

# Life Long Learning in Pharmacy

The Life Long Learning in Pharmacy (LLLLP) conference series is an international conference series that has been taking place for the past 25 years.



Dr Catriona Bradley, IIOF

LLLLP provides an opportunity for national and international colleagues to meet and to discuss their research in the areas of pharmacy education and continued professional development. Pharmacists, educators, researchers, regulators, policy-makers and professional associations from around the world attend the LLLLP conferences.

As such, the conference facilitates participant access to high quality educational programs, internationally significant research and development, and world-renowned leaders in the field. LLLLP conferences have been convened around the world.

The last event was held in Brisbane in 2018, at which, Dr Catriona Bradley was delighted to announce that Ireland and RCSI were selected as the hosts for 2020 – which became 2021, then 2021 Virtual.

The theme for this conference was 'The Journey of Learning'. This theme represents the experience that we all undertake as we engage in education and adapt to the continuously evolving modern workplace.

Subthemes that were explored through discussion and presentation of research at the event were; - Preparing for the Journey,

- Planning the Route – the stages of our learning journey,
- Provisions and Companions – things that help us in our journey,

- Destinations – where are we going?

The rescheduled event ran from Sunday June 27, to Wednesday June 30. Over 250 delegates registered to attend from across 13 different countries.

There were six keynote events spread over four days: one session for each of the four speakers, and a panel discussion at the beginning and the end of the conference to frame the journey.

- Zubin Austin: Professor and Koffler Chair in Management at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Institute for Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation - Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Zubin discussed Flow, and the Psychology of Engagement and how this could be worked into programme design.

- Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl: Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow, with the National Institute of Digital Learning in Dublin City University. Mairéad's chosen topic was the Power of the Network in Lifelong Learning.

- Mary E Collins: Senior Executive Development Specialist with RCSI Institute of Leadership. The title of Mary's keynote was 'Mind the Gap' – engaging multigenerational learners in Pharmacy'.

- Alison Strath: interim Chief Pharmaceutical Officer in the Pharmacy and Medicines Division of the Scottish Government Health Directorates

As the final speaker, Alison used her keynote to bring together themes from the previous keynotes, with a focus on the 'Destination' and the importance of interprofessional supports and

networks as we navigate a future where medicines and patient treatments are changing.

During the conference there were 23 interactive workshops, as well as over 50 poster presentations, and 90 short oral presentations. To facilitate the wide range of time zones and to maintain and encourage the characteristic spirit of engagement and collaboration of previous LLLLPs, the short oral presentations were recorded in advance of the conference for review by delegates at a time of their choosing. Live conference sessions were also recorded for playback.

Overall, the transition to a virtual event was a success. Delegates commended the accessibility of the online platform, and many remarked on the flexibility afforded by an online event. Delegates logged on during the course of their day and in the evening. Despite the challenges posed by an international event, for example time-zones, attendance throughout the event days was high. The high attendance and enthusiastic engagement of our delegates was noted by our online conference providers, who had not seen such levels in many of the other events they had run during the year.

The Life Long Learning in Pharmacy conferences have a loyal following due to the diverse topics and research presented. Dr Bradley and RCSI were honoured to be able to uphold this tradition. Pivoting the event to the virtual medium presented the opportunity to highlight innovative research carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, by Irish and international researchers. To mitigate for 'Zoom fatigue', the conference programme was varied.

Each morning a group of 60 presenters came together to deliver a one minute summary of their research and encourage the other attendees to engage with their work. There were three very enjoyable social events; a virtual tour of Howth in Dublin, a sequined spectacular murder mystery event, and a speed dating style World Café networking event.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of our event sponsors, without whom the switch to virtual would not have been possible.

Sponsors that attended the event included; Monash University, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Pfizer, The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, Australian Pharmacy Council, Irish Pharmacy Union Academy, Clarity Locums, Hibernian Healthcare, Yakult and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

The conference content, including all keynotes and workshops, is available to conference registrants, online for review until the end of 2021.

## Next Event

The next Life Long Learning in Pharmacy conference will take place in Denver, Colorado, USA from 2-5 July 2023. The conference host convenor is Dr Jodie Malhotra, Director of Practitioner and International Development, Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The theme for LLLL2023 is 'Blazing New Trails', and will focus on 'climbing the mountain of learning together, simultaneously blazing new trails for our profession and successors'.

The subthemes are

- BASE CAMP – Teaching and Learning Essentials
- ELEVATION – Gaining Ground Through Training
- SUMMIT – Transfer of Learning Through Practice ]
- CARABINEERS, CLIPS & CAIRNS – Tools of the Climb.

Further information on the 2023 conference can be found at [llpharm2023.com](http://llpharm2023.com)

LIFE LONG LEARNING  
IN PHARMACY 2021  
13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

