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## Scholl Academic Centre - 2

Dear valued supporter,

Welcome to the 2nd Scholl Academic Centre (SAC) Newsletter and despite the circuit breakers, we have been able to progress ahead on lots of different areas of activities associated with SAC.

We managed to hold our 3rd Research Symposium on Friday 26th February as a hybrid in-person and online webinar, a format which proved to be very successful. The presentations are now available on [our website](#). We may consider using this hybrid format for more events in the future particularly as we were joined online by colleagues on the Isle of Man and from GB, Northern Ireland, Spain, Ireland and Greece. In addition, as part of the Palliative Care Academy, we are pleased that there is now a raft of online [training courses](#) on the SAC pages of the Hospice website.

At the end of the Research Symposium, **Professor Sarah McGhee** presented a review of the huge contribution to the SAC by **Dr Giovanna Cruz**, the SAC Head of Research who left the Hospice at the end of February. Giovanna has been with us since before the launch and we will miss her scientific and analytical input, however, we wish her all the success in the next stage of her career as she moves to a prestigious research position at one of the world's leading academic institutions, Stanford University in California.

Best wishes,

**Ken Mills.**

Chair of the Scholl Academic Centre Steering Group

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### Scholl Academic Centre receives generous grant funding!

Since launching in 2019, the work carried out by our Scholl Academic Centre has been fundamental to delivering our strategy, Much More Than a Building, and we are delighted that the Centre's desire to create synergy and promote our ambitions for Education, Innovation, and Research, is having such a positive impact on our community.

Since its inception, the Scholl Academic Centre has been mostly funded by the Dr. Scholl Foundation through specific grant funding. We are delighted to announce that as we continue to grow as a beacon of best practice, the Dr. Scholl Foundation are continuing to

support us by sponsoring the Centre with a further grant of \$200,000. This will greatly support our aspirations for Hospice Isle of Man to be a national leader in palliative and end of life care and marks a further significant step in establishing us as a Centre of Excellence.

**Anne Mills** Hospice Chief Executive said:

*“We know that the Dr. Scholl Foundation believes that solutions to the problems of today's world lie in the values of innovation, practicality, hard work and compassion. We feel it entirely fitting for the foundation to be the sponsor of the Scholl Academic Centre, and are delighted to be continuing our relationship with such a prestigious global partner.”*

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## Education

### Project Echo

Project ECHO facilitates the sharing of knowledge between subject specialists and care providers to help ensure that patients get the right care and support in the right place at the right time. We began using Project ECHO at Hospice Isle of Man in 2018 as part of our aim to provide Hospice Influenced Care to all those on island who would benefit from it.

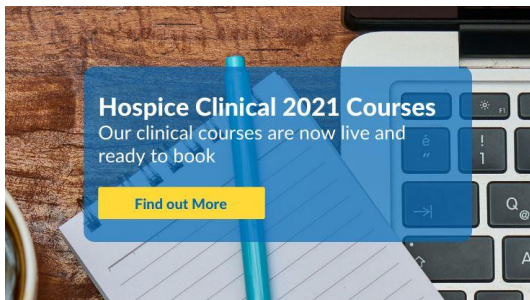
We are proud to be in our third year of Project ECHO working with the nursing homes on the Isle of Man. During the past three years we have covered a range of topics from Advance Care Planning, Care of the Terminal Phase and Communication with Families and GPs through to looking more in depth at particular health issues at the end of life such as artificial feeding and incontinence. Our team of Palliative Care specialists have delivered many sessions, but we also call upon the help and knowledge of other specialist care providers when required by the chosen topic.

The Hospice Isle of Man Project ECHO team is proud to have partnered with Maria Bell, Pharmaceutical Advisor in the Primary Care Directorate, who we are working with to provide the first Project ECHO curriculum on the island tailored for Pharmacists. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a change in the provision of education sessions for the pharmacists, which Project ECHO has supported as a virtual means of education to replace in-person sessions.



## Training Courses

We are the Island's specialists of training and education for end of life and palliative care. Through our education and training, we aim to improve confidence and competence for anyone working with those approaching end of life. We are keeping the current situation under constant review and will be changing the way some of our planned training is delivered. You will see some courses being delivered on line or where face-to-face training works best, we will work with smaller classroom numbers. If you wish to attend one of our courses, please still book your place online. And then, one of our Team will contact you to give you further information regarding your course.



To keep up to date with our upcoming training courses, visit <https://www.hospice.org.im/scholl-academic-centre/education/>

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## Innovation

We are very lucky to have gained a volunteer assistant clinical psychologist here with us on the Scholl Academic Centre team recently. We'd like to introduce **Mary Podmore** and below is more information from her about her placement;

*"Hi, I'm Mary and I am a volunteer assistant clinical psychologist at Hospice Isle of Man. I graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in psychology and it is my aim to one day become a fully qualified clinical psychologist. The placement at Hospice is helping me gain some valuable experience in both research and clinical psychology before furthering my studies at university. My role so far has been focused on getting involved with some of the research projects run by the Scholl Academic Center. This work has allowed me to develop skills in writing ethics applications, conducting literature reviews, and designing the protocol for a clinical trial. In doing this I have been able to work alongside and learn from an excellent research team who have supported me in gaining the experience I need. It has been wonderful to see how the research conducted by the Scholl Academic Centre is used to help inform and improve the experience of both staff and patients at Hospice. In the coming months I am set to get more involved with the psychological therapies team which will allow me to gain some direct experience with patients. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Hospice so far and am grateful for the important part it has played in both my personal and professional development."*



## Follow us on Twitter

Here at the Scholl Academic Centre, we have decided to join our friends on Twitter and keep up to date with all things research!

We'd love for you to follow us and recommend us to your friends. We update our feed with news on our current research projects, our partners, and any other useful information we think our followers would like to know.

Head over there now and give us a follow!

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## Research

### Our 3rd Annual Research Symposium

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, we were joined at our 3rd Annual Research Symposium by **David Ashford** Minister for Health and Social Care and leading professionals in Palliative and End of Life Care. The title of the day was 'Advances in End of Life Care' and included sessions on Wellbeing and Digital Innovations. We were absolutely honoured to have so many incredible people join us for the day.

If you missed our Symposium but would like to catch up, you can view the full session below. Alternatively the slides from the day are available to view now on [our website](#).



### Needs Assessment Launch

On Monday 23rd November 2020, the Scholl Academic Centre formally launched the Needs Assessment findings to enable them to better understand and develop

Integrated Palliative and End of Life Care on our Island. We were delighted to be joined by Minister for Health and Social Care, **David Ashford** who formally launched the findings, amongst guests including His **Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Gozney and the Chief Minister.**

Over the last two years Hospice's researchers from the Academic Research Team of the Scholl Academic Centre have brought together data from multiple sources to understand what is currently working well and what needs remain to be met. [Find out more about the launch here.](#)



## Research Paper

### **Clinician's use and views towards the Outcome Assessment and Complexity Collaborative (OACC) suite of outcome measures**

In 2019, Hospice Isle of Man adopted the Outcome Assessment and Complexity Collaborative (OACC) suite of outcome measures promoted by Hospice UK and used by Hospices around the world. Outcome measures are used to find out if Hospice care makes a difference to patient's health and/or wellbeing. After a year and half, once OACC had been introduced into clinical practice, Hospice Nurse Consultant **Cheryl Young** conducted a study with the support of the Scholl Academic Centre Research Team to understand the views of clinical staff on their confidence in using the measures appropriately, any problems they have encountered, and any thoughts on how to improve their use and usefulness.

A survey was offered to all clinical staff (n=42) out of which 29 (69%) completed it. The survey found that the OACC measures are widely used and clinicians have a positive view of them. Clinicians found that the use of OACC was helpful in patient assessments and helped in delivering better clinical care. However, clinicians found that the measures largely focus on the physical health of patients, reducing the ability to assess patients holistically. This poses difficulties for clinicians working in other areas of the multidisciplinary team (MDT), such as psychologists and social workers, and do not include carers' needs. Barriers to use included the perception of limited applicability beyond assessing patients,

their limited use during MDT meetings, the lack of feedback on outcomes of clinical care, challenges capturing patient distress and their use following a patient's death. Clinician, and questions about the interpretation of some of the questions.

This research identified clinicians' perceptions of benefits and limitations of using the OACC measures at Hospice. The research also highlighted that the current understanding of how OACC can help to improve patient care is still limited. For example, the potential use of OACC in outcome measures for caseload management, workforce planning, assessment of the impact of interventions, and effectiveness of the service was less apparent. Findings from this survey will help to inform the future of OACC training at Hospice Isle of Man including some of the wider applications so that we can make the most out of this tool. We plan to share our findings in professional publications to contribute to the evidence on the use of outcome measures in palliative care so that patients everywhere may benefit.

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[More information on the Scholl Academic Centre](#)



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\*|LIST:DESCRIPTION|\*

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