

Supportive relationships between patients and family caregivers for decision-making in palliative care

Dr Geraldine Foley's research is focused on investigating dimensions of mutual support between patients and family caregivers in palliative care, and on developing a framework for decision-making in palliative care. Dr Foley is a previous recipient of a Health Research Board Fellowship and a former clinical specialist occupational therapist in neurology. Dr Foley is a member of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) and of the Palliative Care Research Network of the All-Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC). Dr Foley collaborates widely including with researchers from St Francis Hospice Dublin, University College Dublin, Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, The University of Western Australia, The University of Bristol, University College Cork, and the University of Limerick.

The impact of the TCD MED Research Award

Decision-making in palliative care is highly complex because patients and family caregivers face decisions about care in the context of living with life-limiting illness. Until recently, little was known about reciprocal dimensions to supportive

relationships between patients and family in decision-making in palliative care, and how concordance and discordance between patients and family caregivers about treatment manifest in the context of patient and family caregiver reciprocity in palliative care.

"Funding received from the TCD Med Research Awards will allow for open-access dissemination of my work and engagement with PPI in palliative care to fully optimise the impact of my work in this area. The award will also support applications for larger funding to generate novel frameworks for decision-making in palliative care."

Dr Geraldine Foley

*Assistant Professor in Occupational Therapy
School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin*

