

Candidate biographies provided for PSI Council election 2021

Biography of Thomas Michael Doody (9661)

Dear Colleague,

My name is Michael Doody (my official registered name is 'Thomas Michael'). I first registered in December 2009 and have worked across a range of sectors including community, industry, and addiction services. I completed my BPharm in University College Cork.

Since 2018 I have worked as Supervising and Superintendent Pharmacist for Median Healthcare services, a pharmacy dedicated to providing pharmacy supply and services to nursing homes and other residential care facilities. I have developed a deep understanding of the requirements and demands placed on pharmacies and pharmacists who provide these essential services to nursing homes. I am passionate about clinical practice and continuing education, specifically relating elderly patients. I believe the insight and experience I have to offer will be invaluable in advising and informing the PSI decision making process in relation to this critical part of community practice. To this end I would greatly appreciate your support in the upcoming PSI Council selection process.

Pharmacy Experience to date:

- Support Pharmacy, Irwin's Pharmacy Group, Cork
- Support Pharmacist Rathmines Pharmacy, Dublin
- Support pharmacist, Baxter Healthcare, Dublin
- Addiction Pharmacist, Irish Prison Service
- Supervising Pharmacist, Roberts Pharmacy, Limerick
- Superintendent Pharmacist, Health Express Pharmacy Group
- Superintendent Pharmacist, Median Healthcare Services, Dublin

Biography of Emma Early (9623)

I graduated from TCD in 2008. Since qualifying I have worked in Community Pharmacy in Dublin. For the last ten years I have worked in a busy independent. I am running for PSI Council because I strongly believe that independent pharmacy is important for the diversification of community pharmacy in Ireland. As such I would like to ensure it is represented on the Council.

Biography of John Given (5868)

John Given is the Chief Pharmacist of Galway University Hospital and Merlin Park Hospital Galway. He graduated from the University of Strathclyde in 1994 and has extensive experience working in all facets of pharmacy. He was managing director of Kilbarrack Pharmacy from 1998-2001 before going on to work across industry as a Commercial Director and also as a QP in various pharmaceutical companies. In 2010 he commenced his

role as Clinical Trials Pharmacist in Galway University Hospital while completing his M.Sc. in Clinical Research from NUIG. John also holds a B.Sc. Biochemistry from NUIG and an Advanced Diploma in Procurement Law, Kings Inn. John was also involved in the Enterprise Ireland Business Partner Programme from 2010-2013 and was a Director of Quickpharm Solutions Ltd.

John's wealth of pharmacy and business experience have allowed him to engage in a meaningful way with key stakeholders both locally and nationally to ensure that clear objectives are identified, and results delivered as part of the strategic vision for the HSE. John hopes to bring his enthusiasm and future oriented attitude to the Council for the benefit of all sectors of pharmacy in Ireland.

Biography of Dervla Kelly (9423)

Dervla Kelly is a Lecturer in Medical Education at the University of Limerick School of Medicine and also works as a Community Pharmacist in Limerick. I graduated with a B.Sc. in Pharmacy and a PhD in Epidemiology from Trinity College Dublin. I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry, been a postdoctoral research fellow at New York University and worked in community pharmacy in chain pharmacies and independent retailers for 10+ years.

In UL, I teach on the medical degree programme, and I run a public health intervention design module as well as teaching trainee paramedics, dieticians and other health professionals. I have experience of curriculum design, assessment, preparing accreditation documentation and teaching.

I am passionate about research that will positively impact the lives of patients. I have published in the topics of medication safety, adherence, epidemiology, small group teaching and professional identity development in health professionals. I am interested in the evolving roles of pharmacists in a variety of health service contexts and how training opportunities and regulation can increase the impact of pharmacists within their communities.

Biography of Katherine Morrow (8399)

As the Operations Director in the Irish Institute of Pharmacy, leading out on the delivery of the CPD model for pharmacists, I have been privileged to interact extensively with pharmacists from all areas of pharmacy practice. I hugely value these interactions, and they mean I am aware of both the difficulties and the opportunities within our profession.

I have been proud to practice as a pharmacist for 25 years, over a broad range of practice areas. This gives me a unique perspective on the role of pharmacists across all sectors, and see where opportunities for professional development lie.

My experience in senior regulatory positions in Boots enables me to understand the regulatory climate and how to effectively influence key stakeholders. During my secondment as National Coordinator and Director of APPEL, I saw the commitment of preceptors to nurture and enable the development of their students. It's important that our new graduates are supported as they evolve as professionals who meet the healthcare needs of their patients.

As a community pharmacist, I have experienced first-hand the importance of this role to the local community. I appreciate the power and potential of the pharmacist patient interface, and the scope for pharmacists to continue to improve patient outcomes through their unique skillset, expertise and accessibility.

As a specialist hospital pharmacist and a supplementary prescriber in the UK, my advanced practice role was integral to the multidisciplinary team. This experience enables me to see significant opportunities in Irish practice.

I believe that appropriate, quality focussed regulation enables real opportunity for the profession. The PSI Council has an important role in strategic leadership and regulation, to ensure public confidence and trust in pharmacy delivered care and services. I would appreciate your vote as I believe I have the experience, integrity and commitment to positively contribute to the effectiveness of the Council, and by extension, our profession.

Biography of Rory O'Donnell (5334)

Dear Colleague

I am a community pharmacist based in Gweedore, in the Donegal Gaeltacht, where I have operated my pharmacy since 1993. My family has been in pharmacy since the 1960s. I qualified in pharmacy from Robert Gordon University in 1990 and also hold a Natural Science degree from Trinity College Dublin.

I am current chair of totalhealth, a pharmacy symbol group made up of 78 independent pharmacy operators.

I have served as IPU President 2012 – 2014 and later as President of the PSI Council 2017 – 2019.

I am a guest lecturer on the RCSI Leadership in Pharmacy module to 5th year pharmacy students.

My experience across many organisations has given me a good deal of insight on how the health system operates in Ireland and I have been very active in working for an expansion of the role of pharmacy for many years. I am a team player, passionate about my profession. I work well with others and have a track record of delivering.

I believe Irish patients deserve nothing less than the best pharmacy service in the world. This can only happen when all stakeholders work together and if elected I will work tirelessly to ensure the potential of pharmacy in all patient facing settings, community and hospital is realised. We have recently seen a great deal of positive public appreciation towards the profession and I believe the right environment exists politically to roll out new services through pharmacy. It is likely that a new pharmacy contract will be negotiated in the not too distant future. I believe it will be important that Pharmacist members of PSI Council have the ability to understand and articulate the perspective of the profession as new standards are set. The next few years will be like no other, as together we continue to battle Covid-19 on every front. With these challenges will come opportunities and I believe PSI is very well placed to influence the environment where pharmacy will be utilised to its full potential. If elected, I will work with my colleagues to ensure the perspective of pharmacists at the coal face is heard.

The role performed by Council is a very important one. It requires a great deal of detailed reading, often at short notice. It requires a good understanding of complex processes and decision making. It requires integrity and a working knowledge of the various codes of corporate governance that apply to state bodies. I have the knowledge, skills and experience to undertake these roles.

The Pharmacy Act has been with us now for over a decade. I believe there are many aspects in need of reform, especially around the disciplinary and complaints processes.

I believe in common sense, fairness and proportionality and as such, I believe that improvements can be made to our current CPD model. If elected, I will continue to promote a strong working culture between the regulator and profession which will be in the interests of all.

I humbly request your vote.

Biography of Marie Louisa Power (9409)

Marie Louisa graduated from RCSI in 2007 and has worked in both traditional and non traditional roles whilst always striving to promote the profession of pharmacy and ensure excellence in pharmaceutical care. Having worked as a pharmacist in community, hospital, regulation and primary care in Ireland and the UK, Marie Louisa brings unique skills and experience to the PSI Council.

Marie Louisa strongly believes in the importance of inclusion within the pharmacy profession, ensuring that all pharmacy professionals, including those working in traditional and non traditional roles, are represented.

Marie Louisa was first elected to PSI Council in 2017 and wishes to continue in ensuring that the governing Council of the Pharmacy Regulator is transparent, meaningful and reflects today's pharmacist. She aspires to be part of a Council that ensures pharmacists are empowered and facilitated to be the best professionals they can be and are leaders in ensuring safe and effective pharmaceutical care.

Biography of Sean Reilly (5410)

Dear colleagues,

Almost four years ago enough of you voted for me in the 2017 Council elections, for which I am extremely grateful.

Since then, I have attended virtually every meeting of both Council and various sub committees to ensure your voice, the voice of the community pharmacists is heard, at every opportunity.

Being on Council entails a lot of reading and research. You build up a lot of corporate memory without which it makes it challenging to operate at max effectiveness. Typically, the first two years are spent learning the ropes and by the time your first term is up, you approach your peak potential. For this reason, after some soul searching, I have decided to ask you for an extension of the mandate.

So, what has changed in PSI in my first term?

During the pandemic I was pleased to see PSI taking a supportive role, issuing timely and appropriate guidance and recognising the professionalism of pharmacists. I am hopeful that gone are the days when general communications to registrants were excessively formal. Events like the regular town halls PSI uses to launch initiatives such as the refreshed Code of Conduct, were well attended and received.

The PSI is undergoing a transformation process, which will result in easier interactions with the organisation.

There has been no fee increase.

Much more which I will elaborate in my manifesto.

Looking to the future.

I will be seeking to build on the successes of the last four years. On the other hand, there still is a journey to go. Pharmacists are entitled to timely, clear, concise guidance around their practice. If a pharmacist has an issue with the regulator registrants should be given clear advice and an indication of the severity. There is generally no need for intensive scare

tactics. The PSI and the registrant, ideally, should be able to proactively work together before a patient is harmed. I see that very much an obligation on both sides.

Biography of Avril Ryan (9240)

I am running in the PSI Council election, as I believe that I can make a positive contribution to the work of the Council and ensure that the voice of community pharmacy is heard, considered and respected at Council level for the next four years.

The past twelve months have been extremely challenging for community pharmacy and at times it has been difficult to know how to run our pharmacies especially with the mixed messages we receive from the HSE, the media, our patients etc.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that community pharmacy is adequately represented at Council by people who understand the workings of community pharmacy and understand how clear, cogent regulation can make all of our lives in community pharmacy better and ensure the best and safest outcomes for our patients.

Over the past thirteen years I have worked in various roles within pharmacy - community, addiction and regulation.

Currently, I work in Rathmines pharmacy – a small, independent community pharmacy. I have seen first hand the difficulties that the past twelve months have presented to the profession.

I previously worked as a Senior Pharmacist in the Pharmacy Practice Development Department of the PSI where I liaised directly with the PSI Council in developing, supporting and improving the practice of pharmacy in Ireland. I have an excellent understanding of the working of the PSI and the PSI Council and if elected to the Council, I will use this experience for the betterment of pharmacy.

Prior to working for the PSI, I was a Supervising Pharmacist/Manager for Lloydspharmacy for nine years and I worked as an addiction pharmacist in the Irish Prison Service.

I understand the role of the pharmacist from many different perspectives and I will use my depth of experience to represent pharmacies of all different sizes, ownerships and patient cohorts.

Biography of Hazel Slevin (9041)

I graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in 2006 and joined the register in 2007. I have spent the last number of years working in various positions in the community pharmacy sector. I have always enjoyed the dynamics of pharmacy as a profession and am pleased to have been part of developing the Crystal Clear programme for health literacy in pharmacy. I also partook in the provision of vaccination training both as a tutor pharmacist and a lead vaccination pharmacist.

I spent a number of years on the Employee Pharmacy Committee and a term on the Executive of the Irish Pharmacy Union. This has given me great insight into the challenges facing the sector and indeed the challenges that present daily to pharmacists working in the community.

In recent years, I returned to University College Cork and obtained a law degree (LLB) on a full time basis. The profession, given its tantamount role in the provision of healthcare to the public, is subject to a vast volume of regulatory and legislative frameworks which govern our daily interaction, not only with patients but also with fellow healthcare professionals.

I believe it is important to view new legal developments through the lens of pharmacy, to ensure that as we move forward as a profession and broaden our scope in the provision of patient care, we have clarity in our role.

I am acutely aware of the tension that often presents between workload management and regulatory compliance. I would hope, if appointed to work towards a middle ground whereby patient safety is maintained while burdensome regulatory requirements are streamlined to reduce cumbersome and time consuming practices.

I would be grateful if you would consider my nomination for the PSI council.

Biography of Robert Anthony Wood (9564)

Rob is currently Superintendent Pharmacist for the CARA Pharmacy Group, having worked in Ireland since 2010 and qualifying as a pharmacist in 1998 in the UK from the University of Bradford.

He has a history of working in Community Pharmacy for the last 23 years in a variety of roles, from clinically independently prescribing to management roles within private pharmacy groups commissioning services with UK & Irish providers.

Rob firmly believes that championing the profession to raise public and stakeholder awareness and appreciation for the important role pharmacy plays in improving the health of the nation is vital to maintain focus on the huge effort pharmacy made during the COVID-19 pandemic. Election to Council provides the opportunity to channel this passion to improve the practice of pharmacy for practitioners and most importantly, patients.

He's acutely aware that profession has so much to offer, yet still seems to be waiting on the changes to be made at primary care level to really unleash the potential of our practitioners. Constructing a regulatory framework for services such as Patient Group Directives, Medicine Use Reviews, Minor Ailments Schemes, Pharmacist Referral Services and Pharmacist Prescribing with an evidence base to show how health outcomes for patients can be improved in a cost-effective manner will be vital to the future of the profession

Council members have an opportunity to be of service to all pharmacists and patients. Influencing for fair regulation, promoting the profession into the future and building capability of the governing body will be the building blocks of the work to be done by the Council.

Rob would welcome the privilege of being in a position to work for increasing public trust in pharmacy through the work of the PSI Council.
