

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann



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# 1 Council

## 1.1 President (January 2015 - November 2015) Dr Paul D'Alton



As President of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) for the January to November 2015 period, it is my great pleasure to introduce the 2015 Annual Report which will provide you with a summary of the tremendous work done by the Society over the course of the year. The past year has been extremely busy

and productive; this productivity is the result of countless hours given by volunteers across the country and supported by our fantastic team in HQ. 2015 was a challenging year for the Society in the absence of a CEO for most almost 11 months. The team in HQ worked even harder than usual and the enthusiasm, generosity and energy of the membership offered me tremendous encouragement to work on behalf of our membership in such challenging times.

It has been a real privilege to meet so many members who make selfless contributions to the betterment of the profession of psychology and by implication the betterment of the human project. Despite the challenges during 2015, PSI did some incredible work. A lot of that work is documented in this Report and a lot of that work will never be captured by something as formulaic as an annual report. As an attempt to bridge that gap, and to convey a sense of what 2015 meant to me as President, I will highlight a number of developments that at the very least might provide a flavour of the work PSI undertakes on behalf of its members.

The field of psychology plays a very powerful role in modern society; psychology permeates every aspect of contemporary society. Psychology is part of our language; it influences our perception of ourselves and impacts on legal and social policy. From the construction of the self to the construction of social fabric – psychology is there in the middle and we, as the psychology experts and PSI as the professional and learned body, have tremendous capacity to influence. This capacity, that can influence the shape and future direction of Irish society, is taken very seriously by PSI, as the professional body representing psychology in Ireland. In addition to the very important internal business of ensuring standards in training, professional development and practice, the PSI is increasingly acting so as to ensure better access to psychological knowledge and therein the continued contribution of psychology to the betterment of Irish society. It has been my great pleasure as President to have advanced this very important function of PSI. It is my hope that PSI will continue to be the leading voice for psychology in the public and civic affairs of Ireland.

PSI is the representative body for psychology in Ireland. This is a valuable and powerful position for us to occupy. Our membership, made up of practitioners, educators, researchers, graduates and undergraduate students, task the PSI to represent them. As President it was a great honour to head up this onerous task and therein advance our position as leaders and meaningful contributors at a national policy level as well as at more local level in terms of professional development issues. Over the course we worked tirelessly on the eligibility criteria for the employment of psychologists within the health service. This has been a very difficult and often deeply conflicted issue for members of PSI. I am very pleased to have been able to represent the membership of PSI at a number of important junctures along this difficult and protracted road and am optimistic of a resolution in the near future.

For many years PSI has been working to develop stronger links with fellow international professional associations. Decades of work and collaboration have taken place and I am very pleased to say that 2015 marked an important juncture in this process. At our Annual Conference in November 2105 we signed formal Memoranda of Understanding with the American Psychological Association (APA) and with the British Psychological Society (BPS). It was my great pleasure and privilege to sign these agreements on behalf of the Society. The signing took place just after our AGM on Thursday 12th November 2015 with the BPS President Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes in person, and the APA President Doctor Barry Anton via teleconference link to the USA. These Memoranda of Understanding provide a solid foundation from which PSI will continue to forge strong and influential partnerships with our fellow professional bodies internationally.

There is probably not a psychologist who would not agree that the first years of life are the most precious. It is during these years that the psychological architecture for later life is laid down. It was my great pleasure during 2015 to advance the understanding of the importance of the early years. This happened internally in 2015 through the establishment of two new Special Interest Groups: the Special Interest Group in Paediatric Psychology and the Special Interest Group in Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, and externally when as President of PSI, along with Dr Kevin Nugent, I addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children on November 11th 2015. This was one of my proudest moments as President of PSI and it was because it represented the interface between psychology and policy and therein our potential as a profession to positively influence the human project.

2015 marked our third year contributing to the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE). Our involvement with the BTYSTE was initiated as a way to promote the understanding of psychology as a science and a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) discipline. It was my pleasure to present the PSI award to the successful student in the company of a very excited (and loud!) teenage audience at the RDS in January.

PSI has continued to take its place alongside our European sisters and brothers by being active members of European Federation of Psychology Associations (EFPA). We have representation on a number of important committees and in May I attended the General Assembly in Milan. At this meeting we had the opportunity to influence the course of the development of psychology on the European stage. Our membership of EFPA and our active involvement in the various committees is perhaps more important than ever given the issues facing Europe currently. I have been appointed a member of the EFPA Board of Human Rights and will continue to work with our European colleagues on a whole range of issues pertinent to psychology and human rights.

During the course of my presidency PSI made two public statements on issues of public debate and concern. In May 2015, PSI issued a statement concerning the Marriage Equality Referendum and importantly a very clear statement on the use and misuse of psychological research particularly concerning the welfare of children raised in same sex families. Later in the year PSI issued a press release concerning the shocking revelations concerning the involvement of psychologists in the design of torture as detailed in the Hoffman Report. This year also saw An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, T.D., launch the PSI Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients. This was a very proud day for the Society and the first occasion when a Taoiseach attended a PSI event.

It was a privilege and an honour to serve as President of the PSI. It was a challenging but nonetheless a very rewarding experience. There is a Greek proverb that says: "Society grows great when old men and women plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." I hope that I have contributed to the growth and development of our profession in Ireland. I hope I have contributed in some way to the betterment of the human project. I hope that I have helped PSI plant a few trees.

Sincere thanks also to the marvellous staff at HQ during 2015 - Heather Weight, Niamh O'Byrne, Lisa Stafford, Olga Dekina, Gráinne Nic An Mhaistir and Loretta Fahey. In the absence of a CEO the team stepped up to the challenge in all sorts of way and kept the ship afloat. The year concluded with the appointment of our new CEO, Terri Morrissey, and I want to take this opportunity to wish Terri all the very best and to assure her of our support and good will in the years to come.

I wish our incoming president, Dr Anne Davis, all the very best in her term as President.



Warmly,  
Dr Paul D'Alton

## 1.2 President (November 2015 - December 2015) Dr Anne Davis



PSI has been part of my professional identity since I returned to Ireland to continue my training as a psychologist in 2005. As such, it was with a sense of honour and apprehension that I became the 46th President of the PSI during the 2015 Annual Conference in Galway.

During my presidential address, I spoke about my belief that we are stronger and more successful when we work together, hence the foundation for my time as President is captured in this quote attributed to Henry Ford, *"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"*. The 'work' is of course to meet the goals of the Society by supporting our members in various ways, to have a voice as stakeholders in mental health services in Ireland and to bring psychology to the public. These are ambitious goals and require each and every member to be a part of the same team whilst retaining our unique contributions to the field of psychology.

My term as President coincided with Terri Morrissey joining the PSI as our new CEO. Those first few weeks were taken up with settling in to our new roles and working together in order to continue the work set out in the strategic plan and also to plan for the coming year.

The first Council meeting of the new term took place on the 10th December, the composition of which had significantly changed. At the Conference, the following people stood down - Philippa Coughlan, Paul Hogan, Aidan McKiernan, Melrona Kirrane, and John Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of service and for the enthusiasm and commitment that they brought to Council. I was then happy to welcome the following people to Council and thank them for their willingness to offer their time and talent to the Society - Megan Gaffney, Caroline Conlon, Christian Korpos, Mark Smyth, Catherine Long, Barry Sheppard, and Fiona Moane.

I look forward to the year ahead and working on your behalf to further the aims of the Society.

Anne Davis

Regards,  
Dr Anne Davis

## 1.3 Chief Executive Officer Terri Morrissey



My first week in the CEO role was spent at the PSI Annual Conference in Galway in November. That was an appropriate start for me as it gave me a great opportunity to meet members; listen to your views; and to hear about the challenges, threats and opportunities, high lights and low lights and

to formulate priorities for 2016 and beyond.

What did I learn about the PSI and about 2015 in particular that contributed to this Annual Report?

- That the Society has an eclectic mix of members with often very different views of the Society, its role, its identity and its past and future
- That members have high expectations of what the Society *should* offer members but not very clear ideas of what they can contribute
- That the Society's financial position needed strengthening (see report as part of this Annual Report) with a loss posted for 2014 and no final outturn for 2015
- That membership needed to increase having been more or less constant over previous years
- That a number of threats or opportunities in the environment needed to be addressed going forward

This was indeed grist to the mill for the role of the CEO.

I spent the remainder of 2015 getting to understand in more detail what these challenges and opportunities meant and formulating some plans to address them for the coming years.

I came into the role with a vision for how Psychology and Psychologists can be agents for the future wellbeing of Irish citizens and society. Whilst I still held that view at the end of 2015, I realised that some internal changes would be required to enable that vision to become a reality.

Many thanks to the Presidential Team for their support during my induction to the Society. I hope that I can live up to your expectations!

Terri Morrissey

Terri Morrissey

## 1.4 Honorary Secretary (January 2015 – November 2015) Dr Melrona Kirrane

The Honorary Secretary is an Officer of PSI and is also the Chair of the Human Resources (HR) Subgroup of Council. The HR Subgroup reports and makes recommendations to Council on matters relating to HR. The Subgroup is a crucial part of the governance of the Society. This governance element is increasingly important because of the requirements of the Charity Regulator for charities to have best practice processes in place.

The scope of the activities of the HR Subgroup encompasses policies and procedures relating to staffing; work processes and roles within the PSI office. As a matter of good practice the work of the HR Subgroup is discussed at Council for comment and feedback. Another duty that I performed as Honorary Secretary of the Society was to sit on the Board of Professional Conduct (BPC). Having Council members, and in particular the Honorary Secretary, on the BPC facilitates two-way communication between the BPC and Council.

The biggest issue this year has been the recruitment and selection of a new CEO for PSI to replace Dr Gerry Mulhern. The process led to the selection of a new CEO for PSI which is a very welcome outcome. The hard work of the staff of PSI is to be commended for maintaining excellent standards of professionalism within PSI without the direction of a CEO for some 18 months.

I would like to thank the members of the HR Subgroup for providing excellent oversight and advice to me, and by extension Council, in all matters relating to HR and for giving of their time so generously. These members are Dr Catherine Darker, Peter Clarke, Fiona Kelly-Meldon and Heather Weight.

Dr Melrona Kirrane

## 1.5 Membership Secretary (January 2015 – December 2015) Vincent McDarby

During 2015 I was part of the very valuable work that is carried out on behalf of the Society by the Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee (MQRC) who process the membership applications on behalf of the Society. This includes clarifying entry requirements, working with applicants to complete applications and examining applications from other jurisdictions where equivalence is sought in training and qualification. The MQRC is chaired by Dr Margaret McGinley, and I want to pay particular tribute to Margaret and the MQRC for the immense work they do to facilitate admission to the Society while ensuring standards are maintained.

At the Psychological Society of Ireland's Annual General Meeting in November 2014 a motion was passed that Council would award a Fellowship of the Psychological Society of Ireland to the President of the Society upon completion of his or her term of office and that this article would also apply to former presidents who do not currently hold a Fellowship and remain in good standing with the Society. This Fellowship award is to acknowledge the standing of the position of President within the Society and the significant contribution that is made to the discipline of psychology as a whole by undertaking this position. In 2015 I wrote to all eligible past presidents of the PSI to invite them to take up this Fellowship. I am delighted to report that this has been taken up by a number of past presidents and is reflected in a significant increase in the number of Fellows of the Society. The following table presents the number of people in each membership category of the Society.

### Society Membership

Membership Type	2012	2013	2014	2015
Student Subscribers	384	336	305	261
Graduate Membership	1386	1268	1326	1434
Registered Member	892	990	1006	1039
Associate Fellow	72	69	207	195
Fellow	25	23	15	28
Honorary Fellow	2	2	3	3
	2761	2688	2862	2960

Vincent Mc Darby

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## 1.6 Honorary Treasurer Dr Michele Coyle

The accounts for 2015 are outlined in the Appendix of this Annual Report.

The company's net assets as of the 31st December 2015 were €364,451.00. The Psychological Society made a profit of €27,297.00 in ordinary activities in 2015.

The Society's tangible assets as of 31st December 2015 were €167,885.00. The Society and Council continued to work hard in their efforts to oversee and rebuild the Society's cash reserves in 2015.

Income relating to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), seminars, and other workshops yielded a small profit overall in 2015. These are key areas of revenue for the Society and as such, will continue to be a priority for growth and development over the coming years.

A significant area of expenditure for the Society remains the publication costs and postage to members of The Irish Journal of Psychology and The Irish Psychologist. As noted in the 2014 accounts the publishing contract for the Journal was due for review in 2015. In 2015, the Society and Council have been active in reviewing the best possible options regarding both publications. The Irish Journal of Psychology will be discontinued in its current form in 2016. As yet, it has not been decided in what format, if any, it will continue.

In 2016, in the interest of reducing costs, Council, along with our new CEO Terri Morrissey, hope to invite members to pilot several online initiatives. The initial areas will involve online registration and continuing online CPD logs/credits. With the continued investment in upgrading our internal computer software systems it is envisaged that members will find this service beneficial and it should also ensure the highest level of overall service delivery and online security to members.

Staff costs have remained relatively consistent.

Membership revenue remains steady. This is consistent with previous years. Hence, following much hard work by our Membership Secretary, Vincent McDarby, many initiatives are now under way to help increase and sustain a healthy membership - a key objective for coming years.

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank all the administrative staff for their assistance, dedication to the Society and continued hard work throughout the year. Their willingness and flexibility to support each other and work across tasks helped ensure the smooth running of daily activities and the efficient management of the Society's affairs.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support and work of all volunteers, Division officers and Council members during my year as Honorary Treasurer. My sincere thanks to you all.

**Dr Michele Coyle**

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## 1.7 Boards and Committees

### 1.7.1 Annual Conference Committee

#### Annual Conference Committee Members

The members of the 2015 PSI Annual Conference Committee were Dr Anne Davis (Chairperson), Dr Michele Coyle, Dr Colm O' Tuathaigh, Dr Sean Hammond, Dr Anne Marie Regan, and Maurice Ward. PSI staff members Lisa Stafford and Heather Weight assisted the Committee, and representatives of the PSI Student Affairs Group (SAG) were also invited to a number of meetings.

#### Meetings

The Committee met on the following dates in 2015:

27th April	22nd June	24th August
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#### Highlights

The 2015 PSI Annual Conference took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Galway, from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th November. The Committee scheduled a pre-conference workshop for Wednesday 11th, which was entitled *What's compassion got to do with it? The role of self-compassion in clinical practice* and was delivered by Dr Katie Baird and Dr Jennifer Gibson. Wednesday also saw a Student Research Seminar taking place as part of the Conference.

The Conference was officially opened on the Wednesday night with the Committee inviting PSI member Dr Eddie Murphy to present a free public lecture jointly hosted by the PSI and the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Psychological Society (NIBPS). The Society was delighted to have BPS President Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes as a guest for the opening and public lecture. In an effort to strengthen the links between PSI and BPS, the societies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) after the public lecture. The PSI also took this opportunity to sign an MoU with our colleagues in the American Psychological Association (APA) with President Dr Barry Anton representing the APA via live Skype video call.

Over the course of Thursday to Saturday the Committee was proud to present three keynote speakers for the Conference:

- Dr Niall Muldoon (PSI member and Ombudsman for Children) ;
- Dr Kevin Nugent (Director, Brazelton Institute, Division of Developmental Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital; Lecturer, Harvard Medical School; and Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts at Amherst);
- Mr Colm O'Gorman (Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland).

For the sixth year running, the Society's AGM again took place at the Conference, on the Thursday evening. The AGM was followed by a play, entitled *My Name is Saoirse* – a one woman show written and performed by Eva O' Connor of Sunday's Child Theatre Company. Various Divisions and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) used the Conference as an opportunity to hold AGMs and other meetings.

Social events are an important aspect of the Annual Conference as it gives members the opportunity to network. It was imperative that various social events were worked into the programme. Such events included the SAG Annual Conference quiz, the Conference buffet meal, poster round viewing reception, and the Society's gala dinner.

The Conference also provided the opportunity for various individuals to be recognised and awards to be presented. With PSI being involved in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) earlier in the year, the Conference provided the perfect opportunity for the PSI Award winner, Emily Cahill, from the BTYSTE to address Conference delegates. The Division of Neuropsychology Deirdre McMackin Award was presented to Tom Burke for his Annual Conference presentation, and the prizes for the Conference poster awards were also presented to Frank Doyle (Academic/Practitioner poster) and Mairéad Brennan (Student poster). Dr Geraldine Moane was the proud recipient of the PSI's award for Equality and Inclusive Practice (EQuIP).

#### Dr Anne Davis

#### 2015 PSI Annual Conference Committee Chair

## 1.7.2 Board of Professional Conduct

### Board of Professional Conduct (BPC) Members

The members of the BPS during 2015 were Brendan O'Connell (Chair, Dec 2015+), Mark Latimer (Chair up to Nov 2015), Dr Christine Chapple (Vice Chair), and Dr Moira Kennedy (Secretary). Continuing Board members were Andrew Osborn, Arthur O'Reilly, Aoife Ryan, Gráinne Tiernan, Allison Connolly, Lorraine Crawley, and Dr Gráinne Ni Dhomhnaill. Departing Board members were Dr Natalie Hession, Dr Arlene Egan, John Brennan, Dr Melrona Kirrane, Dr Michele Coyle, and Mark Latimer.

### Meetings

The BPC met a number of times in 2015 with meetings on the following dates being chaired by Brendan O'Connell:

7th November	12th December	
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### Activities

The BPC has responsibility to investigate complaints against members of the Society in accordance with the Code of Professional Ethics and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society. It also functions to advise PSI Council on matters relating to professional conduct. Much of the work of the Board each year relates to correspondence regarding potential complaints and the investigation of complaints received.

2015 has been marked with significant changes, with the departure of several experienced members and both our longstanding Chair, Mark Latimer, and Niamh O'Byrne, Office Manager, and my arrival as the new Chair (and new to BPC) in December of 2015. With the support of the Board members and of Heather Weight, Office Manager, we identified several strategic actions for 2016. These actions have the overarching function of best managing the upcoming transitioning of the majority of the Board's functions to CORU and to prepare for the subsequent winding down of the Board when the time comes.

The first strategic action is targeted recruitment of new Board members. Such targeted recruitment, along with the skills and experience of existing Board members, will facilitate our second strategic action – a renewed focus on expediting cases through the complaints process. These two actions will, I expect, reduce the average number of live cases at any given time by approximately 50%, easing the timely transfer of responsibilities and preparing for the subsequent winding down of the Board.

Our third strategic action is to ready the Memorandum and Articles of Association for this change. This will involve proposing some motion(s) to the PSI 2016 AGM.

Finally, as a new member of the Board and as the Chair overseeing its function, I have become acutely aware of the significant time commitment and responsibility Board membership demands of those who volunteer. I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere 'thank you' to our departing and continuing Board members.

**Brendan O'Connell**

**Chair (November 2015-December 2015)**

### 1.7.3 Expert Validation Committee

#### Expert Validation Committee (EVC) Members

Aisling White (Council Liaison & Clinical Applications reviewer), Sinead Fitzgerald (Clinical Psychology Applications reviewer), Dr Patrick Ryan (Clinical Psychology Applications reviewer), Helen Long (Clinical Psychology Applications reviewer - new member 2015), Dr Ladislav Timulak (Counselling Psychology Applications reviewer), Ian O'Grady (Counselling Psychology Applications reviewer), Dr Rita Honan (Educational Psychology Applications reviewer), Dr William Kinsella (Educational Psychology Applications reviewer), Professor David Hevey (Health Psychology Applications reviewer).

#### Activities

Throughout the year, the EVC has reviewed a significant increase in volume of applications in the areas of Clinical, Counselling, Educational and Health Psychology. EVC received 41 applications in 2015 as compared to 15 in 2014, 16 in 2013, and 12 in 2012. Similar to other years the highest volume received were Clinical Psychology applications 80% (33). Four Educational Psychology, three Counselling Psychology and one Health Psychology application were also received. Approximately 65% of applications are approved on first application with periods of adaptation recommended for the majority of the remaining cases. The complexity of the review process has increased considerably in light of the volume of applications, developments in legislation and EU Directive adaptations. The Committee continued to work with the Department of Health to seek to respond to these developments to consider the most appropriate way to balance facilitation of the mobility of professionals across Europe with maintenance of standards in psychological practice. In 2015, the Committee also sought to adapt to the absence of PSI Director of Professional Development and Committee Chair. Many thanks to Niamh O'Byrne from the PSI Office for administrative support and to Gráinne Nic An Mháistir who assumed this function following Niamh's departure from PSI in November 2015.

Following Statutory Registration, the responsibility for advising the Department of Health and Children on overseas qualifications will move to the Psychologists Registration Board (PRB). For the remaining time that the Society does continue to hold this role, expressions of interest in joining the Committee are very welcome from the membership, particularly from Clinical Psychologists, in order to help deal with the on-going volume of work.

**Aisling White**  
EVC Council Liaison 2015

### 1.7.4 Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee

#### Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee (MQRC) Members

The members of the MQRC during 2015 were Margaret Daly McGinley (Chair), Damian Davy (Minutes Secretary), Aoife Moran, Nicky O'Leary, Elisabetta Petitbon, Thomas Waldmann, Eunice McCarthy, and Vincent McDarby (PSI Membership Secretary).

#### Activities

During 2015 the Committee met nine times and considered applications for Graduate Membership, Registered Membership, and Associate Fellowship of the Society. MQRC makes recommendations to Council for these categories of membership.

The total numbers of applications processed in 2015 and previous years are given in the following table.

	'15	'14	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08
Graduate membership	271	263	216	174	157	72	160	270
Membership resumed	60	36	31	47	40	54	50	50
Registered membership	70	69	77	82	53	75	184	54
Associate fellowship	5	8	2	7	3	0	3	6

During 2015, the MQRC have continued to attend to queries as they arise and to process applications. The Committee completes the processing and all necessary correspondence in a timely manner.

The MQRC regularly responds to any documents issuing from the Society and updates procedures so as to promote PSI Graduate Membership, Registered Membership, and Associate Fellowship of the Society.

I would like to pay tribute to all the above members of the Committee who have contributed their skills and dedication to the work of MQRC, not just during 2015, but for several years. Their wide range of expertise and experience continues to be invaluable.

During 2015, PSI staff member Olga Dekina has continued to efficiently prepare the applications and to finalise them after the MQRC meetings which are forwarded electronically to the PSI Council. The MQRC greatly value the input of all the PSI staff in dealing with queries from applicants.

We wish to thank the PSI Council for their support, especially the Membership Secretary, Vincent McDarby, who works on both the MQRC and PSI Council.

**Margaret D McGinley**  
Chair

## 1.8 Publications and Communications

### 1.8.1 The Irish Journal of Psychology

*The Irish Journal of Psychology* is an official publication of the Psychological Society of Ireland and is produced in four issues a year (online), currently incorporating one joint issue during the year, and a single hard copy publication.

Dr Suzanne Guerin (School of Psychology, University College Dublin) serves as editor of *The Irish Journal of Psychology* (IJP). Dr Suzanne Egan (Department of Psychology, Mary Immaculate College Limerick) and Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden (School of Psychology, University College Dublin) serve as assistant editors.

The focus for 2015 was the finalisation of the hard copy of Volume 35 of the Journal and the preparation of Volume 36. Unfortunately 2015 was marked by a notable decline in papers being submitted, possibly influenced by the delay in publication of Volume 35. Due to these delays Volume 26 will appear in hard copy in 2016, with papers available online on a rolling basis. Content from the Journal will continue to be available via the webpage ([www.tandfonline.com/r/iri](http://www.tandfonline.com/r/iri)). This site holds the back catalogue for the Journal as well as the current issues.

During 2015, PSI Council, with input and support of the Editor, made the decision to suspend production of the Journal pending a review of the publication within the Society. There have been significant changes in the nature of journal publication over the history of the IJP and while the move to a professional publisher allowed for access to resources and expertise, this is a costly process and it is important for the Society to consider the contribution of the Journal to the wider Society.

Given this context, we would like to express our gratitude to all contributors to *The Irish Journal of Psychology*, including authors, reviewers, members of the editorial team and readers. We would also like to thank the Staff in the PSI Office for their input and also the team at Taylor and Francis for their support.

#### Irish Journal of Psychology, Editorial Board

- Dr Sean Commins, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- Dr Philip Dodd, St Michael's House & School of Psychology, University College Dublin
- Dr Derek Dorris, PCI College, Dublin
- Dr Frank Doyle, Department of Psychology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Prof. Colin Feltham, Faculty of Development and Society, Sheffield Halam University
- Dr Pamela Gallagher, School of Nursing and Human Science, Dublin City University
- Dr Michael Gormley, School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr John McEvoy, Midway Services & School of Nursing, Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dr Brian McGuire, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Dr Conor McGuckin, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin
- Prof. Mark Morgan, Education Department, St. Patrick's College
- Dr Elizabeth Nixon, School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Cathal O'Siochru, Faculty of Science & Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University
- Prof. Mark Shevlin, School of Psychology University of Ulster, Magee

#### Dr Suzanne Guerin

#### Editor

## 1.8.2 The Irish Psychologist

*The Irish Psychologist* (IP) is an official publication of the Psychological Society of Ireland and is produced in ten issues a year, with joint issues for July–August and December–January. In addition to the print version, issues of the IP are available for members to download in PDF format from the Psychological Society of Ireland website ([www.psychologicalsociety.ie](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie)).

The IP editorial team of Dr Suzanne Guerin, Dr Mimi-Tatlow Golden, and Dr Dermot Ryan welcomed Dr Lucia Prihodova as Editor and Ms Jessica Meaney as Editorial Assistant. The team receives significant input and support from the staff in the PSI office, particularly Lisa Stafford, Niamh O’Byrne, and Heather Weight for which we are very grateful. We work with David McMahon, Glenn Egan and the team at Shape Branding & Design on the design and production of the magazine and we are very grateful to the team for their support in maximising the professional appearance and impact of the IP.

The IP team is committed to disseminating information and highlighting issues of relevance to members of the Society. IP content includes articles, short reports and event reports. The regular *Society News* section of the IP continues to feature reports from groups within PSI, news and information for members and PSI event reviews. Our aim is to ensure that members of the Society see the IP as the way to promote and share the activities of the Society, including flagship events such as the Annual Conference, and Division and SIG meetings and events. Throughout 2015 we continued to work with groups within the Society to develop relevant special features, with topics this year including the PSI Annual Conference 2015, *Celebrating Student Achievement*, *Health Psychology in Ireland*, and the *Special Interest Group for Child and Adolescent Psychology Half Day Conference*. In the context of the historic passing of the referendum on marriage equality in 2015, the IP was delighted to include coverage of the launch of PSI’s *Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients* by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny in our May issue.

There also continues to be a mix of review and empirical articles from members and others including *Service Evaluation in Health Settings and How do you do Self-Care?* and our valentine-themed February issue, which explored *Factors Associated with Romantic Relationship Satisfaction in Younger and Older Adulthood*. The IP team also once again produced a supplement listing abstracts from the PSI Annual Conference in November.

The team is very grateful for the support received from all those who have submitted content and wish to thank authors both within and outside the Society for their contributions in 2015. The editors welcome and encourage contributions, suggestions and feedback from members and groups within PSI, and from external authors. We are also happy to respond to queries regarding possible submissions. All correspondence regarding the IP should be directed to the editorial team by email to [irishpsychologist@psihq.ie](mailto:irishpsychologist@psihq.ie).

**Dr Suzanne Guerin**

**Dr Lucia Prihodova**

**Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden**

**Dr Dermot Ryan**

**Ms Jessica Meaney**

### 1.8.3 Communications Subgroup

#### Communications Subgroup Members

The members of the Communications Subgroup were Dr Margaret O' Rourke (Chair from February 2015), Dr Paul D'Alton (Chair from December 2015), Dr Michael Drumm (stepped down March 2015), David Hayes (stepped down December 2015), Vincent McDarby, Dr Eva Doherty, Dr Marie Murray, Jenna Parsons (stepped down December 2015), Patrick Healy, Mark Smyth, Karen Neylon, Lucia Prihodova, and Dr Malie Coyne. PSI staff member Lisa Stafford supported the Subgroup.

#### Meetings

The Subgroup met on the following dates in 2015:

16th February	27th April	22nd June
25th August	15th December	

#### Highlights

##### • Proactive promotion opportunities work plan

- » To coincide with the Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Day, the PSI issued a press release entitled *Advice on how to best cope with a diagnosis of cancer – 10 tips from the Psychological Society of Ireland*;
- » The Society was joined by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, T.D., for the launch of the PSI's *Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients*;
- » Leaving and Junior Certificate exams, as well as back to school anxieties were targeted with members of the Subgroup providing various interviews to media outlets;
- » The Society's Annual Conference provided the opportunity for various presentations and topics to be highlighted to the media;
- » Planning for a lecture promoting positive psychology in Ireland with Dr Martin Seligman took place during 2015

##### • Reactive media

- » The issuing of a press release, entitled *Psychological Society of Ireland President warns of the detrimental emotional consequences the Marriage Equality Debate may have, to coincide with the Marriage Referendum*;
- » The issuing of a statement from the Society condemning the American Psychological Association's involvement with abusive interrogation.

##### • Social media

- » The Subgroup aimed to develop the use of social media, particularly Twitter, and a proposal to progress the PSI's Twitter presence was approved by Council. A number of PSI monitored Twitter debates were planned with the first taking place in September to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day, on which the PSI also issued a press release entitled *Why the Psychological Society of Ireland is supporting World Suicide Prevention Day*;
- » The Subgroup identified the need for a PSI social media strategy and work began on progressing this.

##### • Annual Conference workshop

A Communications Subgroup workshop for the Annual Conference was proposed and approved by the Annual Conference Committee. Subgroup members Vincent McDarby and Mark Smyth delivered the workshop, which was entitled *#WeneedtotalkaboutSocialMedia: Medium or menace? What psychologists should know*. The workshop proved to be of huge interest to Conference delegates, with feedback being extremely positive.

At the final meeting, Dr Paul D'Alton joined the Subgroup and took up the role of Chair. The Subgroup was also joined by newly appointed PSI CEO Terri Morrissey. The Subgroup took the decision to utilise the PSI strategic plan and base specific activities of the Communications Subgroup off this.

#### Lisa Stafford

#### PSI PR and Events Manager

## 2 Divisions

### 2.1 Behaviour Analysis

#### Committee membership

The Division of Behaviour Analysis committee membership consists of Prof. Julian Leslie (Chairperson), Dr Jennifer Holloway (Secretary/Treasurer), Dr Maeve Bracken (Membership Secretary), Dr Helena Lydon (Communications Officer), and Dr Rita Honan, Deborah Ging, Dr Michelle Kelly, and Kathryn O'Mahony (Committee members).

#### Meetings

The following meetings were held in 2015:

3rd February	25th April	20th August
20th October	15th December	

#### Membership

Membership of the Division for 2015 was 40.

#### Activities/ Events for 2015

The Division held its Ninth Annual Conference in the Galway Bay Hotel on April 17th-18th, 2015. The DBA is delighted that this meeting is growing in attendance year on year. As in previous years, the meeting was well supported by the behavior analysis community, with leading experts from Ireland and the US. The Conference was well attended by academics, clinicians and students from Ireland and Europe. The Conference opened on Friday 17th April with the two workshops by Professor Brian Iwata (University of Florida) on Clinical Challenges for function Analysis Methodology and Professor Julian Leslie (Ulster University) on Applying Behaviour Analysis to Sustainability. This was followed by a refreshments and a poster session which showcased a wide array of research being undertaken by students across Irish Universities currently completing courses in Behaviour Analysis. The evening was drawn to a close with a social event.

The second day consisted of a series of three parallel sessions, with a wide variety of both experimental and applied research. Presentations were of extremely high quality and covered a diverse range of areas including: Applications of Behaviour Analysis in Special Schools, Teaching Skills for school, Evidence based practice and "non-evidence based practice", Relational Frame Theory and Behavioural Fluency. Sessions were interspersed by two keynote speeches from Prof. Peter Killeen (Arizona State University) on *The four causes of ADHD* and Prof. Brian Iwata (University of Florida) on *Continuing Controversy over Shock*. The second day was drawn to a close by a panel discussion chaired by Denis O'Hora (National University of Ireland, Galway). Dr O' Hora invited questions from the audience and engaged both the panel and audience in a lively discussion on various current topics in behaviour analysis in Ireland.

#### Other highlights from the year

In addition to the Annual Conference the DBA also hosted a continuing education workshop by Dr Rita Honan on Supervision Requirements of the BACB on November 28th, so that members could fulfill their BCBA requirement for training in supervision. This offered Board Certified Behavior Analysts the opportunities to discuss issues in ethics in practice and supervision of trainee behaviour analysts.

**Dr Helena Lydon**

**Communications Officer**

## 2.2 Clinical Psychology

### Committee membership

The Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) committee membership for 2015 was Aidan McKiernan (Chairperson), Jonathan Egan (Secretary and Vice Chair), Helen Long (Membership Secretary), Paul Horgan (Treasurer), Aoife Menton (Communications/PR Officer), John Bogue (Events Organiser), Cian Aherne (Trainee Rep.), Noelle Aherne (Trainee Rep.), Brian McGuire (Ordinary Member), Rosemary Walsh (Ordinary Member), Eva Doherty (Ordinary Member), Michele Coyle (Ordinary Member).

### Meetings

The Division held five meetings during 2015:

30th January	3rd April	13th May
26th August	13th November	

### Membership

The DCP membership numbers for 2015 were 220; eight new members joined the Division, and there was no fall-off in membership during that time.

### Activities/Events for 2015

CPD activities included:

- A one-day workshop on *Courtroom Skills Training*, facilitated by La Touche Training;
- Public event hosted jointly by the DCP, Trinity College Dublin, the Mental Health Commission and Health Service Executive on the recently published document *Understanding Psychosis*, from the Division of Clinical Psychology within the BPS. The document concerns the causes and treatment of schizophrenia and other psychoses and aims to redress the balance with regard to the historical focus on biological underpinnings to a new understanding of the psychological and social aspects of psychosis; both in terms of how we as clinicians understand these experiences and also what can do to help when they become distressing. This event was very well attended by both clinicians, allied health professionals and the 'experts through experience'; individuals using the mental health services on a daily basis;
- Seminar from Dr Bessel van der Kolk entitled *Traumatic Stress: Therapeutic Implications of Neuroscience Research* jointly hosted by the DCP, Saint John of God Hospital and the Health Service Executive and held at St. John of God Conference Centre. The talk focused on recent developments in the treatment of PTSD, and the effects that they have been shown to have on the recovery of traumatised individuals;

- Talk from Dr Padraig Collins on "The Recovery movement in Ireland - What Clinical Psychologists Need to Know" following from AGM in November 2015. Dr Collins spoke about the fact that mental health is everyone's business and presented an overview of Mental Health Trialogue Network Ireland (MHTNI); a community development initiative in Irish mental health which aims to empower communities in Ireland to become proactive in communicating about mental health through open dialogue and participatory process called 'Triologue'.

Other activities of the DCP throughout 2015

- Development of a competency framework for Clinical Psychology with input from representatives of HPSI, all training programmes and IMPACT Vocational Group. The process is still on-going
- Consultation to the HSE review of recruitment criteria
- Establishment of a Twitter account @DCPPSI
- Continued efforts were made to increase engagement with our members, including disseminating info regarding recruitment opportunities and sourcing group (discount) schemes to promote wellness among our members (including gyms and fitness centres, and Mindfulness courses)
- Membership Survey carried out in order to seek out members' views on the focus and function of the DCP.
- Throughout the year, members were invited to input into DCP activities (e.g. PSI Draft Supervision Guidelines)

**Dr Aoife Menton**

**Chair**

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## 2.3 Counselling Psychology

### Committee membership

The Division of Counselling Psychology (DCoP) committee membership for 2015 was Cormac O'Connor (Chair), Dermot O'Callaghan (Vice-Chair), Ian O'Grady (CPD Officer), Megan Gaffney (Secretary), Nicola Elmer (Membership Secretary), Daragh Keogh (Treasurer), Barbara Hannigan, Jean McCabe Strange (CPD Officer), Clíodhna O'Donovan, Catherine Long, Marianne Wall, Michaela Spiteri Paris, Katie O'Brien, Mairead Murray (Student Representative), and Maria Leahy, Rachel Flanagan, (Student Representative)

### Meetings

Seven meetings of the Division of Counselling Psychology Committee were held during the 2015 term on:

21st January	21st March	14th May
27th June	5th September	5th October
14th November		

### Membership

The Division has full members and affiliate members. Applicants seeking membership of the Division through equivalency will now be processed through the PSI's MQRC, rather than the Division Committee. This change was approved at the public meeting at the PSI Conference in 2015 and has subsequently been ratified by PSI Council.

### Activities/ Events

2015 was a busy year and the Division ran several popular CPD events, beginning with "Theraplay", a play based attachment focused therapy for families. The 4-day training was booked out and well received. In April, the Division ran a certified training in the Comprehensive Resource Model with the trauma model's developer, Lisa Schwartz.

The Division, alongside the Department of Applied Psychology in University College Cork, hosted a CPD event in Cork in April titled "Working Successfully in Private Practice" by Prof. Robert Bor. This CPD event was a great success, with many participants requesting more CPD events in Cork to cater for people in the Munster area. A second event was subsequently run out of UCC in October on resilience building by Dr Dermot Casey, Counselling Psychologist.

Attachment Based Family Therapy (ABFT), an evidence based approach for working with depressed and suicidal adolescents and their caregivers, was run in May. The Doctorate in Counselling Psychology in Trinity College Dublin collaborated with the Division to host a one-day workshop which was very well attended. A further 2 days of therapy skills were presented by the team from Drexel University in Pennsylvania, USA.

The Division collaborated on Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT) level 1 and 2 trainings with the Institute of Emotion-Focused Therapy (iEFT). Rhonda Goldman, Ladislav Timulak, and Robert Elliot presented these events.

In June, the Division ran a joint event with the Learning Disabilities Special Interest Group entitled "Let's talk about sex: working with the sexual needs of people with intellectual disabilities".

In conjunction with the Student Affairs Group and the Early Graduate Group, the Division hosted "Are you really 'SO, OCD'? – An overview of what OCD is and isn't" by Dr Jeff Szymanski. This lecture was followed by a two-day training in the treatment of OCD.

In September, Dr Ladislav Timulak (Trinity College Dublin), in collaboration with the DCoP, delivered a lecture titled "Transforming Emotional Pain in Psychotherapy".

Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) level 1 training was delivered by Dan Hughes in November.

### Other highlights from the year

The Division continues to promote a competency based recruitment practice for the employment of psychologists. The Division held an emergency general meeting (EGM) in June 2015 to discuss the Division liaising with the Health Service Executive review group. Representatives of the Division, along with members of PSI Council have met with the Health Service Executive review group to promote a best practice model of employment of psychologists.

Efforts to engage the Health Service Executive in meaningful dialogue by PSI Council are ongoing. The Division of Counselling Psychology has made representations to a range of employers informing them of the merits of Counselling Psychology training and practice. The majority of employers contacted have changed their criteria for current or future roles. The Division continues to offer support and guidance to members who are challenging current exclusions by the HSE and other employers. The Division also continues to liaise with the PSI in relation to promoting greater cover of psychologists by the private health insurers.

### Representation on external committees

The DCoP has representation on PSI Council and the SCOPE committee.

**Cormac O'Connor, Chair, and Megan Gaffney, Secretary**

## 2.4 Educational Psychology

### Committee membership

The Division of Educational Psychology (DEP) committee for 2015 was Kevin Keane (Chairperson), Des Swan (Deputy Chair), Peadar Crowley (Membership Secretary), Rita Wall (Treasurer), Michelle Howard (Committee Member), Kieran Sweeney (Committee Member), John Doyle (Committee Member), Susanne Parkinson (Committee Member), Lorraine O'B Madden (Committee Member).

### Meetings

The Committee met on eight occasions this year. The dates were as follows:

3rd February	9th March	20th April
20th May (AGM)	15th June	7th September
19th October	7th December	

### Membership

The DEP had 157 Full- members and 26 Affiliate members by the end of December 2015.

### Activities/ Events for 2015

As part of our ongoing workshops/CPD sessions primarily for our members, Eithne Shaloo facilitated a workshop on the WIPPSI IV, which was well attended. Patsy Daly's Full -Day CPD training on 'Functional Assessment' was greatly received by those who attended. John Sharry presented a well-attended talk on 'A Strengths Based Approach to Helping Children Overcome Anxiety, Particularly School Anxiety' at our AGM in May.

### Symposium at PSI conference

The DEP sponsored newly qualified educational psychologists to present at the Educational Psychology Division's Conference Symposium at the PSI Conference in Galway in November 2015.

### Representation on external Committees

- **PSI Council** – Kevin Keane and Billy Kinsella represented educational psychology on Council in 2015.
- **Standing Committee on Psychology in Education at the European Federation of Psychologist's Association (EFPA)** - Dr Jacqueline Horan is our representative on this committee. She attended a meeting in Prague in May 2015 and provided feedback to the DEP committee. The programme of work shown below, involving an **Action Plan and Activities** was agreed, at the meeting in Prague in May 2015. This forms the basis for subsequent meetings and the activities of the Standing Committee on Psychology in Education for 2015/17.

### Action Plan 2015/17 with four main areas;

- » **Improving communication among psychologists in education** (practitioners, researchers, academics, associations), by attendance at the meetings of the Standing Committee on Psychology in Education, liaison with national associations, discussion on competencies
  - » **Follow up of the topic 'Inclusive Education' combined with child-rights based practice** Inclusive Education has been the main topic during the working period 2011-2013. This topic is being followed up with a publication focusing on the school psychologists' role in inclusive education.
  - » **Creating networks between psychologists' organizations.** Striving to come to an understanding with the European School Psychology Centre for Training (ESPCT), establishing meetings with the Community Psychology Standing Committee and the Educational Affairs Board on the EFPA Council.
  - » **Reviewing and analysing experiences for assessing educational services.**
- **DARE** - Suzanne Mc Carthy is our representative on the DARE Advisory Board. No meetings took place during 2015.

### Other highlights from the year

- **HSE Recruitment Process:** The DEP was represented by Kevin Keane and Michelle Howard at a meeting with the HSE Review Group on 'The eligibility criteria for employment of psychologists in the HSE' in July 2015. The Division representatives provided information to the HSE group on the range of roles an Educational Psychologist could discharge in the HSE. It was felt that the meeting was very constructive and will have very significant implications for the future employment prospects of our members. It highlights also the critical role played by our Division and by the PSI as a whole in negotiating with State bodies, thereby maximising employment possibilities for our members.
- **Current Projects:** The DEP committee has progressed and continues to work on its project of reviewing current training provision for Educational Psychologists (EPs) that may inform policy development in this field.

Kevin Keane  
Chair

## 2.5 Forensic Psychology

### Committee membership

The members of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) in 2015 were Dr Patrick Randall (Chair), Dr Jeanine De Volder (Treasurer), Dr Davina Walsh (Membership Officer).

### Meetings

The DFP held a meeting at the 2015 PSI Annual Conference. The meeting was attended by three members and five interested parties. At this meeting membership criteria were reviewed with a view to relaxing some of the stringent conditions attached to membership. The Division of Forensic Psychology is the only division requiring members to be a member of another division in order to be considered eligible for full practitioner membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology.

### Membership

The number of members for 2015 was 17.

### Activities/ Events

The Division of Forensic Psychology provided a workshop together with the Intellectual Disabilities Special Interest Group on Risk Assessment for clients with intellectual disabilities. This workshop was well attended and lively contributions from those attending resulted in enhanced learning for both participants and facilitators alike.

Division of Forensic Psychology members, Dr Jeanine De Volder and Dr Patrick Randall, also provided a one day workshop for the Division of Counselling Psychologists entitled "Let's Talk About Sex". Members provided training in dealing with issues related to sexual expression in a population of clients with intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injury. Human rights and dignity of the person were central to the discussions that followed that examined organisational constraints and policy relating to sexual behaviour.

Dr Davina Walsh (Membership Officer) provided an insight into the professional life of a Forensic Psychologist to the Student Affairs Group. Highlights that emerged from this included common misperceptions around the nature of work of Forensic Psychologists, and the glamourisation of the role in the media. The lack of a training course and a career structure for Forensic Psychologists also emerged as a talking point, as did differences between the British and Irish models of working.

The Division of Forensic Psychology continued to face the ongoing challenges of low membership, the lack of a career path, and no work prospects for early career psychologists. In point of fact, there are no early career Forensic Psychologists in Ireland. This is understandable given the fact that membership criteria for Full Practitioner status requires Forensic Division applicants to be a member of another division. Thereafter the applicants have to have accrued three years full time service in a forensic setting. After this they are considered to be eligible for Full Practitioner status within the division. This lengthy and arduous process together with the perceived lack of benefit likely impedes prospective members from considering membership of the Forensic Division.

A number of research projects examining forensic issues in Ireland have been conducted at doctoral level. This indicates that there is an interest in forensic topics and issues. These appear to be addressed by clinical and counselling psychologists with a forensic interest who are unlikely to work in a forensic area in Ireland in the future, given the lack of work opportunities available to them. The Forensic Division thus finds itself at a crossroads given the aforementioned dilemmas. While we would like to continue to advance the field of Forensic Psychology in Ireland this presents a significant challenge at this time as to how to grow the interest in forensic psychology, the Division of Forensic Psychology, and the career of Forensic Psychology.

Our focus for the coming year will be to canvass members' opinions on these matters as to how to generate enthusiasm and activity in what is an exciting and stimulating area of work. In addition, the Division of Forensic Psychology would benefit from more members taking up positions on the Division Committee and making themselves available for election to senior positions within the Division of Forensic Psychology.

**Dr Patrick Randall**  
Chair

## 2.6 Health Psychology

### Committee membership

Members of the Division of Health Psychology (DHP) committee in 2015 were Gerry Molloy (Chair), Frank Doyle (Past Chair), Lisa Hynes (Hon. Treasurer), Lisa Mellon (Hon. Secretary), Teresa Corbett (Public Relations), Mary Ivers (Membership Secretary), Jenny McSharry, Stephen Gallagher, Catherine Darker, Molly Byrne, Sally Doherty. Samantha Dockray and Vincent McDarby were subsequently co-opted. Sally Doherty stepped down during 2015.

### Meetings

The DHP held the following meetings in 2015

3rd February,	1st April, AGM	17th July
25th September	11th November	

### Membership

In 2015 the DHP had 56 members (47 full members and 9 Affiliate members).

### Activities/ Events

- 1st April 2015: The 12th Annual *Psychology, Health and Medicine Conference*, an event hosted by the DHP of the PSI in association with the DHP of the British Psychological Society, Northern Ireland Branch was held at Queens University Belfast. Keynotes at this event included Dr Jane Walsh (NUI Galway); Professor Marijn de Bruin (University of Aberdeen) and Professor Nanette Mutrie (University of Edinburgh).
- 8th June 2015: *Innovations in Health Psychology Conference* held at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The Innovations in Health Psychology conference celebrated the 21st anniversary since the establishment of the Masters course in Health Psychology at NUI Galway. The event highlighted existing work by health psychologists nationally and internationally, and provided a forum for discussion of future opportunities and challenges. Dr James Browne, NUI Galway President, officially opened the event, and was followed by Dr AnnMarie Groarke (Head of School of Psychology, NUI Galway) and Professor Hannah McGee (RCSI) who provided an overview of health psychology in Ireland. There were keynotes from Professor Marie Johnston (University of Aberdeen), Professor John Weinman (King's College London) and shorter contributions from a wide range of colleagues from the world of Health Psychology.

- 13th October 2015: Dr Catherine Darker and Dr Frank Doyle presented at the *Institute of Public Health: Open Conference*. The title of this oral presentation was: The Healthy Ireland Framework and health behaviour change to improve public health. Dr Darker serves on the Healthy Ireland Council in the Department of Health. The presentation outlined a range of current health psychology activities related to public health and the government's Healthy Ireland Framework in particular.

### Achievements/ Awards

An Early Career Investigator Award was established by the PSI Division of Health Psychology (DHP) in 2015. After review by an independent panel of academics (Professor Marie Johnston, University of Aberdeen; Dr David Hevey, TCD, and Dr AnnMarie Groarke, NUI Galway) it was decided that the inaugural recipient of the award would be Dr Frank Doyle, from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).

Dr Jenny McSharry from NUI Galway was the winner of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) Early Career Award. This award aims to recognise outstanding research excellence, contributions made to the EHPS and/or contributions to professional practice made by EHPS members within five years of their PhD. Jenny was nominated by Dr Molly Byrne (NUI Galway) for the award.

Representation on external committees

- PSI Council: Vincent McDarby
- PSI's Irish Journal of Psychology (IJP): Frank Doyle
- PSI Communications Subgroup of PSI Council: Vincent McDarby
- PSI Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee (MQRC): Vincent McDarby
- PSI Special Interest Group in Paediatric Psychology (SIGPeP): Vincent McDarby (Chair) and Gerry Molloy (member)
- PSI Special Interest Group in Media, Arts and Cyberpsychology (SIGMAC): Vincent McDarby (Treasurer)

### Other highlights from the year

- 24th of July 2015: The Chair (Gerry Molloy) and Past Chair (Frank Doyle) met with the Health Service Executive 'Psychologists Eligibility Criteria Review Group' chaired by Michael Casserly to discuss current Health Psychology training and HSE posts in Ireland. A written submission was submitted on the 30th July on behalf of the DHP.

**Dr Gerry Molloy**

**Chair**

## 2.7 Neuropsychology

### Committee membership

Members of the Division of Neuropsychology (DoN) committee in 2015 were Dr Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Dr Sarah Clarke (Secretary), Dr Brian Waldron (Treasurer), Dr Garret McDermott (Membership Secretary), Tom Burke (Information Officer), Dr Neil Austin, Dr Simone Carton, Dr Sarah Casey, Dr Robert Coen, Dr Cathal McAuliffe, Dr Fiadhnaith O'Keeffe, Dr Corinne Pearson, Dr Elaine Rogers, Dr Melanie Ryberg, and Dr Mark Mulrooney.

### Meetings

The following meetings were held in 2015:

30th January	20th March	29th May
17th July	25th September	2nd October
9th October	13th November	13th November, AGM

### Membership

The Division of Neuropsychology had 65 members in 2015.

### Activities/ Events

- 29th May, Full Day CPD event: *Neuropsychology Approaches to Disability: Assessment and Support Strategies*. Speakers covered a range of topics including the contribution of neuropsychology in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities (Dr Garret McDermott), assessing and supporting adults with severe and profound intellectual disabilities (Dr John Buttimer), diagnosing and supporting foetal alcohol syndrome (Dr Cathal McAuliffe), positive behaviour support (Dr Brian McClean) and a practical session on mindfulness-based approaches for adults with intellectual disability (Dr Catherine Jackman).
- 16th October, Full Day CPD event: *Supporting Relationships Following Acquired Brain Injury*. Internationally-invited and keynote speaker on this topic, Dr Giles Yeates presented ideas drawn from systemic family therapy, couples therapy, social neuroscience and social cognition rehabilitation to equip clinicians in thinking about and working with relationships of all kinds in neuro-rehabilitation.
- 14th November, 45th Annual Conference PSI: Neuropsychology Assessment Workshop.  
Firstly, Dr Robert Coen, Mercer's institute for Research on Ageing, and Dr Garret McDermott, North Dublin Older Adult Mental Health Team, presented a discussion on the assessment of fronto-temporal dementia and its variants. In the second part of the workshop, Dr Simone Carton, Dr Heather Cronin and Dr Sarah O'Doherty from the National Rehabilitation Hospital presented the

commonly used behaviour inventories in brain injury assessments and highlighted the discordance between the descriptors of clinical symptoms and the diverse and fluctuating presentations of those same symptoms in clinical practice. The attendees, who included some of the leading practitioners in the field, were asked to identify the important clinical issues to consider when evaluating behaviour in the context of neurological disease/damage. This led to the creation of a DoN Neurobehaviour Inventory (DoNNBI) which the DoN plans to develop further.

### Achievements/ Awards

Provided input on the role and importance of neuropsychological aspects of care for:

- Health Service Executive (HSE) Epilepsy Plan Model of Care;
- HSE Rehabilitation Medicine Plan Model of Care;
- HSE Neurology Plan Model of Care;
- HSE Older People Mental Health Plan Model of Care.

### Representation on external committees

DoN committee members were very active in ensuring that the important contribution of neuropsychological aspects of care were included in HSE National Plans for Models of Care. Committee members reviewed the neuropsychological aspects of the Epilepsy, and Rehabilitation and Medicine Models of Care and participated in the development of the National Plan for Neurology, and Older People Mental Health. DoN Committee Members who attended meetings or contributed to phone conferences with HSE representatives are: Dr Robert Coen, Dr Simone Carton, Dr Neil Austin, Dr Brian Waldron and Dr Mary FitzGerald.

### Other highlights from the year

The 9th commemorative medal and honorarium in memory of the late Dr Deirdre McMackin was awarded at the 45th PSI Annual Conference held in Galway 11-14 November. This year's award was presented to Tom Burke, Beaumont Hospital and TCD.

The DoN Information Officer has developed and managed the Twitter account @DONPSI very effectively, providing the latest Division and related neuropsychological news to an increasing number of followers.

### Dr Mary FitzGerald

#### Chair

## 2.8 Teachers and Researchers in Psychology

### Committee membership

The Division of Teachers and Researchers in Psychology (DTRiP) committee members for 2015-2016 were Sinéad Meade (Chair), Dr Lorraine Boran (Secretary), Dr David Hevey, Dr Suzanne Egan, Dr Aileen O'Reilly, Dr James Brunton, Jerry Dixon, Dr Catriona O'Toole, Dr Maria Dempsey and Orla Walsh. In 2015 committee member and previous Chair Dr Suzanne Guerin stood down from the Committee due to work commitments. Dr Aileen O'Reilly stood down as Treasurer and continues to sit on the Committee. The Committee wishes to thank both Suzanne and Aileen for their hard work and commitment to the Division.

### Meetings

The following meetings were held by DTRiP:

2nd May	26th September	14th November
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The Division held its AGM and Annual Half Day Conference titled 'Research with Children and Young People: Exploring contemporary ideas, paradigms and approaches' on Saturday 26th September at the Psychological Society of Ireland Headquarters, Grantham House, Dublin.

Committee meetings were held on: practice in teaching and research in psychology; to provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge and expertise; to promote and maintain high ethical and professional standards among teachers and researchers in psychology; to promote and encourage scientific research as it applies to teaching and learning within psychology and to promote the use of scientific methods in psychological research; to liaise with relevant bodies in the promotion of the goals of the Division and its members; to represent the views of psychology teachers and researchers within PSI.

### Membership

The membership of the Division currently stands at 44 in total.

### Activities & Events

In 2015, the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education launched a consultation on proposals for the establishment and management of a professional development framework for those who teach in Irish higher education. The Committee submitted a response in June 2015

- The 4th DTRiP Annual Half Day Conference & AGM took place on Saturday 26th September 2015 at the Psychological Society of Ireland Headquarters, Grantham House, Dublin. The focus of this event was 'Research with Children and Young People: Exploring contemporary ideas, paradigms and approaches' and it was chaired by Dr Catriona O'Toole (Maynooth University). Expert speakers Professor Nóirín Hayes (TCD), Dr Sinéad McGilloway (Maynooth University) and Dr Elizabeth Dixon (TCD) gave very informative and engaging talks on various ideas, paradigms, and approaches to research with children
- A symposium on the topic of 'Research in Applied Settings' which was convened by Sinéad Meade (IADT) was held at the Annual PSI Conference in Galway on Saturday 15th November 2015
- The Division invited applications for the DTRiP stipend competition for one early graduate psychologist to present at the Annual PSI Conference in Galway, 2015. The standard of applications was very high. The Division awarded the stipend to Holly Corboy (Kings College London) to present her paper based on a systematic review and case studies on the acceptability and feasibility of Cognitive Remediation Therapy (CRT) on inpatients with psychosis as part of the DTRiP symposium
- The DTRiP e-bulletin was circulated to members

### Sinéad Meade

#### Chair

## 2.9 Work and Organisational Psychology

### Committee membership

The Division of Work and Organisational Psychology (DWOP) committee members in 2015 were Clare Mulligan (Chair), Sarah Heywood (Secretary), Kathleen Halligan (Chair Elect), Jennifer Grogan (Membership Secretary), Mike Murphy (Membership Secretary), Anna Connolly (Chair CPD), Sandra Healy (CPD sub-committee), Aoife Lyons (CPD sub-committee), Caroline Conlon (Supervision, and DWOP representative on PSI Council), Joan Tiernan (EAWOP Liaison and Research), Evin Cowhey (Newsletter and Social Media), Lisa McGoldrick (Newsletter and Social Media), Emma Murphy (Newsletter and Social Media). Ordinary Members - Farzana Maudarbaccus, Melrona Kirrane, Jerry Dixon, and Eunice McCarthy.

### Meetings

The committee meets every month throughout the year with the exception of August. In addition, a joint DWOP/DWOP CPG meeting is held at the beginning of the year to set out the programme of CPD activities for the year. Representatives from the committee also attended regular meetings in relation to organising EAWOP 2017.

### Membership

There are 103 members of DWOP. Of the 103 members of DWOP 93 are full members of DWOP and 73 are registered members.

### Activities/ Events

DWOP delivered a programme of CPD events throughout the year, in partnership with our colleagues in the DWOP Coaching Psychology Group (CPG). The following events were delivered by DWOP in 2015:

- February – Toxic Leadership – the dark side;
- April – Workforce Analytics ;
- June – Careers in Organisational Psychology;
- October – The creative workspace.

### Achievements/ Awards

European Work and Organisational Psychology Conference (EAWOP) will be coming to Dublin in 2017 and the committee has been very involved with the organisation. DWOP, and in particular Dr Joan Tiernan, has been organising the Conference in partnership with the PSI and our Conference Organiser MCI. DWOP attended EAWOP 2015 in Oslo and helped promote the 2017 Conference with a very positive reaction from attendees. Sub-committees have been set up led by Dr Joan Tiernan and Dr Melrona Kirrane to lead the committees for the Conference.

### Representation on external committees

Dr Eunice McCarthy serves on the board of IAAC. Dr Joan Tiernan is our representative on EAWOP and a member of the European Editorial Advisory Board of the *Coaching Psychologist*.

### DWOP Profile and Public Relations

DWOP have continued to grow their social media presence. The LinkedIn page is established and now has 872 members and it actively used by members and the wider community. DWOP has developed their Twitter page with 334 followers and have recently introduced a Facebook page which already has 207 followers.

Our newsletter issues quarterly and in an electronic format that allows us to view which articles are being read by our members. The newsletter is sent out to a database of 317 subscribers.

We continue to enjoy strong professional relationships with several European associations, networks and groups: the European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology (EAWOP); the European Network of Organizational Psychologists (ENOP); the International Association of Applied Psychology.

### Clare Mulligan Chair

## 2.10 Work and Organisational Psychology Coaching Psychology Group

### Committee membership

The Division of Work and Organisational Psychology Coaching Psychology Group (DWOP CPG) committee members in 2015 were Joan Tiernan (Chair), Margaret O'Donnell (Chair Elect), Jerry Dixon (Secretary), Michelle Canny (Treasurer), Marion Lee (Communications & Publications) Ruth Mullally (CPD Co-ordinator), Sandra Conroy (Membership Coordinator), Carmel O'Neill (Supervision), Eunice McCarthy (Research & Supervision), Frank Byrne (Committee Member).

### Meetings

DWOP CPG held six Executive Committee Meetings in 2015:

31st January	21st March	16th May
20th June	12th September (AGM)	26th September

### Membership

The number of members for 2015 was 99.

### Activities/ Events

- 2 CPD Masterclasses
  - » May 2015 Carmel O'Neill and Marian Lee Group Coaching Supervision in Practice
  - » October 2015 Joan Tiernan Independent Research Methods within a Coaching Context
- CPD Seminars
  - » January 2015 Sophie Rowan Coaching and Support for the Unemployed
  - » March 2015 Shane O'Mara Applied Neuroscience and Coaching
  - » September 2015 Jerry Dixon Coaching for Re-employment (After Long-term Unemployment of Change of Jobs)
  - » November 2015 Melrona Kirrane Toxic Work Environment – Coaching for Employees
- 2 Newsletters

Dr Joan Tiernan  
Chair

# 3 Special Interest Groups

## 3.1 Student Affairs Group

### Student Affairs Group (SAG) Committee Membership

The members of the SAG committee during 2015 were Catherine Friend (Chairperson), Christian Korpos (Secretary), Aisling Collins (Outgoing Academic Officer), Katie Doyle (Academic Officer I, previous Ordinary Committee Member), Glynn Higgins (Academic Officer II), Paul Hogan (Outgoing PSI Liaison Officer), Christian Korpos (PSI Liaison Officer), Chloé Beatty (Member Representative for EFPSA), Alex Lee (Vice Member Representative for EFPSA), Jackie Boland (Publications Officer), Ana Maria Olaru (Outgoing Communications Officer), Kim Jennings (Communications Officer I), George Savage (Communications Officer II), Shane Mulligan (Marketing Officer), Marc Corcoran (Welfare and Membership Officer), Dean McDonnell (Ordinary Committee Member), Evan Hunt (Research Officer, previously Ordinary Committee Member), and Oran Moten (Ordinary Committee Member).

### Activities/ Events

- BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition at the RDS in January
- Student Showcase in May
- Student exchange in June, July, and August
- College road shows in October
- Counselling psychology (Dr Ladislav Timulak, Ms. Jenny Nolan) October 20th
- Clinical psychology (Dr Paul D'Alton, Dr Kevin O' Hanrahan) November 17th
- PSI Annual Conference support team November
- Student Research Seminar at the PSI Annual Conference November 2015
- EFPSA TRAC training event and Study Skills workshop December 17th 2015

Participated in events with (via co-advertising, facilitation or onsite voluntary support)

- SafeTalk Training December, NCI Dublin

### Representation on external committees

EFPSA Executive Board and Member Representatives 2015/2016

Catherine Friend

Chair

## 3.2 Early Graduate Group

### Early Graduate Group (EGG) Committee Members

The EGG committee members during 2015 were John Smyth (Graduate Liaison Officer), Rachel Kenny (Chair), Barry Sheppard (Secretary), Amy O'Dea (Events Coordinator), Geraldine McNamara (Events Coordinator), Caroline Wheeler (Communications Officer), Mark O'Flaherty (Communications Officer), Chris Noone (Conference Coordinator), Maebh O'Connor (Research Coordinator), Aoibhinn Tormey (Research Coordinator), Katie Doherty (Ordinary Committee Member), Emma O'Brien (Ordinary Committee Member), and Niamh Kelly O'Neill (Ordinary Committee Member).

### Meetings

During 2015, Committee meetings took place on the following dates:

21st January	11th February	11th March
15th April	12th May	10th June
19th August	23rd September	21st October
18th November	15th December	

### Activities/ Events

- February: PSI Early Graduate Group One-day Conference for Early Career Psychologists – *The Place of Psychology in Irish Society*. Keynote speakers - Dr Geraldine Moane and Prof. Brian Hughes
- April: Neuropsychological Formulation within an Acute Hospital Setting (joint event with Division of Neuropsychology). Speakers - Dr Garret McDermot and Dr Sarah Clarke
- May: The Role of Technology in Clinical Practice (joint event with SIGMAC). Speakers - Connal Tunney and Ellen Brady
- August: Are You Really so OCD? - An Overview of What OCD Is and Isn't (joint event with Division of Counselling Psychology). Speaker - Dr Jeff Szymanski
- September: Accredited College Roadshow - Why Should I join the PSI? (joint event with SAG). Speakers - Ger McNamara and Catherine Friend
- 31st October: Schema Therapy Workshop. Speaker - Eamon Smith

### Other highlights from the year

The second annual PSI Early Graduate Group (EGG) One-day Conference for Early Career Psychologists (ECPs) was held on 28th February in National University of Ireland, Galway. The theme of the Conference was *The Place of Psychology in Irish Society*. Thought-provoking keynote speeches were presented by Prof. Brian Hughes and Dr Geraldine Moane. Delegates had the opportunity to present their research, network with peers and attend workshops relevant to ECPs. EGG committee members, Rachel Kenny and Maebh O'Connor also presented quantitative and qualitative findings from the EGG research project on the experiences of Early Career Psychologists in Ireland.

In March 2015, *the Irish Psychologist* published a special feature which focused on supporting the development of Early Career Psychologists. A research article, entitled, *A Profile of Early Career Psychologists in Ireland*, described quantitative results from the EGG ECP survey. Key findings from this article were the large number of ECPs in Ireland that are fulfilling unpaid employment roles and concerns in relation to training and supervision for ECP roles. This special edition of the IP also published the PSI *Guidelines for the Employment of Assistant Psychologists in Ireland*, which were launched in November 2014.

In September 2015, EGG in conjunction with SAG, ran an Accredited College Roadshow to visit psychology students across Ireland in; Waterford IT, UCC, UL, NUIG, Mary Immaculate College, Trinity, DBS, NUI Maynooth, NCI, Dublin, and UCD.

### 2015 EGG Publications

- O'Connor, M. & Kenny, R. (2015). Event Report: A Profile of Early Career Psychologists in Ireland – Roles, Duties and Challenges. *The Irish Psychologist*, 41(02/03), 51-52
- Tormey, A. (2015). Event Report: Is That It? Reflections on Early Years as a Psychologist. *The Irish Psychologist*, 42(04), 72
- O'Brien, E., Kenny, R., & O'Connor, M. (2015). Special Feature: A Profile of Early Career Psychologists in Ireland. *The Irish Psychologist*, 41(05), 98-102
- Early Graduate Group (2015). Guidelines for the Employment of Assistant Psychologists in Ireland. *The Irish Psychologist*, 41(05), 102-105
- Noone, C. (2015). Event Report: PSI Early Graduate Group One-day Conference for Early Career Psychologists. *The Irish Psychologist*, 41(08), 183-184
- Early Graduate Group (2015). Society News: PSI Early Graduate Group: Mentoring Early Career Psychologists. *The Irish Psychologist*, 41(11), 234

**Maebh O'Connor**  
Chair

### 3.3 Autistic Spectrum Disorders

#### Committee Membership

The members of the Special Interest Group in Autistic Spectrum Disorders for 2015 were Sonia Morris (Chair), Jacinta McComish (Treasurer), Anne O'Connor (Secretary), Paula Cummins (Public Relations Officer). Ordinary Committee Members were Aisling Whelan, Aoife Martin, Arthur O'Reilly, Cathal Lissey, Christine Chapple, Damien Connolly, Davida Hartman, Lorraine Crawley, Louise Condon, Mark Latimer, Mitchel Fleming, Miriam O'Donohue, Moira Kennedy, Rita Honan

#### Membership

The group now has 115 members.

#### Activities this year

After a very busy year in 2014 developing our best practice guidelines, the SIG was quite dormant this year. As a group, however, we continued to engage with the public and maintained regular communication with our members. Much information was exchanged between members through the group, including developments in practice, upcoming events and media coverage of ASD. Our membership steadily increased this year. We had two meetings during the year which focused on event organisation. A survey of our members was taken to ascertain what type of events would be of most benefit. The results of this survey have been used to organise many of the events scheduled for 2016.

**Sonia Morris**

**Chair**

## 3.4 Child and Adolescent Psychology

### Committee Membership

The members of the Special Interest Group in Child and Adolescent Psychology (SIGCAP) for 2015 were Caroline Rawdon (Co-Chair), Catherine O'Melia (Co-Chair), Aisling O'Dwyer O'Brien (Secretary), Ailbhe Booth (Treasurer), Mairead Diviney (PR Officer), Claire Keogh (Membership Officer), MahRukh Masood (Ordinary Committee Member), Louise McEntee (Ordinary Committee Member), Sharon Scott (Ordinary Committee Member), Ciara Raleigh (Ordinary Committee Member), Liam Shine (Ordinary Committee Member), and Alanna Donnelly (Ordinary Committee Member).

Sub-committee (Clued In Project):

Alanna Donnelly, Christine O'Farrelly, Mimi Tatlow-Golden, Deirdre Cowman, Ruth Davidson, Ruth McIntyre, Catherine O'Melia

### Meetings

Occasional meetings were held at PSI HQ, Grantham Street, Dublin 8, to discuss organisation of evening lecture series and annual half-day conference. Also discussed: membership; financial updates; advertising; and, sub-committee progress.

### Activities/ Events

- **January** – Dr Gillian O'Brien and Dr Aileen O' Reilly from Headstrong contributed to the SIGCAP Evening Lecture Series with a talk entitled "Overview of Jigsaw Youth Mental Health and Emerging Evidence Base". Headstrong is the National Centre for Youth Mental Health and Jigsaw is a network of programmes across Ireland which ensures that young people have access to mental health services. Dr O'Brien held the role of Director of Clinical Governance at Headstrong and Dr O'Reilly is Research Coordinator. Dr O'Brien and Dr O'Reilly were joined by Ms Annie O'Dowd from Headstrong's Youth Advisory Panel who spoke about her role on this panel. An event report was written by Caroline Rawdon (SIGCAP Co-Chair) and this report was published in the Irish Psychologist in March 2015.
- **February** – Dr Niall Muldoon (The Ombudsman for Children) presented a talk entitled "Ombudsman for Children's Office - 10 Years of Growing" as part of the SIGCAP Evening Lecture Series. An event report was written by Catherine O'Melia and Caroline Rawdon (SIGCAP Co-Chairs) for the Irish Psychologist and published in the April 2015 issue.
- **March** – Dr Clodagh Dowling contributed to the SIGCAP Evening Lecture Series with a talk entitled "Eating Disorders and Young People". Dr Dowling is Senior Clinical Psychologist at St Patrick's University Hospital where she works with young people and their parents. An event report was written by Ailbhe Booth (SIGCAP Treasurer) and submitted to the Irish Psychologist for publication.

- **April** – The SIGCAP Annual Half-Day Conference and AGM were held in University College Dublin on the 25th of April 2015. The Conference was entitled *Sexual Development: Education and Support from Childhood to Adolescence*. The Conference brought together a multi-disciplinary audience, with a variety of experiences, relevant to the policy, legislation, research, and practices surrounding this topic in the Irish context.

Speakers were: Mr Colman Noctor, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, St Patrick's Mental Health Services; Dr Margaret Nohilly, Health and Well-Being Team Leader of the Professional Development Service for Teachers; Dr Jennifer Twyford, Clinical and Counselling Psychologist, St. Clare's Unit, Children's University Hospital, Temple Street and Private Practice; Ms Sandra Irwin-Gowran, Director of Education Policy Change, GLEN (Gay + Lesbian Equality Network); Ms Amy Harrison, Youth Officer and Real U Programme Trainer, Foroige.

An event report was written by members of the committee and published in the June 2015 issue of the Irish Psychologist.

- **November** – Dr Gary O'Reilly gave a lecture entitled "Pesky gNATs! Developing Computer Game Based Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Interventions for Young People" for the SIGCAP Evening Lecture Series. Dr O'Reilly is Senior Lecturer and Director of the Doctoral Training Programme in Clinical Psychology at University College Dublin. He also has a part-time appointment as a Principal Clinical Psychologist at the Children's University Hospital Temple Street. He is both a practicing clinician and an academic researcher and has developed the Pesky gNATs game and app to support his therapeutic work with young people. An event report was written by Caroline Rawdon (SIGCAP Co-Chair) and published in the Irish Psychologist in February 2016.

### Other highlights from the year

The SIGCAP AGM was held following the Annual Half-Day Conference on Saturday 25th of April 2015. A number of new members joined the committee at this time.

### Caroline Rawdon and Catherine O'Melia Co-Chairs

## 3.5 Learning Disabilities

### Committee membership

The members of the Special Interest Group in Learning Disabilities for 2015 were Sarah Loughman (Chairperson), Anne Marie Scott (Chair Elect), Mary Atkins (Treasurer), Genevieve Marren (Secretary), Jackie Flanagan (ordinary member), Gillian Martin (ordinary member), Christina Doody (ordinary member), and Claire Lacey (ordinary member)

### Meetings

The following meetings were held in 2015:

29th January	26th February	23rd April
22nd May	25th June	30th July
27th August	24th September	15th October

### Activities/ Events

The Committee hosted several training events in 2015, including:

- **June 2015 - Relationship and Sexuality Workshop: Let's talk About Sex: Managing Sexual Expression in Clients with an Intellectual Disability**

Dr Patrick Randall, Principal Forensic Clinical Psychologist and Director of Forensic Psychological Services, and Dr Janine de Volder, Principal Forensic Psychologist and Director of Forensic Psychological Services facilitated a full day workshop. The aim of the workshop was to facilitate discussion and understanding of the core sexual issues facing adults with a disability, explore ethical issues around this and foster an understanding of how to support those with disabilities to manage sexual expression positively.

- **August 2015 - Two Day Adapted DBT Workshop for clients with an Intellectual Disability**

Dr Joseph Sakdalan, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Head of the Psychology Department of the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service, Mason Clinic, Auckland, New Zealand delivered a two-day workshop providing: (1) an overview of the use of DBT skills with Intellectual Disability clients and (2) introduction of the adapted DBT coping skills training programme. The aim of the session was to provide attendees with skills in facilitating a DBT coping skills training programme with the use of outcome measures to assess a client's progress and to evaluate programme effectiveness.

- **August 2015 - Intellectual Disability Risk Assessment and Management Workshop**

Dr Joseph Sakdalan, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Head of the Psychology Department of the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service, Mason Clinic, Auckland, New Zealand delivered a full day workshop providing: (1) an overview of the available ID risk assessment instruments with the relative strengths and weaknesses discussed in the context of worked case examples. He introduced an ID risk assessment and management framework which was developed in New Zealand and was designed for clinical and non-clinical support staff attending to ID clients. He presented an objective and structured approach to ID risk assessment and management with a strong emphasis on a more integrated formulation of risk and the development of effective risk management strategies.

- **October 2015**

Dr Carol Stott (Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol) and Chartered Scientist (CSci), and a member of the British Psychological Society) delivered a 3 day training event in the use of the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R). The aim of the training was to train practising psychologists in the use of the ADI-R as part of the diagnostic process.

### Other highlights from the year

- **Submission to the 2015 Public Consultation on Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities entitled "Building Confidence, Improving Lives, Delivering Change"**

Due to concerns about the care of residents in a HSE service in 2014, the HSE established an Independent Review Group chaired by Dr Kevin McCoy to make recommendations on service development. A document entitled "Building Confidence, Improving Lives, Delivering Change", was made available for national review and consultation. Claire Lacey Quinn initiated the development of a joint submission on behalf of the Special Interest Group with the Heads of Psychological Services (HPSI). She and Dr Mary Davis, a member of HPSI and Brothers of Charity, Galway, obtained comprehensive feedback from members of the SIG and psychologists working in disability services nationally. The joint submission provided feedback on current legislative and policy frameworks, promoting practices that ensure clients are treated with dignity and respect, clinical practice, and organisational issues.

Sarah Loughman  
Chair

### 3.6 Media, Arts and Cyberpsychology

#### Committee membership

The members of the Special Interest Group in Media, Arts and Cyberpsychology (SIGMAC) for 2015 were Brendan Rooney (Co-Chair), Nicola Fox-Hamilton (Co-Chair), David Hayes (Secretary), Vincent McDarby (Treasurer), Ellen Brady, Liam Challenor, Claire Howlin, Grainne Kirwan, Derek Laffan, Dean McDonnell, Una Ni Bhroithe.

#### Meetings

In 2015, the SIGMAC committee met on six occasions. The dates are as follows:

15th January	13th February	27th February
12th March	23rd May	23rd September.

#### Activities/ Events

- SIGMAC Annual Conference (Saturday 23rd May 2015) at the PSI offices on Grantham Street, Dublin 2. The aim of the Conference was to showcase the psychological work being done in Ireland in the areas of Media, the Arts and Cyberpsychology. The Conference provided attendees with an opportunity to learn about ongoing and future psychological research and practice, and created a forum for individuals and organisations to explore and collaborate on new areas of research. A keynote talk was given by Dr Michael Cooke, Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin.
- Joint SIGMAC & EGG Event: Application of Technology in Treatment (Thursday 23rd May 2015). This CPD workshop covered two areas: (1) Technology and Clinical Practice by Dr Conall Tunney and Patients Sharing Knowledge Online by Dr Ellen Brady.
- Reading Groups: Throughout, 2015. In 2015, SIGMAC continued to run the successful Reading Group series, involving discussion and critique of academic publications related to the areas of media, the arts or cyberpsychology. These were highly attended and reviewed in the Irish Psychologist.

#### Achievements/ Awards

SIGMAC has had an extremely productive year in taking stock of our work and reviewing our activities. In 2014, SIGMAC reviewed and redrafted our goals, and activities in a comprehensive manifesto with measurable objectives. 2015 allowed us to realise this strategy.

#### Representation on external committees

SIGMAC members also sit on other PSI committees such as PSI Council, SIGPeP, EEG, and SAG.

#### Other highlights from the year

In 2015, SIGMAC continued to contribute a huge number of articles and reviews to the Irish Psychologist, and maintain a lively social media presence sharing articles and discussing relevant topics / events using Facebook and Twitter.

#### Brendan Rooney and Nicola Fox Hamilton

##### Co-Chairs

### 3.7 Paediatric Psychology

The Special Interest Group in Paediatric Psychology (SIGPeP) was established in July 2015. A timeline of the establishment of the SIG can be seen below.

- July 2015: Establishment of the group by Vincent McDarby, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, and Dr Claire Crowe, The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght.
- August 2015: Invitation to all PSI members to join the SIG and to nominate themselves as committee members.
- September 2015: Inaugural meeting of SIGPeP and election of the committee.

#### Committee membership

The committee members for the 2015 year were Chairperson: Vincent McDarby (Chairperson), Claire Crowe (Vice Chairperson), Lisa Hynes (Secretary), Laura Gallagher (Treasurer), Caroline Heary (Research Officer), Claire Conlon (Communications and Public Relations Officer), Gillian Fortune (Policy Development Officer), Fiona McDarby (Membership Officer); Carolina Concialdi (Student Officer). Ordinary Members: Sarah Carroll, Line Case, Cynthia Eber-Anaba, and Mairead Dempsey.

#### Meetings

Meetings for SIGPeP were held on the following dates in 2015:

17th September	20th October	13th November
10th December		

**Claire Crowe**

**Vice Chair**

## 3.8 Perinatal and Infant Mental Health

### Committee membership

The members of the Special Interest Group in Perinatal and Infant Mental Health for 2015 were Aoife Menton (Chairperson), Claire Crowe (Vice Chairperson), Nicola Lally (Secretary), Yvonne Quinn (Treasurer), Marian O'Flynn (Membership Officer), Barbara Western (Communications & PR Officer), Anne Keogh (Ordinary Member), Helen Shanley (Ordinary Member), Mairead Nieidhin (Ordinary Member), Patrice Brennan (Ordinary Member).

### Meetings

The committee was formed in April 2015; the first committee meeting was held in June 2015. Three subsequent meetings were held for the remainder of 2015.

### Membership

In 2015, there were 17 members of the SIG. The Committee hopes to increase this number significantly in 2016. As the SIG was only established in late 2014, all members were new to the SIG in 2015.

### Activities/ Events

- Webpage

In June 2015, the SIG established a dedicated webpage within the PSI website. This webpage details the mission statement of the SIG and related aims in addition to a list of current committee members. The webpage also provides a link to the membership application form for the PIMHSIG.

- National Maternity Strategy Online Submission

In July 2015, the committee of the SIG prepared an online submission to the National Maternity Strategy. In the words of The Department of Health, they "were interested in receiving the views of the public in relation to maternity services in order to develop a National Maternity Strategy... seeking to ensure that women in Ireland have access to safe, high quality maternity care in a setting most appropriate to their needs".

- Twitter

In September 2015, the committee set up a Twitter account (@Perinatal\_SIG) in order to highlight the presence of the SIG on a wider platform. Aoife Menton (Chair) curated the account in 2015.

- PSI National Conference 2015

In November 2015, four members of the PIMHSIG committee (Aoife Menton, Nicola Lally, Marian O'Flynn and Helen Shanley) presented a symposium at the PSI National Conference in Galway. The symposium entitled "Hush little baby don't you cry" Listening to the voice of the baby in Irish Health Services presented four papers regarding the experience of pregnancy among women in Ireland and its relationship to perinatal mental health and postnatal bonding; current services available in Ireland to support women (and their families) across the perinatal and early infancy period; and an exploration of the French working model of perinatal psychology. The symposium was well attended and generated lively debate regarding the importance of clinical practice and research across the perinatal and early infancy periods.

- Irish Psychologist, Special Edition

In December 2015, members of the committee (Aoife Menton, Nicola Lally and Marian O'Flynn) had articles published in The Irish Psychologist (IP) related to the PIMHSIG symposium at the national conference and also as part of a special edition of the magazine focused on perinatal and infant mental health.

An information article was also submitted by Aoife Menton (Chair) on behalf of the PIMHSIG Executive Committee, in order to increase awareness amongst PSI members, students and affiliate members regarding the presence of the PIMHSIG; its missions and aims.

- Oireachtas Joint Health Committee

On Thursday 12 November 2015, Aoife Menton (Chair, PIMHSIG) attended an Oireachtas Joint Health Committee at which Dr Paul D'Alton (PSI President) and Dr Kevin Nugent presented information regarding infant mental health, and the importance of supporting and promoting this important time of development. The T.D.s present appeared very engaged with the presentation and interested in how this period can be supported.

**Dr Aoife Menton**  
**Chairperson**

## 3.9 Sexual Diversity and Gender Issues

### Committee membership

Dr Geraldine Moane continued to act as Chair of the group until the PSI Conference in November 2015 where Aisling Curtin took over this role.

### Membership

The SIG had 21 full members.

### Activities

The Sexual Diversity and Gender Issues Special Interest Group (SDGISIG) was active in several areas related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) psychology and policy development.

During the 2015 year the group's major priority was to release Guidelines for good practice. A Working Group of 4 members completed the Guidelines.

- **Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients** – The group completed Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian and Gay Clients, and presented these to Council in advance of the Annual Conference in November 2014. The Guidelines were developed following extensive review of the research literature, the clinical literature, guidelines developed by other international associations, and consultation with experts in LGBT psychology and LGBT support and policy services. The Guidelines include: introduction and Background on the context of the Guidelines; an overview of sexual orientation and related language and concepts; an overview of specific research on mental health and psychological well-being of LGB people; specific guide to good practice and to LGB-affirming therapy. In addition, the Guidelines include a glossary of terms, a detailed directory of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Services in Ireland, several possibilities for further reading and web resources. The Guidelines are evidence based, and extensive research resources are referenced. The launch of these Guidelines took place in April 2015 shortly before the Marriage Equality Referendum. An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, T.D., joined the Society to officially launch the Guidelines.

- **Training and Education:** Over the past year the SIG provided training to trainees in Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology. Training inputs included: placing best practice related to sexual orientation in the context of ethical commitments to best practice; presenting the latest conceptual and methodological advances in understandings of sexual orientation; providing an overview of APA guidelines for best practice in psychotherapy with lesbian and gay clients; providing an overview of relevant research in specific areas. These topics have been incorporated into Guidelines for Best Practice with Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Clients. A workshop was provided at the Annual PSI Conference with Aisling Curtin, Paul D'Alton & Ger Moane to increase awareness of LGBTQ issues at the broader society level.
- **Mindfulness and Acceptance for Gender and Sexual Minorities Book with Publishers New Harbinger.** A number of Irish Psychologists involved in the SIG including Aisling Curtin, Paul D'Alton, Finn Reygan and Louise McHugh have contributed to Mindfulness and Acceptance for Gender and Sexual Minorities. This book will be released in Autumn 2016.

### Priorities for 2016

Continued dissemination of the Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients is a priority for 2016. This will involve continuing training involving the guidelines; continuing national and international linkages to ensure the guidelines reflect international practice. Additionally, the group will aim to expand its membership and develop new priorities in relation to sexual diversity and gender issues. We will host a formal release of Mindfulness and Acceptance for Gender and Sexual Minorities in Autumn 2016 to accompany its publication release. We are planning more regular meetings with members of our SIG.

For further information on membership, events and the AGM, visit our webpage (see [http://www.psihq.ie/MEMBERS\\_SIG\\_SDG.asp](http://www.psihq.ie/MEMBERS_SIG_SDG.asp)). Please contact the Sexual Diversity and Gender Issues Special Interest Group at PSI: email: [info@psihq.ie](mailto:info@psihq.ie) or email the current chair: [aisling@actnowireland.com](mailto:aisling@actnowireland.com).

**Aisling Curtin, Current Chair**

**Geraldine Moane, Past Chair**



# 4 APPENDICES

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## 4.1 Directors and Other Information

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Directors	Margaret O'Rourke Anne Davis Michele Coyle William Kinsella
Company number	110772
Registered office	2nd Floor, Grantham House Grantham Street Dublin 8
Auditors	Allen Morrissey & Company Certified public accountants and statutory auditors Hillview House Prosperous Co. Kildare
Business address	2nd Floor, Grantham House Grantham Street Dublin 8
Bankers	AIB 40/41 Westmoreland Street Dublin 2
Member details	William Kinsella (Secretary)
Charity number	7481

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## 4.2 Directors' Report

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The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015.

### Principal activities and review of the business

The company's principal activity consists of the advancement of Psychology as a pure and applied science and as a profession in Ireland and elsewhere.

The results for the year are set out in the financial statements. Due to its charitable status, the company is exempt from taxation on any surpluses. The payment of dividends is not permitted under the company's Memorandum of Association.

### Future developments

The company intend to continue to engage in any activities which will advance its aims and the development of the profession.

### Directors of the company

The present membership of the board is listed on the 'Directors and other information' page

### Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, regarding proper accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are maintained at the Registered Office.

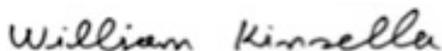
### Auditors

In accordance with Sections 380 to 385 of the Companies Act 2014, Allen Morrissey & Company were appointed auditors by the directors to fill the casual vacancy and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

This report was approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by



Margaret O'Rourke  
Director



William Kinsella  
Director

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## 4.3 Statement of directors responsibilities for the members' financial statements

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The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

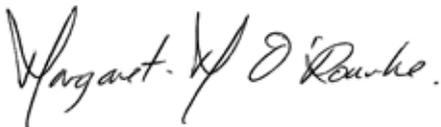
Irish Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

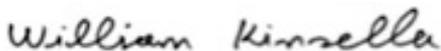
The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and with Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Margaret O'Rourke  
Director



William Kinsella  
Director

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## 4.4 Independent Auditors' Report

We have audited the financial statements of The Psychological Society Of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2015 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 36, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Director's Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in

the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2015 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

**Brendan Allen**  
**Allen Morrissey & Company**  
**Certified public accountants and statutory auditors**  
**Hillview House**  
**Prosperous**  
**Co. Kildare**

**Date: May 2016**

## 4.5 Income and Expenditure Account

### YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	NOTE	2015 €	2014 €
Turnover		677,483	623,491
Administrative expenses		(650,186)	(687,477)
Exceptional Item		-	(25,000)
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation		27,297	(88,986)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities		-	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	9	27,297	(88,986)

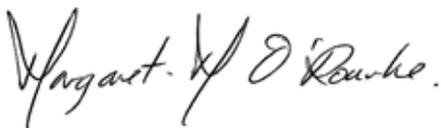
There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above two financial years.

## 4.6 Balance Sheet

### AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	NOTE	2015		2014	
		€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6		167,885		198,366
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	15,949		19,206	
Cash at bank and in hand		295,821		250,116	
		<u>311,770</u>		<u>269,322</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	<u>(115,204)</u>		<u>(130,534)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>196,566</u>		<u>138,788</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>364,451</u>		<u>337,154</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>364,451</u>		<u>337,154</u>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Other reserves	9		21,353		21,353
Revenue reserves account	9		<u>343,098</u>		<u>315,801</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>	10		<u>364,451</u>		<u>337,154</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by



Director  
Margaret O'Rourke



Director  
William Kinsella

The notes on pages 40 to 44 form part of these accounts.

# 4.7 Notes to the Financial Statements

## YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

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### 1. Statement of accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

#### 1.1. Basis of preparation

The audited financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and the Companies Act 2014. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

#### 1.2. Income policy

Membership subscriptions, CPD and other similar income is recognised in the period for which it is charges. Grant income is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest income is recognised in the period in which it is earned

#### 1.3. Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss. Cost includes all costs that are directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use.

##### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

Improvements to Leasehold Buildings	-	10% Straight Line
Computers	-	20% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% Straight Line
Website	-	20% Straight Line

#### 1.4. Taxation

No charge to taxation arises due to the charitable status of the company. The CHY number is 7481

#### 1.5. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year.

The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the profit and loss account over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings.

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## 2. Operating profit/(loss)

	2015	2014
	€	€
Operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	41,292	40,365
Exceptional items	-	25,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

## 3. Auditors' remuneration

	Year Ending 2015	Year Ending 2014
	€	€
Audit of the financial statements	2,500	2,500

## 4. Employees

### Number of employees

	2015 Number	2014 Number
	€	€
The average monthly numbers of employees (including the directors) during the year were:	<u>          </u> 8	<u>          </u> 6

### Employment costs

	2015	2014
	€	€
Wages and salaries	187,864	241,602
Social insurance costs	19,589	-
Other pension costs	11,465	19,890
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>          </u> 218,918	<u>          </u> 261,492

## 5. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to €11,465 (2014 - €19,890).

## 6. Tangible assets

	Improvements to Leasehold Building €	Website €	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment €	Computers €	Total €
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2015	271,192	25,227	9,569	41,008	346,996
Additions	-	-	-	10,810	10,810
At 31 December 2015	271,192	25,227	9,569	51,818	357,806
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2015	107,845	13,092	9,569	18,124	148,630
Charge for the year	27,120	5,045	-	9,126	41,291
At 31 December 2015	134,965	18,137	9,569	27,250	189,921
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 December 2015	136,227	7,090	-	24,568	167,885
<b>2014</b>					
	Improvements to Leasehold Building €	Website €	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment €	Computers €	Total €
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2014	271,192	13,411	9,569	41,249	335,421
Additions	-	11,816	-	23,477	35,293
Disposals	-	-	-	(23,718)	(23,718)
At 31 December 2014	271,192	25,227	9,569	41,008	346,996
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2014	80,725	8,047	9,569	33,642	131,983
On disposals	-	-	-	(23,718)	(23,718)
Charge for the year	27,120	5,045	-	8,200	40,365
At 31 December 2014	107,845	13,092	9,569	18,124	148,630
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 December 2014	163,347	12,135	-	22,884	198,366

## 7. Debtors

	2015	2014
	€	€
Trade debtors	7,828	7,392
Prepayments and accrued income	8,121	11,814
	<u>15,949</u>	<u>19,206</u>

## 8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	€	€
<b><i>Loans &amp; other borrowings</i></b>		
Company Credit Card	1,564	2,428
<b><i>Other creditors</i></b>		
Trade creditors	2,023	-
Deirdre McMackin Fund	8,689	11,614
Wages Control	440	
Accruals	63,161	81,709
Prepaid Memberships	32,628	30,458
Pension contributions	887	1,062
Taxation creditors		
PAYE/PRSI	5,812	3,263
	<u>115,204</u>	<u>130,534</u>

## 9. Reserves

	Profit and Loss Account €	Capital Reserve €	Total €
<b>At 1 January 2015</b>	315,801	21,353	337,154
Profit for the year	27,297	-	27,297
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	343,098	21,353	364,451
Equity interests	343,098	-	343,098
Non-equity interests	-	21,353	21,353
Profit for the year	(88,986)	-	(88,986)
Equity interests	315,801	-	315,801
Non-equity interests	-	21,353	21,353

## 10. Reconciliation of movements in members' funds

	2015 €	2014 €
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	27,297	(88,986)
Opening members' funds	337,154	426,140
Closing members' funds	364,451	337,154

## 11. Company limited by guarantee

The company is one limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The liability of each member, in the event of the company being wound up is a maximum of €1.27

## 12. Accounting periods

The current accounts are for a full year. The comparative accounts are for a full year.

## 13. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on .

## 14. Bank Note

Included in the Cash at bank and in hand balance of € 295,821 is an amount of € 8,689 which relates to the Deirdre McMackin Fund.

## 4.8 Administrative Expenses

### Detailed trading profit and loss account and expenses schedule for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015		2014	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Sales</b>				
Annual Subscriptions		563,943		530,251
Annual Conference Net Surplus		28,247		31,727
Accreditation Income		32,250		13,215
CPD Loss on Activities		(829)		9,679
Divisions Net surplus		20,510		4,218
Special Interest Groups		822		470
Misc. Income		19,772		10,828
Advertising Income		12,660		22,970
Investment Income		108		133
		<u>677,483</u>		<u>623,491</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>		677,483		623,491
<b>Administrative expenses</b>				
Wages and salaries	187,864		241,602	
Employer's PRSI/NI contributions	19,589		-	
Staff money purchase pension costs	11,465		19,890	
Rent, Rates, Light & Heat	97,933		83,432	
Insurance	6,501		6,239	
Repairs and maintenance	306		-	
Printing, postage and stationery	171,446		171,877	
Telephone	7,094		9,695	
Computer costs	15,765		12,379	
Subventions & Affiliations	6,588		6,835	
Legal and professional	29,811		15,000	
Accountancy	2,297		2,323	
Audit	2,500		2,500	
Bank charges	19,134		11,990	
Doubtful debts	300		-	
General expenses	16,640		1,572	
Meetings, Seminars & Related Expenditure	13,661		61,778	
Depreciation on Leashold	27,121		27,120	
Depreciation on Website	9,126		8,200	
Depreciation on Computers	5,045		5,045	
Exceptional item	-		25,000	
		<u>(650,186)</u>		<u>(712,477)</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>		<u><u>27,297</u></u>		<u><u>(88,986)</u></u>

## 4.9 Council Membership 2015

Council member (Office held during part or all of 2015)	Meetings attended (eligible meetings)
Anne Davis	7 (9)
Paul D'Alton	8 (9)
Margaret O'Rourke	6 (9)
Michele Coyle	7 (9)
Vincent McDarby	9 (9)
Ian O'Grady	4 (9)
Kevin Keane	5 (9)
Aisling White	8 (9)
Billy Kinsella	4 (9)
Brendan O Connell	4 (9)
Christian Ryan	7 (9)
Paula Dunne	6 (9)
Marie Murray	2 (3)
Caroline Conlon	1 (1)
Megan Gaffney	1 (1)
Fiona Moane	0 (1)
Christian Korpos	1 (1)
Mark Smyth	1 (1)
Catherine Long	1 (1)
Philippa Coughlan	8 (8)
Melrona Kirrane	6 (8)
Aidan McKiernan	4 (8)
Paul Hogan	4 (8)







