

## Irish Gynaecology Oncology Nurses Group

### IGONG

#### Report for AGM 2023



**IRISH ASSOCIATION  
FOR NURSES IN  
ONCOLOGY**  
*Nurses Caring for People  
with Cancer*

Members of IGONG attended the ISGO (Irish Society of Gynaecological Oncology) annual scientific meeting in Galway in November 2022. Presentations included;

Management of BRCA-Related Ovarian Cancer with presentations given by Professor Maccon Keane, Dr Claire Thompson and Dr Daniel Cagney.

Long term Management of Women after Risk Reducing Surgery with keynote speaker Professor Martha Hickey, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Melbourne / Director of the Gynaecology Research Centre, The Women's Hospital discussing Consequences of risk-reducing bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy in BRCA1/2. This gave interesting insight into the management of menopausal symptoms with HRT in this cohort of patients.

IGONG members attended an educational meeting in June 2023, funded by GSK, on PARP Inhibitors used in the treatment of ovarian cancer.

Ada Kinneally, ANP in Oncology in Waterford gave a very comprehensive overview of how PARP inhibitors work.

Laura Appadu, ANP working in area of Gynae-oncology in the Royal Marsden, gave some very valuable insights into running a virtual nurse-led clinic for ovarian cancer patients taking PARP Inhibitors.

Yvonne O'Meara who works in the Women's Cancer Survivorship Initiative in MMUH gave an up-date in relation to the thisisGo.ie website which is a valuable tool to support conversations with ovarian cancer patients.

This meeting proved to be very informative and very relevant to clinical practice.

8th May 2022 marked World Ovarian Cancer Day, Information stands were held throughout the country, educating on BEAT symptom awareness.

20<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 marked the 4<sup>th</sup> World Go Day. The theme for 2022 World GO Day was: Protect your health every day!

#### Gynae Oncology Nurses Annual Report MMUH Cancer Centre:

To coincide with World Ovarian Cancer day a first of its kind nurse led ovarian cancer survivorship clinic was established in MMUH. This clinic named the GO-Forward clinic 'Nurse led Patient Education following completion of primary treatment for ovarian cancer'

This is a new nurse led initiative to help patients move into the next phase of their cancer journey. Patients receive verbal education during an information session on what to expect once primary treatment is complete. We also provide a written treatment summary with information on what has been discussed.

Promising data is currently being captured through a service evaluation of the initial nursing assessment/education phone call which is conducted following initial referral of cancer patients to MMUH.

Since September 2021, the gynaecological oncology nursing service at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital have introduced and implemented a nurse-led surveillance and survivorship clinic. Patients with a history of either cervical, vulva or vaginal cancer are invited into the GO Forward Clinic, a clinic which is facilitated and managed by the Clinical Nurse Specialists. Patients are supported through either virtual or physical appointments based on their individual clinical need. One of the objectives of this clinic is that patients experience a model of care that acknowledges and addresses the physical, psychological and social challenges that they encounter following treatment for a gynaecological malignancy. Through the development of this nurse-led surveillance and survivorship clinic, it has enabled the nurse to provide evidence based information and tangible support to the patient as they enter the follow up and surveillance component of their cancer pathway. As the service matures, it allows the nurse to provide nursing care that is continuous and non-fragmented in its approach. Going forward, a service evaluation will be implemented to evaluate patient satisfaction with the nurse-led clinic.

The thisisGO.ie website is a multi-media platform developed with its primary objective of providing relevant, reliable information to patients and survivors of a gynaecological malignancy and related genetic conditions. It is now available for the five gynaecological malignancies: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vulval and vaginal and the two inherited cancer predisposition syndromes: BRCA and Lynch Syndrome.

A service evaluation has been carried out on the thisisgo.ie website. 134 patients responded to an online questionnaire. 96% found the website useful and would recommend it to others.

Arc Cancer Support centre is running a Gynaecological Cancer support group which the MMUH nurses are facilitating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The Sleepio after cancer study is currently enrolling patients, this is an innovated technology-bases trial offering online sleep treatments to women currently undergoing, or who have completed their cancer treatment.

#### Gynae Oncology Nurses Annual Report NMH/SVUH Cancer Centre:

It has been another busy year for the NMH/SVUH Gynae Oncology nursing service. In August 2022, the first ANP in Gynae Oncology, Sarah Belton, was appointed. This appointment saw the establishment of an ANP led Gynae Oncology Family History service. Patients with a genetic predisposition to ovarian cancer receive individualised, education and support with their cancer risk reduction strategies. This is a complex issue for pre-menopausal women, as it affects fertility and surgery results in menopause. This virtual clinic commenced in September 2022, reducing the need for patients to attend hospital. Care is delivered in line with the newly publish HSE Hereditary Cancer Model of Care and the ANP is an active participant in the SVUH BRCA MDT, along with Breast team and Psycho-Oncology. This MDT also ensures that patient pathways across the specialities are effective and those patients with high levels of distress are supported. The Gynae Oncology Family History Service was awarded the Susanna Byrne Perpetual Award by the HSE NMPDU DSKW in September 2023, for nursing innovation and excellence.

Following the departure of our colleague, Louise Comerford CNS, we are delighted to welcome Sharon Glynn to the team. Sharon has worked at SVUH for a number of years in HepatoBiliary Surgical Oncology and brings a wide variety of experience to the role.

The International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) nursing curriculum project is an international nursing collaborative effort to produce a multimedia learning programme, primarily for nurses working in gynae oncology in low and middle income countries. Sarah has authored one module and co-authored another with colleagues in New York, Tokyo and Seoul since late 2022. This project will be launched at IGCS 2023 happening in Seoul in November where Sarah will be in attendance.

#### Gynae Oncology Nurses Annual Report UHL Cancer Centre:

Aisling Wall, CNM2 Gynae Oncology is in post since May 2023 and is getting the service up and running as there was no one in post prior. They are also hoping in time to expand the service further and have secured funding for an ANP who will hopefully be in post by early 2024.

#### Gynae Oncology Nurses Annual Report St Luke's Rathgar Cancer Centre:

St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network are improving the care of Gynae oncology patients by providing a range of clinical services to women during and after pelvic radiotherapy. This specialist team is made up of a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Dietician, Physiotherapist, Psychologist and Social Worker who offer advice and support to patients through treatment and beyond. The team provides specialist care to women to help manage the acute and late effects of treatment such as fatigue, bladder and bowel problems, menopause, sexual and emotional difficulties.

#### National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Service

On Friday, 13 May 2022 the HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) launched the updated gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD) guideline at the European Organisation for the Treatment of Trophoblastic Disease (EOTTD) 2022 meeting, which took place at University College Cork.

#### Up-coming Events

25<sup>rd</sup> European Congress on Gynaecological Oncology ESGO 2024 Barcelona.

ISGO Annual meeting 2023 Friday 1st December, Riddel Hall, Queens University Belfast.

Anyone interested in becoming more involved in the IGONG SIG can contact

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