

IAANMP Conference – Friday, 6 November 2026, Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

Theme: Advanced Practice in Ireland – Transforming Care, Measuring Impact, Expanding Access and Shaping the Future

On Friday, 6 November 2026, advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs), advanced midwife practitioners (AMPs), healthcare leaders, policymakers, academics and clinical innovators from across Ireland will gather at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, for the Irish Association of Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioners (IAANMP) Annual Conference 2026.

Under the theme "*Advanced Practice in Ireland: Transforming Care, Measuring Impact, Expanding Access and Shaping the Future*," this year's conference reflects the growing influence of advanced practice in shaping modern healthcare delivery. As healthcare systems continue to face increasing demands associated with population growth, chronic disease, workforce challenges and rising service expectations, advanced practitioners continue to demonstrate their value through clinical leadership, innovation, research and the delivery of high-quality, patient-centred care.

The conference programme has been designed to explore the evolving role of advanced practice while highlighting the significant contribution ANPs and AMPs make to healthcare delivery across Ireland. Bringing together nationally recognised experts and leaders from across healthcare, the event will provide delegates with opportunities to share knowledge, celebrate achievement and engage in discussions on the future direction of advanced nursing and midwifery practice.

The conference will be formally opened by **Ms Melissa Hammond**, Chair of the IAANMP and Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP), whose welcome address will reflect on the continued growth of advanced practice and the Association's commitment to supporting excellence in clinical practice, education, research and leadership.

The opening address will be delivered by **Dr Colm Henry**, Chief Clinical Officer of the Health Service Executive (HSE). As one of Ireland's senior clinical leaders, Dr Henry has played a pivotal role in shaping national healthcare strategy, clinical governance and service transformation. His address will provide delegates with an important overview of current healthcare priorities and the contribution of advanced practice to delivering safe, effective and integrated patient care across Ireland.

The morning programme will feature keynote presentations exploring education, innovation and the development of advanced practice capability. **Dr Jarlath Varley**, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Programme Director of the MSc in Advanced Practice at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, will present *Impact by Design: Building ANMP Capability through Advanced Practice Education*. His presentation will examine how advanced education supports clinical excellence, leadership and the continued development of the advanced practitioner workforce.

Delegates will also hear from **Clare Crowley**, Nursing and Midwifery Fellow with the National Simulation Office, who will present on the role of simulation in advanced practice and quality

improvement. As healthcare systems become increasingly complex, simulation-based education is playing an important role in strengthening clinical decision-making, enhancing patient safety and supporting multidisciplinary team performance.

Digital transformation remains a key priority across Irish healthcare. **Professor Richard Greene and Loretto Grogan** from HSE Technology and Transformation will provide delegates with an update on the national Electronic Health Record programme. Their session will explore how digital innovation is transforming clinical practice, improving information sharing and supporting more integrated, efficient and patient-centred models of care.

Protecting and advancing the profession is another important theme within this year's programme. **Phil Ní Sheaghdha**, General Secretary of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO), will examine the importance of professional autonomy and scope of practice, highlighting the policy, workforce and professional issues influencing the continued development of advanced practice roles in Ireland.

Supporting professional development, academic achievement and the recognition of excellence remains central to the mission of the IANMP. The conference will feature presentations from the **recipients of the IANMP Bernie Carpenter and Trisha McKeown Bursaries**, recognising innovative work that advances research, education and clinical practice. These prestigious bursaries reflect the Association's continued commitment to fostering scholarship, supporting emerging leaders and strengthening the evidence base underpinning advanced nursing and midwifery practice.

Delegates will also hear from **Carolyn Donohoe**, Chief Executive Officer of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI), who will provide an important update on professional regulation and developments within nursing and midwifery. Her address will highlight the NMBI's ongoing role in supporting safe, effective and contemporary professional practice.

Measuring and demonstrating the impact of advanced practice continues to be a national priority. **Patricia Minnock**, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner, will deliver a keynote presentation entitled *Capturing Impact in Advanced Practice*, exploring the importance of evidencing clinical outcomes, service improvements and patient benefits arising from advanced practice roles. Demonstrating measurable impact is essential in supporting workforce planning, service expansion and the continued evolution of advanced practice across Ireland.

A highlight of the afternoon programme will be a multidisciplinary panel discussion chaired by **Priscilla Lynch**, award winning journalist and Clinical Editor of *The Medical Independent*. The panel, entitled *"Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioners' Impact in Ireland: Unlocking Opportunities, Demonstrating Benefits and Overcoming Challenges,"* will bring together **senior representatives** from the **Department of Health, the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD), the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, HSE Technology and Transformation, practising advanced nurse practitioners and the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation.**

The discussion will explore how advanced practitioners are improving access to healthcare, delivering measurable patient outcomes and contributing to service transformation across Ireland. Panel members will consider the opportunities and challenges associated with workforce expansion, digital innovation, professional regulation, leadership and the future strategic development of advanced practice.

The conference features a motivational address from **Dr Brian Pennie**, internationally recognised neuroscientist, author, lecturer and entrepreneur. His presentation, *'There is No Magic Wand; Only Powerful Tools We Forget to Use!'*, will explore the science of resilience, mindset and sustainable personal change. Drawing on both his lived experience and extensive academic expertise, Dr Pennie has become a leading advocate for psychological resilience, adaptability, and high performance in challenging environments.

His remarkable personal journey, from heroin addiction to earning a doctorate in neuroscience and psychology, has inspired audiences worldwide and underpins his unique approach to personal and professional development. As a lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, award-winning television presenter, bestselling author, and founder of *Change is Possible*, Dr Pennie works with individuals and organisations to foster meaningful and sustainable change.

His keynote address is expected to provide delegates with valuable insights into leadership, innovation, wellbeing, and the importance of embracing change within increasingly complex healthcare environments. Through a compelling blend of science, storytelling, and practical strategies, he will challenge attendees to rethink limitations, build resilience, and unlock their full potential.

Throughout the day, delegates will have the opportunity to view **poster presentations** showcasing research, quality improvement initiatives and examples of innovation from advanced practitioners across Ireland. These presentations continue to promote collaboration, evidence-based practice and the dissemination of new knowledge throughout the profession.

The conference will conclude with the **IAANMP Annual General Meeting**, followed by networking opportunities during the closing reception. These sessions provide members with an opportunity to engage with colleagues, discuss future priorities for the profession and strengthen professional networks across the advanced practice community.

As advanced practice continues to expand throughout Ireland, the IAANMP Annual Conference remains an important national platform for professional engagement, education and collaboration. The conference reflects the continued progress of advanced nursing and midwifery practice and the growing influence of ANPs and AMPs in shaping healthcare delivery, policy development and patient outcomes.

The IANMP looks forward to welcoming delegates from across Ireland for a day of innovation, knowledge exchange, professional networking and celebration of excellence in advanced nursing and midwifery practice.