



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Election of Members to the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU

Candidate: Sheelagh McNeill

Registration No: PT 036078

County of Practice: Co. Sligo

Nominated in Category 1: Registrant engaged in the practice of the profession

Personal Statement/ Biography:

Dr Sheelagh McNeill has enjoyed being actively involved with the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP) for many years at local, national and international level. She graduated from the Dublin School of Physiotherapy and Trinity College. She started her working career in Guy's Hospital, London. Two years later she returned to Dublin where she worked in the Adelaide Hospital. She currently works in private practice in Sligo where she lives.

Sheelagh has always been interested in continuing professional development (CPD) and between 1974 -2008 she undertook several third level courses culminating in a D.Phil. from the University of Ulster.

While Sheelagh was on the Council of the ISCP, prior to 2010, she worked on the Overseas Accreditation Standing Committee (OASC) which later became the International Qualifications Working Group (IQWG). She found the work fascinating as this group assessed the qualifications of overseas applicants wishing to become members of the Society.

From 2009-2012 she was President Elect and then President of the ISCP. In these roles she worked on the Statutory Registration Committee for the protection of both titles. In her role as President, Sheelagh was chairperson of the Professional Procedures and Ethics Committee and gained much experience in this role. At that time the Society dealt with complaints about physiotherapists.

Sheelagh has experience in Governance, Professional Procedures and Ethics, International Qualifications and CPD and would like to bring this experience to CORU for the protection of both the public and the profession.



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Election of Members to the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU

Candidate: Joanne Dowds

Registration No: PT028659

County of Practice: Dublin 8

Nominated in Category 1: Registrant engaged in the practice of the profession

Personal Statement/ Biography:

Joanne graduated from Trinity College with a BSc in Physiotherapy in 1999 before working as a rotational staff grade in Naas Hospital, St James Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, Australia. Upon her return from travelling she worked as Senior Physiotherapist in Respiratory Care in St James's Hospital, until she became a Clinical Specialist in Respiratory Care in 2006. Her areas of clinical interest are critical care and surgical recovery, she has also been involved in developing innovative services in the areas of post-covid care and Inclusion Health.

Joanne has held temporary posts as Deputy Physiotherapy Manager and as Quality Improvement Facilitator in St James's. She has lectured extensively at undergraduate and postgraduate level, including some time as clinical support to a Master's programme in Respiratory Physiotherapy based in Trinity College, Dublin. Joanne has been an active member of many professional committees including the Chartered Physiotherapists in Respiratory Care (CPRC), Professional Development Committee of the ISCP, the Planning Committee of the ISCP and Health Informatics Society of Ireland (HISI) annual conferences. She is currently a member of the National HSCP eHealth Advisory group.

Joanne has completed a MSc in Exercise Physiology, Dip. in Coaching, Dip. in Creativity, Innovation and Leadership and is currently completing the Leading Care II programme. In 2018, she was chosen as a 'HOPE' participant, a European healthcare exchange programme where she had the opportunity to experience the Danish healthcare system. She has over 20 publications and multiple conference presentations.



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Election of Members to the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU

Candidate: Jorge Castejón

Registration No: PT047157

County of Practice: Co. Kildare

Nominated in Category 1: Registrant engaged in the practice of the profession

Personal Statement/ Biography:

Jorge Castejón (George) is a Spanish physiotherapist who moved to Ireland in 2020. His main interests are neuroscience, therapeutic exercise, chronic pain, manual therapy and sports injuries. Since graduating in 2015, he has consistently combined studies and clinical practice in the private sector.

As an expert on ultrasound assessment, manual therapy, and neuroscience, Jorge has developed a holistic clinical approach that combines years of experience with the latest evidence-based treatments. Matched with his personal experience of the CORU application process, Jorge has a clear understanding of both recognition and registration as well as their purpose. This experience gives him a clear perspective of the role required as a member of the Physiotherapists Registration Board of CORU.

Before coming to Ireland George worked in four different private clinics along with the soccer team Real Oviedo CF. Presently, he is working as a Lead Physiotherapist with Compass Physio based in Kilcock while helping to develop leadership of CPD in the company's 4 clinics based in Enfield, Kilcock, Castlecomer and Trim.

Jorge is passionate about the physiotherapy profession and strongly believes in the potential of the profession to change people's lives. This passion, together with his personal experience of the CORU application process, allows him to have a clear perspective and insight as a member of the Physiotherapists Registration Board.

Outside of physiotherapy, Jorge is the co-founder of a band (Gethere) and practises different sports on a daily basis such as CrossFit, functional training and ultramarathon running.



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Election of Members to the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU

Candidate: Orla Fahy

Registration No: PT029173

County of Practice: Co. Wexford

Nominated in Category 2: Registrant engaged in the management of services provided by the profession.

Personal Statement/ Biography:

Orla Fahy is a Physiotherapist Manager with Wexford Physiotherapy Services, a role she has enjoyed since 2015. After graduating from Kings College London in 1999 she completed staff grade rotations in The Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust, London and Limerick Regional Hospital. She became a senior in acquired brain injury team in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dún Laoghaire in 2003. Here she established a MDT upper limb rehab group, introduced robotic therapy, presented on numerous occasions at annual rehabilitation conferences and trained as a manual handling instructor.

In 2009, she moved to the south east of Ireland, taking up a senior role in Women's Health and Musculoskeletal Health (MSK). After moving into management, she gained an IMI Graduate Award in Executive Healthcare Leadership as part of the HSE Leading Care 1 Programme. Orla is committed to quality, patient centred care and takes a lead with driving a culture of audit informed and data driven practise in Wexford Physiotherapy Services.

Orla is very committed to the physiotherapy profession and over her career has held the role of ISCP CPNG National Chair, has been a committee member with the CPOHE and also currently holds the role of Education Officer with the CPM. Orla is proud to work with the HSE and volunteered to work as part of the vaccination programme and as a community swabber in addition to her managerial duties during the COVID-19 pandemic. Outside of work, she enjoys reading and working out - but never at the same time!



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Election of Members to the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU

Candidate: Roisin O'Hanlon

Registration No: PT027860

County of Practice: Co. Galway

Nominated in Category 2: Registrant engaged in the management of services provided by the profession.

Personal Statement/ Biography:

Róisín O Hanlon qualified as a physiotherapist from Trinity College, Dublin in 1989 after which she worked in London and Australia for four years. On returning to Ireland, she worked in both public (acute and community care) and private practice, before starting in Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe in 1996. Róisín has been the Lead Physiotherapist since then, managing a growing team that provides physiotherapy to a wide range of clinical areas in a Model 3 hospital.

Róisín has been involved in the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP) at both branch employment and national level, including having served as Vice President for a year. Separately, she has been involved in discussions with the NRS on recruitment panels. Currently, she is one of the HSCP representatives on Saolta's project to introduce a new management structure across the hospital group. At all times she was conscious of representing a moderately sized hospital when applying local and national strategies to the workplace.

She has particular interests in the areas of consent and the duty of care that clinical staff have towards their patients. Recently, she has become concerned that there is a need to ensure an adequate availability of qualified staff members to fit the posts that are being created while supporting these staff in maintaining competence and gaining easy access to further educational opportunities.

Róisín has an MA in Healthcare Management through the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and is completing a BL from the Honourable Society of the King's Inns.