

Salamanca – 15 Years On

International Conference

12-13 November 2009, Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin, Ireland

Curriculum Vitae

Speakers and Chairs

Thursday 12th November

Mr. Brian O' Donnell

Chair, Plenary Session 1 & 2



Brian O'Donnell is currently Chief Executive Officer of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability, the national umbrella organisation of non-governmental service providers in Ireland. Mr. O'Donnell is also immediate past President of the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD) and is a current member of the Board. Brian has a keen interest in all sports and is the holder of degrees in Economics and Law and a Masters in Business Administration. He has a particular professional interest in the development of person centred approaches in services and supports as a means of achieving true inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in mainstream society.

Ms. Julie O'Leary

'My Experience of Inclusive Education'
Panel Member, Plenary Session 7



Julie O' Leary is a student with a physical disability. She graduated with an honours degree in Applied Psychology from University College Cork in 2009 and is currently completing a Masters in Journalism at National University of Ireland Galway. Julie is extremely active in creating disability awareness in her own life. She writes a weekly newspaper column for Cork Evening Echo where she highlights disability issues. Throughout her education she has sat on various disability support committees and spoken often about her personal experience in mainstream education.

Mr. Batt O' Keeffe T.D. **Minister for Education and Science**

Welcome
'The View of the Authorities on Inclusive Education'



Batt O' Keeffe is the Irish Minister for Education and Science. He has previously been Minister of State with special responsibility for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. He was appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health and Children in December 1997.



Mr. Franz Wolfmayr

Speaker & Workshop Chair

Franz Wolfmayr lives in Gleisdorf (AT). He is founder and general manager of Chance B - Enterprises, service providers for persons with disabilities in Austria. He also is founder and acting president of Die Steirische Behindertenhilfe, the regional umbrella for all disability related tasks in Styria, one of the 9 Austrian provinces. He was elected vice-president of EASPD in 2003 and in 2008 was elected President. He studied sociology and pedagogy and has much experience teaching children with disabilities, training teachers and staff working with persons with disabilities, working as consultant for communities and governments, and developing community based services for persons with disabilities, children and elderly people.



Professor Pat Dolan

'Education as a Social Tool – Lessons from Salamanca'

Professor Pat Dolan is Director of both the Higher Diploma/Master Degree in Family Support Studies and the Child and Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway. In October 2008 Pat was appointed UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement. At practice level he has worked for many years in child and family care, in frontline work and at service manager levels. His present research interests include adolescent resilience and social networks, civic engagement in children and youth, family support practice, and youth mentoring models.



Ms. Andreia Marques

'The Council of Europe and its view on Inclusive Education'

Andreia Marques has a Masters in Human Rights and People with Disabilities and a postgraduate qualification in European Affairs. Since 1996 she has worked as an expert on International Policies on Disability in the National Institute for Rehabilitation in Portugal, and she represents Portugal in CAHPAH, the European Coordination Forum for the Disability Action Plan of the Council of Europe. She participated in discussions on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in the committee responsible for drafting the Council of Europe's Action Plan. She has published several articles on the subject.



Ms. Phil Gray

Chair, Plenary Session 3

Phil Gray is a member of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies' Sub Committee on Education and also an Executive Member of the National Association of Boards of Management in Special Education. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in Mental Handicap (RNMH) and has gained extensive experience in the delivery and management of services for children and adults with intellectual disability. Phil is currently Director of Services at Saint John of God Carmona Services in Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.



Ms. Katherine O' Leary

'A Family's View on Inclusive Education'

Katherine O'Leary is married to Tim. They are dairy farmers and have four adult children, two of whom have special needs. Their daughter Julie has a physical disability and their son Diarmuid has Down syndrome. Katherine teaches cookery and life skills in a school for students with intellectual disabilities. She is a board director of Inclusion Ireland.

'A Pupil and Teacher Story – An Irish Experience'



Ms. Rita Schaffrinna

'A Model of Good Practice: An Inclusive School'

'New Approaches to Multi-Disciplinary working: A Strategy to Empower your school team towards Inclusive Education'

Rita Schaffrinna introduced inclusive education in the district of Recklinghausen in Germany in 1996 as a primary school teacher, where she later became the deputy head of a primary school. She has experience in the field of cooperation between administration, primary school teachers and teachers for special education. Since 2007 she has been the principal of Flaeming Primary School in Berlin, which has been regarded as a 'lighthouse' model for inclusive education in Germany for over 30 years.

Ms. Gerlind Crusius

'A Model of Good Practice: An Inclusive School'

'New Approaches to Multi-Disciplinary working: A Strategy to Empower your school team towards Inclusive Education'



Gerlind Crusius has been a primary school teacher in Flaeming Primary School for the past 20 years, and became deputy head of this school in 2009. She has experience in the field of cooperation between teachers, assistant teachers and therapists in inclusive schools, and has directed two European school projects (Comenius). Since 1989 she has been involved in Adapted Physical Activity and participates in symposia on this topic every two years (ISAPA).



Ms. Inge Ranschaert

'From Student with a Disability to Professional'
'Developing Teacher Competencies in Inclusive Settings'
Panel Member, Plenary Session 7

Inge Ranschaert is disabled and is also the mother of disabled children. She spent twelve years as a student in a special education school, and is now a firm advocate of inclusive education. She works as a teacher trainer for teachers of students with special needs at the Department of Teacher Training at the Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven, Belgium. She holds a Masters in Special Needs Education

Mr. Thorsten Afflerbach

Chair, Plenary Session 4
Panel Member, Plenary Session 7

Thorsten Afflerbach holds a Master of Arts (MA) in sociology, economic history and English at Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, Germany. Since 1995 he has been a member of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. From 2005 to 2007 he was head of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field. Since January 2008 he has acted as head of the Integration of People with Disabilities Division in the Directorate General of Social Cohesion.

Mr. Peter Baldwin

'The View of the Authorities on Inclusive Education'



Peter Baldwin is Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Education and Science where his responsibilities include Special Education and the National Educational Psychological Service. Peter has held the special education brief for the last eleven years, which has been a period of significant expansion in services and resources. The Department of Education and Science's annual spend on special education is some €1billion, and it also has national responsibility for the policy and legislative framework in which special education services are delivered

Mr. Phil Madden

Workshop Chair
Chair, Plenary Session 6
Panel Member, Plenary Session 7



Phil Madden is vice-president of EASPD and is chairman of the Standing Committee on Education. He has been a board member of EASPD since its inception. He has directed many EU funded projects and has worked in a variety of managerial and policy posts in public authorities and NGOs. In the education field, he produced policy documents for central government on transition into adulthood, and worked with the Institute of Education in London University on research into the interface between education, family and social welfare organisations.



Ms. Birgit Papke

'Early Intervention: Inclusion in Pre-School'

Birgit Papke is a social worker as well as a research associate and lecturer at the University of Siegen/ZPE (Germany). She has experience in research projects in the field of inclusive early childhood education. Her current project is the EU-Comenius project "Early Childhood Education in Inclusive Settings - ECEIS"



Ms. Mariana Nikolova

'Early Intervention: Inclusion in Pre-School'

Mariana Nikolova is Executive Director of the Karin Dom Foundation, a centre for rehabilitation and social integration of children with special needs and their families. The centre provides services to children with physical and intellectual disabilities, learning difficulties, autism and other disabilities. It combines practical work with advocacy and public awareness raising to promote social inclusion and a better quality of life for people with disabilities.



Mr. Luk Zelderloo

Workshop Chair

Chair, Plenary Session 7

For more than 27 years, Luk Zelderloo has been active in the sector of service provision for people with disabilities. In 2006 he was appointed Secretary General of EASPD, the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), a consortium of service providers for people with learning disabilities. Between 1997 and 2005 he was the President of EASPD, parallel with being the general coordinator of TAU GROUP and the CEO of the HET Grote Plein between 1999 - 2005, a training centre for persons with disabilities. Between 1995 and 2005 he also acted as Board Member / CEO for Kruispunt vzw - a supported living service for persons with disabilities



Dr. Paula Lebre

'Developing Teacher Competencies in Inclusive Settings'

Dr. Paula Lebre is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation, part of the Faculty of Human Kinetics at the Technical University of Lisbon. She has a master in Special Education and a PhD in Human Motricity in the area of Special Education, and has been involved in the training of teachers and other specialized personnel in the field of psychomotorial rehabilitation. Since 1993 she has been involved in several community programmes and in EU funded projects, including the Leonardo Da Vinci programme on inclusion and skill development for persons with special needs, in particular adolescents.

Ms. Helen Guinan

Workshop Chair



Helen Guinan has spent most of her teaching life teaching pupils with severe/profound general learning disabilities. In 1998 she was seconded to work as Education Officer for the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and worked as part of a team researching and writing *Curriculum Guidelines for Teachers of Students with General Learning Disabilities*. She has been Principal of St. Paul's School in Cork for the past five years. St. Paul's is a special school for students with moderate, severe and profound general learning disabilities. She is a member of the Education Sub-Committee of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.

Dr. Marianne den Otter

'Developing Whole Schools to Meet the Needs of those with High Dependencies/Special Communication Needs'



Marianne den Otter is a psychologist of Special Educational Needs (SEN). She has worked for Fontys OSO University in Tilburg in the Netherlands since 2003. For the first 15 years of her professional career she worked in the field of education for people with hearing impairments and deaf children. Over the last 10 years she has worked as an SEN psychologist on several projects in which adaptive education and inclusion have been major themes. She is currently convener of the master program for School Video Interaction Guidance at Fontys OSO University, as well as docent for projects of inclusion and school development in the Academic Master SEN program

Mr. Yannick Lucas

'Developing Whole Schools to Meet the Needs of those with High Dependencies/Special Communication Needs'



Yannick Lucas is a lawyer and General Manager of the Mutualité Française Indre-et-Loire. He is the head of an establishment for children with special educational needs, and heads a service providing support for parents and teachers with pupils in inclusive education. He is also a teacher at the Faculty of Medicine in Tours (France), and teaches at the Tours Business School (ESCEM) in the fields of public health and health economics.

Mr. Karel Casaer

Workshop Chair



Karel CASAER has a master in Special Needs Education and worked for 20 years in services and special schools for children and youngsters with intellectual disabilities. In 1990 he became a consultant in an umbrella organisation of services for people with disabilities. In 1996 he became secretary-general of the Flemish Association of Catholic Special Schools (VVKBuO) in Belgium. He has published articles and a book on the subject of the role of special schools in adopting a more inclusive approach. He is a member of the Standing Committee of Education of EASPD.

Dr. Sean Carey

'New Approaches to Multi-Disciplinary working: A Strategy to Empower your school team towards Inclusive Education'

Dr. Sean Carey is a Principal Psychologist with St. Michael's House services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families. Previously, he was a lecturer in the Special Education Department of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and in the Psychology Department at University College Dublin. Sean has published research on challenging behaviour, interventions for children with ADHD, assessing learning disabilities in the prison population and other areas. He has also worked on various projects with the National Education Welfare Board and the Special Education Support Service in Ireland. He obtained his PhD at the University of Oregon.

Mr. Jan Van den Eeden

'Special Schools as Resource Centres for Mainstreaming: Developing Networks & Cooperation, and Exchange Strategies'



Jan Van den Eeden is a schoolteacher. He taught in a mainstream primary school in Wilsele-Leuven (Belgium) before beginning work as an integration counsellor for visually impaired students in several mainstream primary schools for "centrum Ganspoel" (1999-2009). This year he is supervising seven students in mainstream schools, visiting them on a weekly basis for half a school day at a time. He is particularly interested in the development of new technology for visually impaired people.

Dr. Vasilka Dimoska

'Special Schools as Resource Centres for Mainstreaming: Developing Networks, Cooperation and Exchange Strategies'



Dr. Vasilka Dimoska graduated as a medical doctor at the Medical Faculty of Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. In 2005 she finished her specialization in social medicine and health management. She currently occupies the position of program manager in the centre of the National Republican Association for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disability, PORAKA. She has been an EASPD board member since September 2008.

Mr. George Borg

'Special Schools as Resource Centres for Mainstreaming: Developing Networks, Cooperation and Exchange Strategies'



George Borg started his career in education as a primary school teacher and also taught in a special school. He is currently the Director for Student Services within the Directorate for Educational Services in Malta, and is also a part-time visiting lecturer at the University of Malta. In 2005 he was a member of the team responsible for evaluating the inclusivity and special education standards in Malta. At present he represents the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport on the National Commission for Persons with Disability and the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education.



Mr. Noel Dillon

Workshop Chair

Noel Dillon is Regional Director of Services of St. Michael's House Northeast. St Michael's House is a Dublin based service provider. Noel was formerly a teacher of children with special needs in a mainstream Dublin school and later principal of a special school. He has served as Chairperson on the boards of a number of St. Michael's House schools. As part of his current brief he has executive responsibility for the St. Michael's House Inclusive Education Service in Dublin Northeast.

Ms. Philippa Russell

'Pupil and Family Participation in Education'



Philippa Russell is the Chair of the Prime Minister's Standing Commission on Carers. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She has Honorary Doctorates from the University of York and King Alfred's College of Higher Education, Winchester, for her work with disabled children and their families. She was awarded an OBE for her work with children with special educational needs and their families, the CBE for services to disabled people, and the DBE in 2009 for services to disabled people and family carers. She was also awarded the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Centenary International Award for women who have contributed to the field of learning disability, as well as the 4Children Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 for her work in developing childcare and other services for disabled children and their families. In 2005, she was awarded the RADAR (Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation) Lifetime Achievement Award for the furtherance of the human and civil rights of disabled people. She is the parent of a son with a learning disability.

Ms. Kirsi Konola

'Pupil and Family Participation in Education'



Kirsi Konola studied public management and since then has worked in the disability sector, first as a project manager and then as a development manager for the Service Foundation for People with Intellectual Disability, an NGO founded by a families' association. Her work focuses mainly on several projects which aim at creating person-centered, practical and high quality services that take into account the needs and life circumstances of people with special needs and their families. The projects and training focus on the issues of independent living, community-based services and person-centered planning. Education is provided for persons with intellectual disability, their families and other professionals. Kirsi is also a member and secretary of the Finnish Quality Development Network, which plays a central role in developing services for people with intellectual disability

Mr. Bryan Boyle

Workshop Chair



Mr. Jacques Denies

'Getting the Right Communication Systems and Technologies to Meet Individual Needs'

Jacques Denies has teaching experience in geography, computers and economics. In 1987 he joined the umbrella organization for the Catholic Secondary Schools in Flanders (Belgium) as a teacher trainer. From there he took over the role of coordinator of teacher training for IT. Since 2006 he has managed the Microsoft School Technology Innovation Centre in Brussels. This provides a briefing, showcasing and training forum for education technology, and the demonstration zone contains carefully selected assistive technology.



Mr. Pdraig Aherne

Workshop Chair

Pdraig Aherne has worked in the field of special education since 1972. He was a teacher of students with moderate learning disabilities in St Paul's Special School in Cork for 33 years. He is now teaching adults with severe/profound learning disabilities on a part time basis in COPE Foundation in Cork.

He has been involved as a volunteer with Social Clubs for adults with special needs and has been Treasurer and Chairperson of the Munster Special Olympics. He is the current coach for the Munster Motor Activities Training Programme team for the National Games in Limerick in 2010.



Mr. Ragnar Tvinnereim

'Supporting Positive Attitudes of Pupils in Relation to their Peers with Special Education Needs (SEN)'

Ragnar Tvinnereim is a senior advisor in Behaviour Education at Statped Vest (the Norwegian Support System for Special Education). He has been the principal of several special schools for students with behavioural problems (day schools and boarding schools), and has coordinated the projects "Social Skills Intervention" (1997-1999) and "A School for All" (1999-2004). Mr. Tvinnereim is a regional coordinator and school facilitator for the nationwide programme PBIS (Positive Behaviour Implementation Support), and lectures in Behaviour Education at university and teacher training level. He has written articles, reports and handbooks on behavioural problems.



Ms. Anita Maeland

'Supporting Positive Attitudes of Pupils in Relation to their Peers with Special Education Needs (SEN)'

Anita Maeland holds a Masters in Special Needs Education and has worked as a teacher. She has also worked for many years with child welfare, as well as with SEN and pupils in upper secondary school, higher education and in employment. She is currently a counsellor at Statped Vest, and has experience in the areas of behaviour (especially with regard to ADHD and ASD), drug addiction and various mental and psychiatric disorders.

Ms. Kay Redmond

'Supporting Positive Attitudes of Pupils in Relation to their Peers with Special Education Needs (SEN)'



Kay Redmond has worked in the teaching profession for many years, most especially in the area of Special Needs with pupils with mild and moderate GLDs. She assumed her present role as deputy principal in St. Paul's Special School in 2005. Along with the administrative duties associated with this post, she is also responsible for resource teaching within the school. She has developed and coordinated the School Links programme, a scheme to positively integrate pupils between special and mainstream schools.

Mr. Padraig Kelly

'Supporting Positive Attitudes of Pupils in Relation to their Peers with Special Education Needs (SEN)'



Padraig Kelly has been teaching at St. Paul's School in Cork since November 2005 and has had previous teaching experience in both France and Scotland. This year he is the school coordinator for Challenging Behaviour Strategies. During his time working there he has helped to develop strong community links with mainstream schools, which has led to real and vibrant working relationships with many local schools being fostered over the course of the last four years, something of which the school is very proud. Before becoming a teacher he worked as a project manager in the computer and financial industries.

Friday 13th November

Mr. John O' Dea

Chair, Plenary Session 5



John O'Dea (1950) is the Executive Director of Western Care Association, a Parents & Friends governed organization in the West of Ireland. Western Care provides person centered supports to children and adults with intellectual disability. John is also Chairperson of the Board of Director of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.

Dr. Michael Shevlin

'Inclusive Education in Ireland: Challenges and Opportunities'



Dr. Michael Shevlin is currently Head of School of Education and Senior Lecturer in inclusive education at Trinity College Dublin. He teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and supervises research at Masters and Doctoral level. He has participated in a number of funded research projects and published widely in the area of inclusive education and facilitating the participation of disabled young people in mainstream schools and society. Michael has been involved for many years in statutory, policy making and advisory bodies in relation to inclusive education (Member of Special Education Review Committee 1991-3; National Council for Special Education 2003-6; Expert Taskforce on Individual Education Planning 2006; CHOICE (DES) on entry to teacher education for people with disabilities 2008-9.)

Ms. Joyce Mortimer

'The Conceptual Shift from Adaptable Children to Adaptable Education'



Joyce Mortimer is currently undertaking a PhD in the area of disability and education. Her research focuses on the adequacy of Irish law and practice with respect to the right to education for children with disabilities. It involves an analysis of the situation in Ireland, with appropriate recommendations for legal and policy reforms. Joyce is also exploring best international practice in the delivery of education to children with disabilities. There is a particular focus on the United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Pat Curtin

Panel Member, Plenary Session 7



Pat Curtin was appointed CEO of the National Council for Special Education upon its establishment in 2003. He is a career civil servant who has served in a number of departments, including the Department of Education and Science for 13 years immediately prior to his appointment as CEO. He has led the development of the Council's nationwide local service to schools and parents, and the establishment of its research and policy advisory functions over the past six years.

Mr. Petri Ilmonen

Panel Member, Plenary Session 7



Petri Ilmonen holds a Masters in Education and has studied special education. He has worked since 1992 as an elementary school teacher in both normal and SEN classes, and taught grades 1 to 9. He also has experience as a teacher trainer and consultant and has worked for the Department of Education in Helsinki. Since 2005 he has been working for students with special needs as development manager in ICT in SEN (development and implementation of SEN teachers' ICT as an inclusive tool - training & Easy-to-Read learning material) at the Teaching Material Centre of the Finnish Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (FAIDD). He has written 11 Easy-to-Read study books.