



Charlemont Grant Report

Recipient Name:	Dr John Lombard
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€1,120 in 2019
Title of Project:	The Reconceptualisation of Palliative Care as a Human Right in International and Regional Human Rights Systems



Summary of findings:	<p>The research project explored the concept of a human right to palliative care. In particular, the research concentrated on the right as it could be applied in Ireland as well as in England and Wales.</p> <p>The central objectives of this research can be expressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the legal basis for the right to palliative care. • To define the content of the right to palliative care. • To explore potential avenues for the development and application of the right to palliative care. <p>The discussions which occurred as part of this mobility were also intended to assist in defining human rights issues relating to access to pain medicine and palliative care, the identification of structural barriers to care, and defining governmental obligations. The mobility was therefore intended to provide a basis for further research and collaboration involving the application of a human rights-based analysis of palliative care.</p> <p>I would suggest that these objectives were largely achieved and my research in this area continues to expand and develop.</p> <p>I did not originally have any contacts with researchers in the International Observatory on End of Life Care. The period of mobility therefore expanded my research network and has opened national and international opportunities for collaborative engagement.</p> <p>During the mobility I met with senior researchers as well as PhD candidates in the IOELC. These researchers included Dr Sarah Brearley, Professor Katherine Froggatt, Professor Sheila Payne, and Professor Catherine Walshe.</p> <p>Professor Sheila Payne is an internationally recognised expert in palliative and end of life care. She is also a member of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. This group has discussed the need to include a right to palliative care in the proposed UN Convention on Rights of Older Person. The discussion with Prof Payne provided insight into ongoing arguments surrounding the right as well as how these</p>
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	<p>discussions were being negotiated by various actors. This insight has been instrumental in shaping my research. It has also informed research which I am currently undertaking with Age Action Ireland.</p> <p>The period of mobility also allowed me to reflect on the possible avenues for the development of a right to palliative care, and the potential for it to inform and influence the provision of palliative care in the future.</p>
Plans for continuing collaboration:	<p>Professor Walshe is head of the International Observatory on End of Life Care and edits the journal 'Palliative Medicine'. Based on our conversations about the intersection of law and palliative care she invited me to contribute an editorial on the topic for 'Palliative Medicine'. This is the leading academic journal on palliative medicine and the journal's website receives approximately 50,000 visitors each month. I'm currently implementing feedback on a draft of the editorial to ready it for publication.</p> <p>I was recently invited to join a H2020 expert group on palliative sedation – the use of proportional palliative sedation for the relief of refractory symptoms. I attribute this invitation to the connections made through the IOELC. This role allows me to contribute to discussions which will shape palliative care practice across Europe over the coming years.</p>
Publication plans:	<p>The research was to form the basis for two journal articles to be published in the 'Human Rights Law Review' and 'Palliative Medicine'. As I have contributed an editorial to 'Palliative Medicine' on the subject of law and palliative care, I am now focusing on the HRLR submission. I hope to finish this article by January 2020.</p>
International dissemination:	<p>During the mobility I delivered a seminar on double effect reasoning and palliative care. This was recorded and made available to IOELC members (250+ international members). The potential for this form of research dissemination was set out in my RIA Charlemont application.</p>
National dissemination:	<p>I have been invited to speak about the contribution of a human rights-based approach to palliative care provision at the upcoming All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care, Palliative Care Research Network Annual Symposium. This will take place in November 2019 and was also noted in the original application.</p>
Additional collaborations:	<p>As noted in an earlier section, I was invited to join a H2020 expert group on palliative sedation – the use of proportional palliative sedation for the relief of refractory symptoms. This offers the potential for European collaborations and high-impact publications.</p> <p>I have also collaborated more closely with the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care. This has taken the form of research dissemination and the preparation of funding bids.</p>
Outreach:	<p>The research will be incorporated in the teaching of medical law at undergraduate and postgraduate level in the School of Law, University of Limerick. To coincide with Palliative Care Week I published a post on RTE Brainstorm - 'Is access to palliative care a human right?' RTE Brainstorm, 6 September 2019</p>