

Children in Hospital Ireland Lecture Series:

Below are listed just some of the keynote speakers and topics that have featured in the annual lecture throughout the decades:

- **Prof Fiona McNicholas** (Department of Child Psychiatry, University College Dublin), speaking on children's participation in their healthcare – choices and challenges;
- **Prof Seamus Cowman** (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), speaking on the challenges for parents of a child with a disability;
- **Dr Owen Hensey** (Central Remedial Clinic), speaking on the danger of children with a disability getting lost in the system;
- **Fergus Finlay** (then chef de cabinet of the Labour Party, later chief executive of Barnardos), speaking on children's rights;
- **Prof Brendan Drumm** (then chief executive of the Health Service Executive), speaking on the implications of health service reform on children;
- **Geraldine Johnston** and **Rebecca Mitchell** (then of Bristol Royal Hospital for Children), speaking on issues raised by commissioning a children's hospital on a city-centre adult-hospital campus;
- **Emily Logan** (Ombudsman for Children, 2003-2014), speaking on the work of the ombudsman's office and respect for the voice of children;
- **Prof Alf Nicholson** (consultant paediatrician, Temple Street Hospital, until September 2019), speaking on how to create a better Europe for children;
- **Dr Tony Bates** (founding director of Headstrong), speaking on caring for young people in distress;
- **Prof Sir Al Aynsley-Green** (former chair of the NHS Children's Task Force and the first Children's Commissioner for England), questioning how effective we are in speaking up for children, young people and their health;
- **John Lonergan** (former governor of Mountjoy Prison), exploring, in the week of Ireland's historic children's referendum in 2012, how Ireland's treatment of children has often been high in aspiration but low on delivery;
- **Prof Alf Nicholson, Dr John Murphy** and **June Bolger** (national leads in paediatrics, neonatology and patient and public involvement, respectively), chaired by **Emily Logan**,

discussing the challenges and opportunities deriving from the launch of the National Healthcare Charter for Children;

- **Dr Peter Lachman** (then deputy medical director at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London), speaking on the challenge of ensuring safe equal healthcare for all children.
- **Dr. Piet LeRoy** (MD, PHD, senior consultant and director of the Paediatric Procedural Unit at Maastricht University Medical Centre) on the topic of procedural anxiety and pain in children and how to achieve optimal procedural comfort care in sick children.
- **Barbara Wren** (consultant psychologist), discussing the importance of building and maintaining resilience while working with children in the healthcare system.
- **Adam Harris** (social entrepreneur and Founder-CEO of AsIAm.ie) exploring the experience of teens and young adults in hospital and the challenges they can face and how we can respond.

In 2021, during Covid-19, Children in Hospital Ireland, along with so many others, hosted its annual lecture virtually. **Childhood Illness: The Ripple Effect** was the lecture which served to highlight the wider impact of childhood illness and hospitalization on families. Our speakers were Sheila May, Medical Social Worker, Children's Health Ireland, Temple Street. Dr. Nikki Dunne, Family Carers Ireland and Sarah Quinlan, CEO, Children's Heartbeat Trust Belfast, together with Margaret Rogers, Heart Children Ireland. The theme of Lecture 2021 is in keeping with our current advocacy and policy work in aiming to address the lack of supports available to assist with the non-medical costs attached to having a child in hospital.