works on the NPEC's "Severe Maternal Morbidity" annual clinical audit and on the "Very Low Birth Weight Infant" audit (carried out in partnership with the Vermont Oxford Network).

Sara's portfolio includes both qualitative and quantitative research. She has a PhD. in Psychosocial Occupational Health and an MSc. in Occupational Health, both awarded by the School of Public Health in UCC.

## **Ms Kelly Delaney**

### **Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring in Pregnancy**

In 2022, Kelly began her cAMP role. Most recently she has completed her Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice (Midwifery); and an Ultrasound Scanning for Midwives module to ensure continuity of care for the women within her caseload and to reduce patient wait times. Kelly is now a registered AMP in Specialised Care Pathway. Her caseload includes women with hypertensive disorders, she has developed a system for Home Blood Pressure Monitoring in Pregnancy which is proving to be extremely successful.

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## **Dr Joye McKernan**

### **Update on Postpartum Haemorrhage Quality Improvement Initiative (PPHQII)**

Joye McKernan holds a BSc. in Social Science, a Masters in Epidemiology and Public Health and a HDip in Computer Science. Joye is the Research Officer - Information for the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre. She works on a number of projects within the NPEC focusing on policy development, data quality and information standards. Joye also manages the collection and development of the Robson Ten Groups Classification System project. Joye is the project manager for the Postpartum haemorrhage Quality improvement initiative.

Joye completed her PhD in the area of "Data quality in the evolving digitised health service"

## **Ms Cairistine Greene**

### **PPHQII local champion**

Clinical Skills Facilitator Sligo University Hospital

## **Dr Charlie Leahy**

### **The Robson Ten Group Classification System (TGCS)**

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrar in the Coombe Hospital

## **Dr Emma Shanley**

### **Ten Group Classification (TGCS) to classify Caesarean Sections at Full Dilatation at the National Maternity Hospital**

Second year Basic Specialist Training in the National Maternity Hospital

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## **Dr Anne Twomey**

### **Identifying potential improvements in patient care to reduce risk of pneumothorax in very low birth weight infants in Ireland**

Consultant Neonatologist at the National Maternity Hospital. Member of the Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit Group and Co-chair Neonatal Intensive Care Outcomes Research and Evaluation (NICORE).

## **Ms Jessica Keane**

### **Registered Home Births in Ireland: Insights and Impact from the National Clinical Audit**

Jessica is a Clinical Research Officer with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC), working on the Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit, the Severe Maternal Morbidity Audit and the Home Birth Audit. She has recently completed her MSc Research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which is examining the impact of deprivation on the risk of experiencing stillbirth.

Jessica obtained her BSc Midwifery from UCC and went on to work in the UK and Canada with experience in the following areas: labour ward and the high dependency unit, alongside birth centre, antenatal education, community and midwifery-led caseloading, and has a certificate in Maternity Complementary Therapies.

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## Ms Paula Barry

### **Integration of the National Home Birth Service into The Coombe Hospital: A Two-Year Review of Outcomes and Self-Employed Community Midwives Experiences**

Designated Midwifery Officer (DMO), The Coombe Hospital & National Water Birth Lead at National Women & Infants Health Programme (NWIHP).

Paula commenced her career as a General Nurse in Cork. She worked as a nurse in a variety of specialities in Ireland, the UK and Australia. In 2003, she undertook a Higher Diploma in Midwifery at the Coombe Hospital, and since then has completed a BSc and MSc in Midwifery at Trinity College, Dublin. Through her experience, Paula has become passionate about all aspects of Midwifery practice. She embraces the philosophy of pregnancy and birth being a normal, healthy, life event for most women and constantly strives to protect and promote the autonomous role of the Midwife. Paula believes that the profession of midwifery is a unique and extremely privileged one.

Paula led on the first Irish study on water birth, which was published in 2020 BMJ OPEN. . More recently, she co-authored a second paper titled: Women's experiences of water immersion during labour and childbirth in a hospital setting in Ireland: a qualitative study.

She presently shares a DMO post at the Coombe where she oversees the HSE/Coombe integrated home birth service, and also works part time as National Water birth lead in NWIHP. She is currently leading on the development of a national guideline on water immersion for labour and birth. Paula ensures she maintains clinical credibility by facilitating a weekly Midwife clinic, at the Coombe, which she has done since 2008. Paula believes midwives are corner stone for exemplary maternity care and therefore need to be clinically, professionally and politically visible in-order to be truly recognised and for meaningful change to take place.

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## Ms Mariapia Dado

### **Integration of the National Home Birth Service into The Coombe Hospital: A Two-Year Review of Outcomes and Self-Employed Community Midwives Experiences**

Mariapia Dado graduated as a direct-entry midwife in Italy in 2016. She began her career in Rome, where she worked for two years before relocating to Dublin in 2018. In 2021, Mariapia was appointed Clinical Skills Facilitator (CSF) in the Delivery Suite, a role that further refined her clinical and teaching skills. Eager to enhance her leadership abilities, she pursued and completed a Master's degree in Midwifery Practice and Leadership in TCD in 2022, equipping her with the tools to lead and advocate for midwifery autonomy and improved maternity care systems.

Her academic contributions include the publication of the first Irish Qualitative Study on women's experiences of water immersion in a hospital setting in Ireland (Midwifery Journal, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2022.10327>). She also participated as speaker at various conferences both nationally and internationally, such as at the International Normal Labour and Birth Research Conference, Denmark in 2023. Mariapia gained extensive clinical expertise working in the clinical setting, while developing a profound understanding of what truly defines woman-centered care—listening to women's needs, individualizing care, and supporting the physiological and hormonal processes of labour. This experience shaped her passion for midwifery grounded in evidence-based physiology.

Mariapia's passion for education has also led her to collaborate with universities both nationally and internationally. In 2022/2023, she held a one-year teaching contract at the University of Unicamillus in Rome, IT. In October 2023, she assumed the role of Designated Midwifery Officer for Home Birth in the Coombe Hospital, driven by her desire to support women freedom of choice, and to promote physiological birth. Mariapia is dedicated to transforming maternity care by bridging evidence-based midwifery and women's unique preferences. She believes in empowering women to make informed choices and creating systems that honour the natural processes of childbirth, ensuring safety and satisfaction for mothers and their families.

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## **Dr Paul Corcoran**

### **National trends in neonatal encephalopathy and therapeutic hypothermia, 2016-2023**

Identifying potential improvements in patient care to reduce risk of pneumothorax in very low birth weight infants in Ireland

Paul Corcoran is a Senior Lecturer in Perinatal Epidemiology with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology) and with the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health.

Paul's degrees include a BSc "joint honours" degree in Statistics and Computer Science, a Masters degree in Statistics and a PhD in Epidemiology, all obtained at UCC. He has more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has contributed chapters to international texts.

## **Dr Jill Mitchell**

### **Development of an Early Prediction Model for Mortality in Infants undergoing Therapeutic Hypothermia for Neonatal Encephalopathy**

Jill is a specialist registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, currently completing a PhD in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in University College Cork (UCC). Jill holds a Master's degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology from UCC and is a member of both the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Her research interests include labour ward management and reproductive medicine. In 2024, she was awarded the Michael Turner Medal for scientific work with the potential to significantly impact clinical practice in Irish Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

## **Ms Bernadette Toolan**

### **Eliminate Preventable Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy (HIE) in University Maternity Hospital Limerick**

Bernadette is a Registered General Nurse and Registered Midwife. She has worked in several roles as a midwife including Clinical Placement Coordinator with midwifery students, Practice Development and Leadership Development. Bernadette is currently working as Clinical Midwife Manager 3, with responsibility for Labour Ward and Theatre Department in University Maternity Hospital Limerick.

Bernadette Toolan, RGN, RM, Postgraduate Diploma Midwifery, MSc Midwifery, Diploma in Leadership and Quality in Healthcare.

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## **Dr John Kelleher**

### **A case series of extremely preterm infants with major congenital heart disease in the Republic of Ireland**

John Kelleher is a Consultant Neonatologist at Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, with a distinguished career in pediatrics and neonatology. He earned his medical degree with honors from the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians in Dublin (1999) and a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Clinical Research and Epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (2011). Certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, he completed his pediatric residency and neonatology fellowship in Birmingham, USA. Dr. Kelleher's research focuses on clinical trials in neonatology and developmental follow-up of extremely premature infants. As the local lead for neurodevelopmental follow-up and the STRIVE program for early detection and intervention in cerebral palsy, he administers the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development (4th edition) at the Coombe Hospital. He has also contributed to advancing neonatal care through his leadership roles in Dublin and previously in Limerick.

## **Dr Tamara Escañuela Sánchez**

### **Patient Involvement in NPEC Audits: Current Practices and Future Directions**

Tamara is a health psychology researcher working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC). She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, a Master's in General Health Psychology from Universitat de Barcelona, and a PhD from University College Cork (2023), focused on behavioural risk factors for stillbirth. At NPEC, Tamara leads projects addressing stillbirth prevention, enhances data management systems, and supports qualitative and quantitative research, dissemination, and communication strategies.

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