



**INSTITUTE OF
OBSTETRICIANS &
GYNAECOLOGISTS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Webinar: Stillbirth Matters – Prevention, Investigation, Management, and Care Webinar

October 4th

Approved for up to 2 CPD credits



Introduction

Stillbirth is a major health burden. Few complications in a maternity hospital are as devastating for parents and clinicians as the death of a baby during pregnancy or birth. In the developed world, one in 200 infants is stillborn, meaning they are born with no signs of life and stillbirth remains up to 10 times more common than sudden infant death syndrome. In Ireland, the 2020 Perinatal Mortality Annual Report from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre describes 240 infants who were stillborn. While these numbers compare well with low and middle income countries, and neonatal mortality continues to reduce, stillbirth rates have increased in Ireland since 2018.

Stillbirth has relatively recently become an international focus of concern as a preventable death, with the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization naming reduction in stillbirth rates as key goals to improve pregnancy outcome. The investigation of causes of stillbirth as well as development of effective interventions to prevent stillbirth have been classified as a specific global research priority. In Ireland, the National Standards for Bereavement Care following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death were first published in 2016, aiming to put bereavement care and parents' needs at the centre of maternity services. January 2023 saw the publication of a new national clinical practice guideline on Stillbirth which dealt with prevention, investigation, management and care, while the first ever National Maternity Bereavement Experience survey was published by HIQA in May 2023.

This webinar will provide updates on Stillbirth rates, care practices, reviews and related policies in Ireland, as well as discussing risk factors, awareness and prevention strategies, and presenting updates in investigation of stillbirth and perinatal bereavement care.

Time	Topic	Speaker	Title
Session: Stillbirth Matters – Prevention, Investigation, Management, and Care Webinar			
5:00pm - 5:20pm	Stillbirth matters in Ireland	Prof Keelin O'Donoghue	Consultant Obstetrician
5:20pm - 5:35pm	Risk factors and prevention	Dr Tamara Escanuela Sanchez	Post-Doctoral Researcher, National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre
5:35pm – 5:55pm	Perinatal Pathology and Stillbirth	Dr Brendan Fitzgerald	Consultant Pathologist
5:55pm – 6:10pm	Care Experience and Bereavement Care	Rev. Dr Daniel Nuzum	Healthcare Chaplain and Lecturer, Cork University Maternity Hospital
6:10pm - 6:45pm	Q&A		

Speaker biographies



Prof Keelin O'Donoghue

Professor Keelin O'Donoghue is a medical graduate of University College Dublin and PhD Scholar of Imperial College London. She is an RCOG-trained Subspecialist in Maternal and Fetal Medicine, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Keelin has been Consultant Obstetrician/Senior Lecturer at CUMH and University College Cork since 2007 and was awarded promotion to Professor in UCC in 2020.

Keelin is national specialty-training director for the RCPI's higher specialist training scheme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She leads implementation for the HSE's [National Standards for Bereavement Care following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death](#). She is now Clinical Lead for [Guideline Development in Maternity and Gynaecology](#) at the National Women and Infants Health Programme, HSE. At UCC, Keelin leads the award-winning [Pregnancy Loss Research Group](#), combining supervising a large group of postgraduate and Doctoral students with collaborative clinical research. Current funding includes awards from Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish Research Council and the Health Research Board. Keelin's work has resulted in >200 peer-reviewed original papers and >350 published conference proceedings.

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/>
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Zin3JUkAAAAJ&hl=en>



Dr. Tamara Escañuela Sánchez

Dr. Tamara Escañuela Sánchez is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC). Her work at the NPEC focuses around clinical audit, data quality and research dissemination. Tamara attended the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where she earned a BSc. in Psychology in 2014. Building on her foundation, she pursued a Master's Degree in Health Psychology from the University of Barcelona. Tamara worked clinically in child and adolescent mental health services in Spain and in the UK before starting her PhD with the Pregnancy Loss Research Group in 2018.

Tamara earned her PhD in March 2023.. Her PhD entitled "the RELEVANT Study: Rethinking Stillbirth through behaviour change", aimed to build the evidence base to inform the future development of a behavior change intervention to address the behavioural risk factors for stillbirth. Collaborating closely with the PLRG, Tamara continues to develop her PhD project into an intervention as part of her work with the NPEC.



Rev'd Dr Daniel Nuzum

Dr Daniel Nuzum is a healthcare chaplain, lecturer and clinical pastoral education supervisor based at Cork University Maternity Hospital and University College Cork. Daniel Completed his PhD at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCC on 'The Spiritual and Professional impact of Stillbirth'. Daniel is an active member of the Pregnancy Loss Research Group at UCC and has research interests in the area of perinatal loss, communication in healthcare and staff wellbeing. Daniel contributed to the development of the National Standards for Bereavement Care following pregnancy loss and perinatal death and continues to serve on its National Advisory Group.



Dr Brendan FitzGerald

Dr. Fitzgerald is a medical school graduate of University College Cork, Ireland. He went on to obtain a Masters in Pathology from University College Dublin, Ireland and a Diploma in Medical Informatics from the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Scotland. Training as a histopathologist in the Irish National Histopathology Training Program he obtained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists UK (FRCPath) in 2007 and his certificate of completion of specialist training in histopathology in 2009. From 2008 to 2011 he was a clinical fellow in Perinatal Pathology at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto and the University of Toronto, Canada. In 2011 he was appointed as a consultant histopathologist with a special interest in perinatal pathology at Cork University Hospital. In 2016 was accepted as a Fellow of the Faculty of Pathology Ireland (FFPath) and became an honorary senior clinical lecturer at University College Cork.

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

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