



Irish Nurses Cardiovascular Association

Annual Scientific Meeting in Association with the Irish Cardiac Society

Celebrating 30 years of Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing

Thursday 15th October 2026, Kilashee Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare

09.00-9.30 Registration and Coffee

09.30-09.45 Welcome & Opening Address: Dr. Gemma Caughers, President, INCA
Prof Brendan McAdam, President Irish Cardiac Society

09.45-10.45 The future of CVD Nursing: Challenges and Opportunities - Panel discussion
Maria Hayes, Assistant Professor of Nursing, University College Dublin
Cathy Farrell, RANP Heart Failure, Letterkenny University Hospital
Prof. Loreena Hill, Professor of Nursing Research and Impact, Ulster University.
Amy Brownell, Cardiovascular Service Line Director, Ascension Illinois Market, United States
Fiona Connaughton, Nurse Lead, National Clinical Programme for Stroke

10.45-11.05 Empowerment in Heart Failure- A Lens on Women - Dr. Mary Ryder, Associate Professor in Nursing, University College Dublin

11.05 – 11.30 Break

11.30-11.55 Delivering Multidisciplinary Cardio Renal Care -Tochi Okwueze, Supervisor-Advanced Practice Provider, Ascension Medical Group Illinois: Heart & Vascular, United States

11.55-12.10 Latest Innovations in Cardiac Surgery - Dr. Tara Byrne, Cardiothoracic Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Galway University Hospital

12.10-12.30 Tobacco Cessation in Ireland - What every CVD Nurse needs to know- Martina Blake, National Lead HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme

12.30-12.50 Why the Patient Voice Matters - David Kelly, Patient Advocate and Operations Manager Global Heart Hub

12.50- 13.00 Bursary Winner - Patrice Berry, CNS Cardiology, Midlands Regional Hospital, Offaly

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch/Networking/ Poster viewing

14.00-14.40 Hot off the Press: ESC 2026 Guidelines

Cardiac Rehabilitation - Dr. Irene Gibson, Head of Clinical Innovation, NIPC, Galway

Heart Failure - Norma Caples, RANP Heart Failure, Waterford University Hospital

14.40-14.55 Right care, Right Place, Right Time: Embedding Telehealth into Nursing Practice
- Liz Murphy, Operational Lead, Wexford Chronic Disease Hub

14.55-15.25 The role of Coronary CT Angiography for the evaluation of Coronary Artery Disease
- Dr. Geoffrey Rose, President National Heart & Vascular Service Line, Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute, Trustee, American College of Cardiology, United States

15.25-15.35 Closing remarks and poster winner announcement