



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



**ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS
OF IRELAND**

AGENDA

FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Every Child- Every Future

No. 6 Kildare St, Dublin
Friday October 9th 2026
09:55am – 16:15pm
6 CPD credits



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



**ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS
OF IRELAND**

AGENDA

Registration and Introduction

Time	Title	Speaker
09:15 – 09:55	Registration	
09:55 – 10:00	Dean's Opening Remarks	Prof Michael O'Neill, <i>Dean, Faculty of Paediatrics</i>

Session 1: National Clinical Programme Updates

Chairs: Prof Eoin O'Curraín and Dr Jean Donnelly

Time	Title	Speakers
10:00 – 10:10	An Update from the Co-Leads of the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics	Dr Hilary Stokes <i>Co- Lead for the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics</i> Professor Colin Hawkes <i>Co-Lead of the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics</i>
10:10 – 10:20	Update from National Neonatology Programme	Dr Ann Hickey <i>Consultant Neonatologist Children's Health Ireland and National Clinical Lead for Neonatology</i>
10:20 – 10:30	Question and Answer Session	



Session 2: EU Presidency Themes

Chairs: Dr Wasim Asif and Dr Shoana Quinn

Time	Title	Speakers
10:30 – 10:40	Vaping and Young People - Beyond the Cloud	Dr Des Cox, <i>Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician Children's Health Ireland</i>
10:40– 10:50	Insulin Pump Therapy: Past, Present and Future	Dr Cillian Lineen <i>Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda</i>
10:50 – 11:00	Growing up in a Digital Age	Alex Cooney, <i>CEO Cybersafe Kids</i>
11:00– 11:15	Question and Answer Session	
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	

Session 3: Voices for Change

Chairs: Prof Michael O'Neill and Dr Judith Meehan

Time	Title	Speakers
11:30 – 11:50	Beyond "Patient Voice"	Ms. Sinéad Burke, <i>Founder & CEO of Tilting the Lens</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Essential for Some, Good for All	Mr. Adam Harris <i>Founder & CEO of AsIAm</i>
12:10– 12:35	Panel Discussion	
12:35 – 13:45	Lunch	

Session 4: Ralph Counahan Memorial Lecture

Chairs: Introduced by Prof Michael O'Neill

Time	Title	Speakers
13:45 – 14:15	Caring for Children with Severe Neurological Impairment: Commitment to Desired Outcome and Honest Reflection	Julie Hauer, MD, FAAHPM <i>Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's Hospital</i>



Session 5: What's New in your specialty?

Chairs: Dr Cilian O Maoldomhnaigh and Dr Frances Neenan

Time	Title	Speakers
14.15-14.20	Advances in Cardiac Imaging - Blurring the Lines between Imaging and Intervention	Dr Orla Franklin, <i>Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist. Associate Clinical Professor Trinity College Dublin</i>
14:20 – 14.25	Child Development and Neurodisability	Prof Denise Mc Donald, <i>Consultant Paediatrician Associate Academic Professor in Cerebral Palsy</i>
14:25 – 14.30	Food Oral immunotherapy in Ireland, an old approach becoming something new	Prof Juan Trujillo Wurttele, <i>Consultant Paediatric Allergist in Cork University Hospital (CUH)</i>
14:30 – 14.35	Five in Five: 12 Months of Kidney Highlights, No Filter	Prof Catherine Quinlan, <i>Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Children's Health Ireland Director of Partnerships and Impact</i>
14:35- 14.40	Updates in Neonatology	Dr Matt Mc Govern, <i>Consultant Neonatologist Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital and CHI Crumlin</i>
14:40 – 15.15	Panel Discussion and Q/A	
15:15 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 16.15	Awards Ceremony, Chaired by Prof Michael O Neill	
16.15pm	Conference Close, Prof Michael O Neill, Dean of the Faculty of Paediatrics	



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



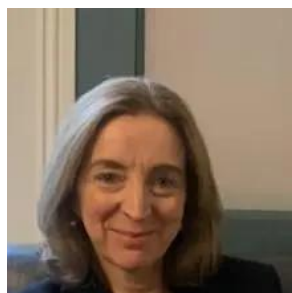
TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Dr. Hilary Stokes



Professor Colin Hawkes

Professor Hawkes received both his medical degree and PhD from University College Cork and completed his paediatric residency and paediatric endocrinology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is Co-Lead of the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics, as well as Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist and Clinical Director of Paediatrics at Cork University Hospital. He also serves as Associate Professor of Paediatrics at University College Cork and holds an adjunct faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, his research primarily focuses on disorders of growth, calcium & glucose metabolism, and type 1 diabetes.



Dr. Ann Hickey

Dr Ann Hickey has recently taken up the role of neonatal lead for the National Clinical Programme in Paediatrics and Neonatology and is a consultant neonatologist at Children's Health Ireland (CHI). She also sits on the Faculty of Paediatrics Board at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI).

Prior to these roles, Ann led the neonatal service at CHI following her return to Ireland in 2020. In this role, she focused on developing neonatal services in readiness for the new children's hospital and Ireland's first quaternary NICU. She was also co-chair of the National Neonatal Clinical Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the HSE from 2021 until 2026.

Ann graduated from Cork in 1993 and went on to train in neonatal medicine in both Ireland and the UK, based mainly in London. She gained experience as a consultant neonatologist at King's College Hospital and served as head of neonatal services there from 2014 to 2020.

Alongside her clinical work, Ann has been actively involved in teaching, audit, research, and stakeholder engagement. She is committed to advancing safe, evidence-based neonatal care through collaborative practice and strategic service planning.



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Professor Des Cox

Prof Des Cox qualified in medicine from University College Dublin (UCD) in 2001. He completed his paediatric training in Ireland and subsequently completed a fellowship in paediatric respiratory medicine at Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth, Australia. He was appointed to his current position as consultant in paediatric respiratory medicine at Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Crumlin in March 2012.

Prof Des Cox was appointed a clinical professor with the School of Medicine, UCD in 2019. He is a member of the RCPI clinical advisory group on tobacco and vaping and has led on a number of tobacco control advocacy issues in Ireland including Tobacco 21. He is also a member of the ERS tobacco control committee.

His research interests include the development of lung disease in preschool children, particularly in the areas of asthma and Cystic Fibrosis. His current area of interest is examining the impact of vaping during pregnancy on infant respiratory health.



Dr. Cillian Lineen

Dr. Cillian Lineen is a Consultant General Paediatrician and Paediatric Endocrinologist at Our Lady of Lourdes' Hospital, Drogheda, appointed in May 2025. He graduated from UCC in 2016 and completed Paediatrics training in Ireland and completed a Clinical Fellowship in Paediatric Endocrinology at SickKids, Toronto in 2024. Interests include Diabetes Technology and access, as well as Undergraduate/Postgraduate medical education.



Alex Cooney

Alex Cooney has spent her whole career in the not-for-profit sector. She spent a number of years working in the international development sector with agencies such as UNDP in East Timor and with CAFOD, where she was responsible for the South East Asia programme. Before returning to Ireland, she was based in Jamaica, working for the British High Commission on a capacity building project in the prison sector. Following her return to Ireland, in 2015 she co-founded CyberSafeIreland, now known as CyberSafeKids, and is currently its CEO. CyberSafeKids is recognised as Ireland's national voice for children's online safety – a catalyst that convenes parents, policymakers, educators, and partners to deliver systemic change. Both personally as a parent, and professionally in her role at CyberSafeKids, she is extremely passionate about ensuring that children and young people are equipped to be online in a safe and smart way and that the online world is made safer for them. Alex completed a QQI Level 6 component certificate in Child Psychology in 2019, a Professional Certificate in Digital Policy at UCD in 2022 and holds a Master's Degree in Peace Studies from Trinity College Dublin, in addition to an MA from the University of Edinburgh.



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Sinéad Burke

Sinéad Burke's life and work has been framed by her drive as a little person to make the world more accessible for all disabled and otherwise marginalised people. Sinéad has spoken to leaders across the world to make the case for the inclusion of disabled people in every room where decisions are made, to drive system change by using lived experience to advance beyond compliance. This includes stage time at the World Economic Forum, the UN, the White House, TED, Cannes Lion and many more.

In 2020, Sinéad founded the strategic consultancy 'Tilting the Lens', to build an accessible and fairer world. Along with her majority-disabled team, their work ranges from creating more accessible public spaces (like companies, shops, film sets, hotels and nightclubs, galleries, and playgrounds) to advising on required changes within recruitment, workflows, and culture to set disabled employees up for success.

Seeing limitations in both Universal Design and Inclusive Design, Tilting the Lens uses them only as a starting point and instead, adopts accessibility as a framework, creating multi-modal solutions, by co-designing through human-centred design principles. This builds trust and leads with empathy to understand users needs and expectations by meaningfully engaging with the disabled community and co-designing solutions. This work is both local and global, with clients on 4 continents across business, media, public sector, the arts, academia, and non-profit sectors.



Adam Harris

Adam Harris is the Founder and CEO of AsIAM, Ireland's Autism Charity. Adam founded AsIAM based on his own experiences growing up as an Autistic person in Ireland. In addition to his leadership at AsIAM, Adam was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in July 2020 and served as an Executive Council Member for Autism Europe. He is a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awardee and has sat on and advised many government consultative and policy committees on disability rights and inclusion, which have helped shape national policies for a more inclusive society. A passionate public speaker and advocate, Adam regularly contributes to media and conferences in Ireland and overseas, engaging with government and the public to promote greater understanding and acceptance of Autistic individuals. His work has positioned AsIAM as a cornerstone of autism advocacy in Ireland, driven by his belief that Ireland must become a country in which every Autistic person is accepted "as they are" - equal, valued and respected.



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Julie Hauer, MD, FAAHPM

Julie Hauer is faculty at Boston Children's Hospital since 2009 and medical director now consultant at Seven Hills Pediatric Center, a long-term care facility in Massachusetts. Starting 30 years ago at Gillette Children's in Minnesota, Julie has focused on children with severe neurological impairment who have multiple co-morbidities, resulting in complex medical care and decision-making. Her work includes complex symptom treatment and most recently a framework to aid iterative decision-making and end-of-life care. Julie has written 2 books and provided the medical content for Courageous Parents NeuroJourney. Her experiences learning with and from parents, along with interdisciplinary colleagues, has been the guiding light these 30 years.



Professor Orla Franklin

Professor Orla Franklin is a consultant fetal and paediatric cardiologist in Children's Health Ireland. She has a particular interest in the functional echo imaging in both term and preterm infants and in infants and children with Down syndrome. She is the National Speciality Director for Paediatric Cardiology. She is an associate professor at Trinity College Dublin.



Professor Denise McDonald

Professor McDonald is a consultant paediatrician with a special interest in neurodisability. She has a particular interest in physical disability, including cerebral palsy, neuromuscular conditions and the management of children and young people with severe neurological impairment. Her research interests align as Clinical Lead for the Cerebral Palsy Registry project, co-lead on a project to develop a National Framework for Cerebral Palsy Care across the Lifespan and a Knowledge Translation Strategy and PI for CPGenIE, a project to determine the importance of genetic investigations in children in Ireland with cerebral palsy. She is co-Pi on a project to establish a Programme for Psychosocial Care in paediatric neuromuscular conditions and has supervised work to establish a consensus definition and a core minimum clinical dataset for Severe Neurological Impairment.

Professor McDonald holds an associate academic position in cerebral palsy in TCD and a clinical role in CHI.



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Professor Juan Trujillo Wurttele

Prof Juan Trujillo MD PhD is a Consultant Paediatric Allergist in Cork University Hospital (CUH) and a Clinical Professor (Honorary) at University College Cork (UCC). He is the program director of the post-graduate programs of Allergy and Clinical Immunology of UCC, Co director of the Center of excellence in allergy in CUH-UCC accredited by the World Allergy Organization. and the National specialist director of Paediatrics by the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. He has been one the National Specialist director (NSD) of BST Paediatrics for RCPI since 2023. He is an active member of several allergy societies: the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), the Irish Association of Allergy and Immunology, the British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI), the Spanish Society of Paediatric Asthma Allergy and Clinical Immunology (SEICAP). Dr Trujillo has more than 60 high impact journal publications focusing on Food allergy, allergic rhinitis, and oral and sublingual immunotherapy. Over 15 years of experience in food allergy immunotherapy management. Including Several clinical trials in peanut immunotherapy



Dr. Catherine Quinlan

Professor Catherine Quinlan is a Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist and Director of Research Partnerships and Impact at Children's Health Ireland. After training in Ireland and London, she spent over a decade in Melbourne, where she established a state-wide kidney genetics service and led a national kidney research programme with a focus on genetic kidney disease and cardiovascular health. Her work focuses on genomics, the early detection of kidney disease through clinical data and the integration of research into everyday care. She is Editor in Chief of NPJ Nephrology and Clinical Lead for AI at the RCPI. Today she will speak on what is new in paediatric nephrology.



Dr. Matt McGovern

Dr Matthew McGovern, Consultant Neonatologist Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital and CHI Crumlin, MB BCh B.A.O, MSc, PhD, FRCPI Biography: Dr McGovern completed Paediatric HST in Ireland in 2021. He subsequently worked in the Evelina Children's Hospital NICU as a Senior Clinical Fellow with a focus on extreme prematurity and complex neonatology. Dr McGovern currently works as a Consultant Neonatologist in The Coombe Hospital and CHI Crumlin. He holds an MSc in Clinical Research, a PhD in Paediatrics and is the co-chair of the Neonatology Clinical Advisory Group in RCPI.