

6th Congress of the EUGMS

European Union Geriatric Medicine Society
Convention Centre Dublin, Ireland
29th September - 1st October 2010



Abstract submission opens for IGS/EUGMS 2010!

The IGS are partnering the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society for the largest scientific meeting on ageing ever held in Ireland, to be held in the new Conference Centre www.thecccd.ie in Dublin from 29 Sept to 1 Oct 2010. The first day will notably have Mary Robinson speaking about Global Ageing and Health (she has co-edited a book on this topic) and Seamus Heaney giving a poetry reading relating to poetry and ageing. These will be our Willie Bermingham Medal recipients.

The rest of the meeting will be a mix of invited speakers, free papers and poster sessions, and we hope to attract 1500 Irish and other European delegates. The social programme will include a State Reception, an evening at the Jameson's Distillery, and the Conference Dinner will take place at the Mansion House.

A significant number of the invited speakers are Irish, with particular emphases on stroke, the TRIL project and TILDA. The theme of the conference is *Geriatric Medicine: New Challenges, New Techniques and New Technologies*, and while this is an unrivalled opportunity to learn from a wide range of European experts, we would also see this as

conversely an important means of illustrating the depth and breadth of research in Irish gerontology of all fields to a European audience.

So, whether social gerontologist, psychologist of ageing, therapist, nurse or doctor, we would encourage you to submit abstracts as you would normally do, with the usual closing date of 30th May 2010 at www.EUGMS2010.org. The poster sessions will be an interesting experience, whereby your poster will hang side by side with those of European colleagues, and will likely change each day.

The success of this meeting should strengthen our role as important partners in the European enterprise, and for the brave-hearted among our membership, perhaps spur us on to consider hosting the European Region meeting of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Ireland in 2015!

Once again, please do spread the word, and please prepare your research so as to submit for the abstract date of 30th May 2010.

Desmond O'Neill,
President, IGS and EUGMS



The Convention Centre, Dublin
- venue for the EUGMS 2010.



PhD Study Day in Ageing Research

The IGS PhD Study Day in Ageing Research was held in the Royal Irish Academy on January 15th last. This is the second time the PhD Study Day has been held, the first held in Spring 2007. The study day provides a forum for researchers registered for PhD to share their PhD topics and experiences, and provides an excellent setting for discussions and learning.

In total, fifteen people registered for PhD gave presentations. Presentations were from all stages of the PhD process, from those recently registered to those almost ready to submit. There were a wide variety of topics, disciplines and subject areas addressed. Topics included social policy and social integration; long-term care issues; clinical issues, including risk estimation, atrial fibrillation and biomarkers; and therapeutic interventions with older people and older caregivers. The spectrum of methodologies was involved, from qualitative research to randomised controlled trials to biomedical laboratory-based research.

This year, for the first time, there was a presentation from two people that recently graduated with a PhD. Drs. Karen Morgan (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and Claire Donnellan (Trinity College Dublin) spoke about the process of thesis submission, preparation for the viva and what to expect, followed by discussion of the variation in submission requirements from different universities and institutions in Ireland.

Throughout the day, there were opportunities for questions and discussion, both after sessions and over a very pleasant lunch. In short, a very informative and enjoyable day!

Dr Anne Hickey

IGS Summer Seminar 2009

“Income and income security for the Older Person” was the title of this year’s seminar. This was the fifth in an annual series aimed at creating a high-quality dialogue on topics relevant to the science of ageing. The Seminar took place in Dublin on June 18, 2009 at the Royal Irish Academy with an invited audience from across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, and from a range of disciplines.

The Seminar provided participants with the opportunity to learn about and to discuss income and income security for the older person. The topic was particularly timely. The Government is devising a new pensions framework following extensive consultation on its Green Paper on Pensions. When the Green Paper was published in October 2007 two issues dominated: changing population demographics (that is, an ageing population); and sustainability. Since then the economic situation in Ireland and elsewhere has changed – worsened dramatically - and, not surprisingly, this is influencing the pensions debate.

Thus a key aim of this Seminar was to bring understanding to the issue of income and income security for the older person, and to do so by way of an evidenced-based scientific discourse rather than via polemic.

Our invited speakers were:

Dr Karen Glazer, Prof. Christopher T Whelan, Mr John Higgins, Prof. Jim Power, and Mr Brian Duncan.

Think global, act local – IGS & the IAGG

The IGS is a member of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (indeed, our founder member, the late Dr John Fleetwood, was very active in the early activities of the international body). The chief activity of the IAGG is to bring together gerontologists to a world congress in gerontology every four years, the only international meeting of such stature. In recent times these have been held in Vancouver (2001), Rio de Janeiro (2005), and Paris this summer, with the 2013 meeting to take place in Seoul, Korea. A small but growing number of IGS members have been presenting at these meetings, and quite a number attended the Paris meeting, with presentations from TCD, QUB, UCD, NUIG, UCC, Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Age and Opportunity.

In the intervening years, each region tends to hold a general conference, and sometimes a clinical gerontology conference. In Europe, these have been in Barcelona (2003), St Petersburg (2007), and the next will take place in Bologna (2011).

In addition, the IAGG has accredited status as a non-governmental organization with the UN, and under the able leadership of Prof Gloria Gutman, held an important meeting in Valencia in 2002 which did much of the groundwork for input to the UN Madrid International Plan on Ageing – Des O'Neill was involved as the IGS representative.

Our Irish representative to the IAGG Council is currently Mo Flynn, and the IGS has been to the fore in trying to ensure that the governance and activities of the IAGG are inclusive and transparent, and appropriately represent the four main pillars of gerontology: social gerontology, health gerontology, psychology of ageing and biology of ageing. This is because a particular weakness of the governance of the IAGG is that the officers arise from the group/nation running the conference, and this

can lead to abrupt changes in direction and representation of the pillars of gerontology with each change in world congress destination.

The IAGG European Region also has a Clinical Section, at which Irish attendance has been limited. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the goals of the IAGG, the IGS has been proposing that this grouping should be a point of common academic endeavour for all clinicians involved with ageing, ie, geriatricians, gerontological nurses, old age psychiatrists, therapists, social workers and psychologists, rather than the exclusive focus on geriatric medicine as is currently the situation.



Two main new developments arose at the Paris meeting. The first was the addition of Africa as a Region, a further acknowledgement that the majority of older people in the world are in the developing world, and not the developed world. The second is that the congress was financially successful, with a profit of approximately €1 million shared between IAGG and the French society of gerontology, which will be used for developmental work over the next four years.

A global view of ageing is important in a global economy, and rather like the Skibereen Eagle and the Tsar of Russia, the IGS will be keeping its eye on the IAGG! We would encourage members to think of the Bologna and Seoul conferences in 2011 and 2013 respectively, and the executive committee of the IGS would welcome any input from the members of the IGS on how best to engage with this important international scientific body on ageing.

IGS 57th Annual Scientific Meeting

Spires Conference Centre, Belfast, Northern Ireland. 25th/26th September 2009

Our colleagues in Northern Ireland hosted the meeting this year and there was a good attendance from both sides of the border. The Willie Bermingham Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Suresh Rattan of University of Aarhus in Denmark. His talk was titled “Ageing – from Molecular Biology to Hormesis”.

A number of keynote speakers represented Northern Ireland. These included Dr Maeve Rea from Queen’s University who spoke informatively on “Beyond 90, Nature or Nurture” and Prof Suzanne McDonough from the University of Ulster who posed the question, “Does Acupuncture Relieve Musculoskeletal Pain?”



Dr Maeve Rea of Queen’s University, Belfast

As the IGS continues to grow, this year also saw the performance of a Strategic Review, which set out strategic objectives and initiatives. These included advancing its role as the united multidisciplinary authority and voice of ageing and related subjects, developing membership activities and re-organising the structure and resources of the organisation.

As usual the Gala Dinner was one of the highlights, with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. There was the opportunity to meet with others and catch up at the bar afterwards.

Finally the Annual General Meeting took place as usual at the close of the Saturday session. Items on the agenda for discussion included the Strategic Review, developing links with other societies, reviewing the finances of the Society and plans for the coming year including the summer seminar and the EUGMS meeting (which will replace the IGS Annual meeting for 2010).



Dr Joseph Browne, 1st Prize Poster winner

IGS Oral prizewinners 2009

1st Prize

End of Life Care Documentation in Care Homes: A Meta-Analysis.

Una Molloy, Eileen Rossiter, Mary Carney, Mary Flanagan, Ciaran Donegan, Dermot Power, Regina Mc Quillan, Margaret Cashman, Patricia Walsh, Kevin Connaire. St Francis Hospice, Dublin

2nd Prize

Effect of STOPP/START criteria on the quality of prescribing for older patients: a randomized controlled trial.

P Gallagher, M O’Connor, D O’Mahony Department of Geriatric Medicine, Cork University Hospital, Wilton, Cork, Ireland.

3rd Prize

N-Terminal Pro-B-Type Natriuretic Peptide as a Marker of all-cause Mortality in an Elderly Population

Olivia Mc Devitt, Jacqui Clare, Henry Mc Kinney, Ken Mulpeter, Jose Miranda. Letterkenny General Hospital, Co. Donegal, Ireland

Poster Prizewinners 2009

1st Prize

Investigating Bone Quality in Patients with Hip Fracture Using Newer Bioengineering Techniques

Joseph G Browne, Tariq Mesallati, Claire Picard, Katie Reeve-Arnold, Peter O Reilly, Jackie Daly, Miriam C Casey, JB Walsh, David Taylor St James Hospital

2nd Prize

A case for weight based prescribing?

Susan Byrne, Choon Chan, Siobhan Kennelly, Conal Cunningham, Davis Coakley. St. James Hospital, Dublin 8, Ireland

Highly Commended

Decision making tools for housing design for the aged population

Nicholas C. Humes, Karim Hadjri Queen’s University, N Ireland