INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Spring Conference 2024

March 1st

Approved for up to 6 CPD credits



Introduction

This conference will be introduced by Prof Sam Coulter Smith and Dr Nikhil Purandare. Registration will open at 8:30am.

Time	Topic	Speaker	Title
Session 1: Fertility Chairs Dr Una Conway & Dr Moya McMenamin			
0900-0910	Introduction from Prof Sam Coulter-Smith and Dr Nikhil Purandare		
0910-0930	Assisted Human Reproduction in Ireland: Recent Progress in Legislation and State Support	Prof Mary Wingfield	Associate Professor School of Medicine, UCD, Adjunct Professor TCD
0930-0950	Robotic Surgery in Fertility	Prof Uzma Mahmood	Adjunct Associate Professor, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Lead Robotic Gynaecology Surgeon.
0950-1010	ART: Considerations of a Clinical Geneticist:	Dr Sam Doyle	Consultant Genetics National Maternity Hospital
1010-1040	Diving Deep: Surgical and Non-Surgical Strategies for Deep Endometriosis Treatment.	Prof Juan Diego Villegas-Echeverri	Head. FIGO benign surgery division, Pereira, Columbia.
1040-1100	Coffee Break		
Session 2: NCHD Focus -Chairs 2A: Prof Howaida Khair, Prof Cathy Allen & 2B: Prof Sean Daly			
2A: 1100-1115	Patient reported outcome measures and their use in providing patient centered maternity care	Dr. Laura O Byrne	Specialist registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
1115-1130	Outpatient Cervical Ripening: Outcomes from the Home Induction RCT	Dr Sarah Nicholson	Specialist registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
1130-1145	Preterm Birth: It's all in the Microbiome.	Dr Gillian Corbett	Clinical Fellow in Preterm Birth, National Maternity Hospital. Specialist Registrar, The National Maternity Hospital Academic
1145-1200	Investigating the Role of early low dose Aspirin in Diabetes. IRELAND Study	Dr Catherine Finnegan	MFM Fellow Rotunda Hospital
2B: 1200-1220	Research Topic TBD	Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan	Consultant Gynaecologist, Cork University Maternity Hospital
1220-1240	Implications of the new consultant contract	Mr Aidan O'Reilly	Interim Secretary General, Irish Hospital Consultants Association

Time	Topic	Speaker	Title
1240-1400	Lunch & AGM		
Session 3: Clinical Risk and History of Irish Obstetrics. -Chairs 3A Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe & Dr. Gillian Ryan, 3B: Prof Nadine Farah & Prof. Jennifer Walsh			
3A: 1400-1440	Selective IUGR in Twins	Prof Asma Khalil	Consultant Obstetrician and Fetal Medicine specialist at St George's Hospital, London
1440-1520	Maternal Obesity- from Placental to Stem Cell consequences.	Prof. Frank Louwen	President of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (EBCOG).
1530-1550	Is there a correlation between complaints and subsequent medicolegal cases?	Professor Michael O'Connell	Master/CEO Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, The Coombe Hospital
3B: 1550-1610	Rising Cost of Litigation in maternity care and not Clinical Risk	Prof Rhona Mahony	Consultant Obstetrician and Specialist in fetal and maternal medicine at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin
1610-1630	Origin of Irish Obstetrics	Prof. Mike Geary	Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynaecology Subspecialist in Maternal Fetal Medicine Professor in Obstetrics & Gynaecology
1630-1650	Panel Discussion Moderated by Prof Nadine Farah		
1650-1700	Awards and Closing remarks		

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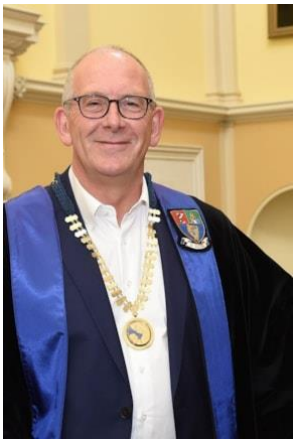
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Frederick House,
19 South Frederick Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland
Phone +353 1 863 9700
Fax +353 1 672 4707

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Speaker biographies



Professor Sam Coulter-Smith is the Chair of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and is a consultant in the Rotunda since 2002. During this time, he developed a special interest in the area of infection in pregnancy. He was also instrumental in expanding the diabetes service at the hospital and has a big interest in complications of early pregnancy. He has an interest in gynaecology, particularly familial ovarian cancer and pelvic floor surgery.

Prof Coulter-Smith was Master of the Rotunda Hospital from January 2009 to December 2015. During his Mastership, he devoted much of his time to ensuring quality and safety standards were maintained at the Rotunda, and raised the profile of maternity services onto the national stage. Professor Coulter-Smith is a clinical professor attached to the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and has a keen interest in training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. He is a strong advocate for the improvement of maternity services in Ireland. He is also a member of the Women's Health Council.



Prof. Mary Wingfield is Clinical Lead for AHR services at the National Women and Infant's Health Program of the HSE. She worked for almost 30 years as a Consultant Obstetrician Gynaecologist at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin where she established Merrion Fertility Clinic in 1999. She is Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University College Dublin. She was a founding member and past President of the Irish Fertility Society and served on the government-appointed Commission on Assisted Human Reproduction.

She has written several fertility-related position papers for the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, has acted as an expert witness in High Court cases regarding assisted reproduction and has spoken at the Oireachtas regarding AHR legislation and surrogacy. She authored The Fertility Handbook, Gill Press 2017, a guide to fertility and infertility. Throughout her career she has been interested in subfertility in all its facets, including the development of national frameworks and legislation, equitable access to fertility treatment, fertility preservation, endometriosis and implantation.



Prof. Uzma Mahmood is a medical graduate from Punjab University, Pakistan and a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (2008) and the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (2009). She received her MD from the University College Cork (2012), following studies on fetal microchimerism and maternal wound healing. Dr Mahmood has successfully completed her specialist training in the Irish training scheme and has worked in a number of hospitals across the country including the 3 busiest maternity hospitals namely the Rotunda, Coombe Women and Infants University and Cork University Maternity Hospitals where she has gained significant experience managing all aspects of pregnancy. She was awarded CSCST by the Irish Committee on Higher Training in 2017. She is a certified Colposcopist. She pursued further speciality training in robotic benign gynaecological surgery in Cork 2017.

Uzma took up a post as Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at Limerick University & Maternity Hospital in 2018. At Limerick Maternity Hospital, she is the lead in Robotic Gynaecological surgery in UHL and BIARGS and SERGS certified robotic surgeon. She is also lead for Regional Endometriosis Services. She is currently working as a Clinical Director for the Peri-Operative Directorate in University Hospitals Group Limerick.

Uzma research has resulted in many peer-reviewed original papers and published conference proceedings. Uzma's research interests include, polycystic ovarian syndrome, endometriosis, minimally invasive and Robotic gynaecological surgery. She is a member of the British Society for Gynaecological endoscopy (BSGE) , British and Irish association of Robotic Gynaecological surgeons (BIARGS), Society of European Robotic Gynaecological Surgery (SERGS), and the British Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (BSCCP).



Dr Samantha Doyle is a Consultant Clinical and Biochemical Geneticist.

Subspecialty: Perinatal genomics
Special Interests: Prenatal diagnosis, predictive genetic testing, management of families with high risk of a genetic diagnosis prior to and during pregnancy, counselling following abnormal NIPS testing, post-mortem diagnosis following fetal loss, general genetics, gynae genetics, maternal medicine genetics



Prof JD Villegas-Echeverri, MD is the Head of FIGO benign surgery division and is Scientific Director. ALGIA. Advanced laparoscopy and Pelvic Pain Center. Preira, Colombia



Dr Laura O'Byrne is a Specialist Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is currently completing a PhD through the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in University College Cork. She is a graduate of University College Limerick (2012), awarded an MSc in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is member of the RCPI and MRCOG. Her PhD is focused on Patient Reported outcomes and their role in improving patient centred Maternity Care.



Dr Sarah Nicholson graduated from RCSI in 2012, having first taken the scenic route with an English and a Psychology degree. She has developed a special interest in labour ward practice and has completed a clinical trial focusing on induction of labour as part of a PhD. She enjoys teaching and has held multiple tutor roles throughout her specialist training.



Dr Gillian Corbett is a PhD Candidate at the UCD Perinatal Research Centre. Her PhD thesis is centred upon the vaginal microbiome and its relationship with preterm birth. She is a Specialist Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is the current Maternal Medicine Fellow at the National Maternity Hospital. She graduated with honours from Medicine at UCD in 2015, interned at the Mater Hospital and has trained through the National Maternity Hospital, the Coombe Hospital, St James's, Mayo and Portlaoise Hospitals.

She has passed membership examinations of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) in 2018 and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in 2022, winning the gold medal in the Obstetric and Gynaecology MRCPI Examinations. She has completed a Masters in Clinical Translational Research with UCD. She has published a number of first author research papers. For her PhD, she is examining the relationship between the vaginal microbiome and spontaneous preterm birth. This is through the PrePOP randomised controllled trial, examining the horizontal transfer of live oral bio-therapeutics containing lactobacillus crispatus to the vaginal microbiome. and subsequent impact on vaginal microbial composition, systemic inflammation and preterm birth related outcomes, under her supervisor Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe.

	Catherine Finnegan currently works at the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, researching in Gynaecology and Obstetrics
	Suzanne O'Sullivan is clinical lead of the Complex Pelvic Floor Centre in Cork and co-director of the EBCOG recognised subspecialty training programme for Urogynaecology in CUMH, as well as being lead for postgraduate training. She is past president of the Continence Foundation of Ireland and is a member of the Clinical Advisory Group with the NWIHP. She is the Fellow's representative for Ireland on RCOG council and has also published on issues around recruitment and retention in obstetrics and gynaecology.
	Aidan O'Reilly is a senior executive with the Irish Hospital Consultants Association. A qualified solicitor and MBA graduate, Aidan has worked with the Association for over 12 years representing and advising its members on a wide range of professional and contract matters including employment rights, private practice issues, clinical indemnity, health insurance and GDPR.
	Prof Asma Khalil has been a Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine at St George's University Hospital since 2012 and Director of Fetal Medicine at Liverpool Women's Hospital since 2021. At St George's, Asma set up and led the first Twins Trust Centre for Research and Clinical Excellence. Asma is the Obstetric Lead of the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit, and Trustee and Treasurer of ISUOG. She also founded the first UK national registry of complicated multiple pregnancies. Asma chaired the Twins and Multiple Births Association Maternity Engagement Project Steering Committee, a Department of Health-funded quality improvement project covering 30 maternity hospitals. She also successfully led several international initiatives. Over the years Asma has received over 15 national and international awards; the latest was FIGO's Recognising Female Obstetricians and Gynaecologists award.



Prof Frank Louwen studied Human Medicine at the University of Münster and received his doctorate in 1993 with a thesis on the definition criteria of HELLP syndrome. He is the current President of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (EBCOG) for 2023-2025.

Between 1989 and 1994 he was licensed to practise medicine and, after further training as a gynaecologist at the University Women's Clinic in Münster, he was recognised as a specialist, and then appointed Senior Physician.

In 2002, he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Perinatology at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. Since his appointment to the Chair of Obstetrics and Prenatal Medicine, he has headed this focus area as well as the Perinatal Center at Frankfurt University Hospital. His work and research focus on molecular biochemistry and cell biology (stem cells) findings and complications in obesity and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy (preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome) as well as the care and delivery of multiple pregnancies and breech births (he is the initiator of the FIGO & WATOG initiative "Teach the Breech").

In addition to his honorary board work in international and national professional societies, he has served 12 years on the board of the German Society of OBGYN DGGG and also works on a voluntary basis as chairman of the board of the German Foundation for Women's Health and as Chairman of the Board of Pro familia Hessen.



Professor Michael O'Connell

Current Master/CEO of the Coombe Women and Infant's University Hospital (2020-2027). Professor in RCSI. Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist in the Coombe Women and Infant's University Hospital. Clinical Director for Integration between the Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise and the Coombe Women's' and Infant's University Hospital. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Interests: High-risk pregnancy, general gynaecology, medico-legal work.



Dr Mahony is an obstetrician and specialist in fetal and maternal medicine at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin. She served as Master (CEO) of NMH from 2012 to 2018 and subsequently as Director of the Women's Clinical Academic Directorate with Ireland East Healthcare until 2020. A strong advocate of the importance of women's healthcare in saving lives and promoting health, gender and social equality, she has presented to the Oireachtas on a range of issues, has attended numerous international conferences and has worked with NGOS in Sierra Leone, Malawi and Tanzania. She established the National Maternity Hospital Foundation in 2013. Graduating from UCD, she completed an MD and is published widely in the academic press. She is a Fellow of the RCOG UK and RCPI in Ireland, clinical professor with RCSI, UCD and adjunct professor at Trinity Business School. She received a number of awards for her contribution to healthcare including an honorary fellowship of the UCD medical school, a university alumnus award, an honorary fellowship from the American College of O&G and Doctorate of Medicine from NUI. In 2014 she became an Eisenhower Fellow spending time in the US as part of a Multi-Nation leadership programme. She is currently chair of a government working group examining the rising cost of healthcare litigation. She serves on the board of St Vincent's Healthcare Group and on the Advisory and Executive Education Boards of Trinity Business School. She is a member of YPO and was Education and Impact Officer in 2023. She joined the board of Halo Care in 2020 and is Chair of the Little Museum of Dublin.



Professor Michael Geary qualified from the National University of Ireland Galway. His specialist work in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been undertaken in Dublin, London and Toronto. He works primarily in the area of maternal-fetal medicine, high-risk obstetrics and gynaecology. He has received many academic awards at national and international level. Professor Geary held the position of Master of the Rotunda from 2002 to 2008. With many years of experience in the specialty, he has been driven by a desire to constantly improve and optimise safe outcomes for mothers and babies. His approach to care is to ensure that his patients are well informed and that their care is tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. His motivation is for safety first while ensuring patients and partners have a positive and happy birth experience.

After initial training in the specialty in Dublin, Professor Geary did further postgraduate training in the UK. While conducting clinical research at University College Hospital London, he completed his award winning doctorate. After completing his specialist training he did sub-specialty training in maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Toronto, one of the busiest training programs in North America. He worked at Mount Sinai Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He has Fellowships from the Royal Colleges in both the UK and Ireland, and is certified in Advanced Obstetric Ultrasound by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Radiologists.

Professor Geary was appointed Chief Executive Officer/Master of the Rotunda in January 2002 and has held academic appointments as Professor at Trinity College and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. During his seven-year term as Master, he was instrumental in leading the team to many new clinical and quality improvement innovations in order to enhance patient care. Following this term, He worked as a consultant at the Rotunda before taking up the post of Chief of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto in 2014. While working as a subspecialist in maternal-fetal medicine at St Michael's, he was the Lead for Obstetrics on the Quality Improvement & Patient Safety committee at the university. During this time he was central to leading change and quality improvement across the Greater Toronto Area for postpartum haemorrhage, caesarean section audit, and optimising management of medical emergencies in labour. Recognising the power of academic partnership, Professor Geary is particularly interested in fostering research collaborations nationally and internationally and is a founding member of the highly successful Perinatal Ireland Research Consortium. More recently, he was involved in setting up the Greater Toronto Area OBGYN Clinical Research Network in 2014. Throughout his career, he has led and collaborated in a large number of research programs, including international randomized trials and cohort studies.

	He has wide research interests in the areas of low and high risk pregnancy, which includes a focus on fetal growth, labour, twins, and the effects of hypertension/diabetes/obesity on the mother and fetus. More recently he has directed his attention towards quality improvement and safe systems of care for mother and baby. Professor Geary is committed to education of medical and midwifery students, and postgraduate trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He has supervised and mentored numerous trainees in research, many of whom have completed medical doctorates.Professor Geary returned to the Rotunda in September 2017 as Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and was appointed Director of Labour & Delivery. He has resumed his position as Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and continues to hold an honorary academic appointment as Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto. Professor Geary was Clinical Director at The Rotunda Hospital from July 2019 until 2022. He has recently been appointed Associate Clinical Director for women and children at the RCSI Hospital Group, the largest hospital network in Ireland. He also has the role of Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.Professor Geary's practice provides 24 hour a day availability. He practices from two convenient offices in Dublin, one based on the Northside at the Rotunda and one based on the Southside at the Evie Clinic (Beacon Hospital) in Sandyford.