

Conference Steering Committee, Mary Immaculate College: Dr. Emer Ring, Dr. Lisha O’Sullivan  
 Professor Eugene Wall and Dr David Kenefick.

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<b>Biographical Statement</b>	 <p>Dr. Emer Ring is Head of the Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies at Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick. Emer previously worked as a mainstream class teacher, a learning support teacher, a resource teacher at primary school level and a senior inspector with the Department of Education and Skills. Emer is Course Leader for the Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (BAECCE) programme at MIC. Emer lectures on the BAECCE and the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programmes and also supervises students’ research at undergraduate, Master’s and Ph.D. levels. Emer has been principal investigator on a range of national research projects and her research interests include education policy and practice, inclusion, pedagogy and autism.</p>
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<b>Biographical Statement</b>	 <p>Dr. Lisha O’Sullivan is currently Acting Head of Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies at Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick. Lisha lectures on the Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (BAECCE) programme, the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programmes at MIC also supervises students’ research at undergraduate, Master’s and Ph.D. levels. A qualified Play Therapist, Lisha has extensive experience in the area of early childhood education and her research interests include developmentally appropriate pedagogy and curricula in the early years; self-regulation and play. Lisha has published widely in these areas.</p>
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<b>Biographical Statement</b>	 <p>Professor Eugene Wall is currently President at Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick. Eugene is an educational psychologist and lectures on developmental and educational psychology at MIC. Eugene served for 21 years on the Council of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). Eugene has a wide range of experience nationally and internationally in initial teacher education policy and practice and is co-author of the MICRA-T and the SIGMA-T, two of the most widely used standardised assessment and measurement tests used in Irish primary schools.</p>
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<b>Biographical Statement</b>	 A portrait of Dr David Kenefick, a man with white hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a blue shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.	<p>Dr David Kenefick Project Manager for the Children’s Research Network. He is responsible for the activities, development and sustainability of the Network and for the Atlantic Philanthropies funded Prevention and Early Intervention Research Initiative. David’s previous work was principally with children and adults with intellectual disability. He collaborated with or conducted research at various stages in his career. He started as a psychologist. He then established and delivered staff training in his organisation and later for the IPA, with health services around the country. He managed residential and respite services, then clinical services. As Deputy CEO, he was responsible for managing all services. These included the Research Department, Research Ethics, the Open Training College and service development.</p>
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