

#SundayWiMIN23 Week 8: Dr Mary Short

"Dr Mary Short is a legend of women's health and women's rights in Ireland. A trailblazer of reproductive rights when it was neither popular nor safe, Dr Short educated a generation of doctors in Ireland to provide high quality medical care to women. Dr Short joined the Irish Family Planning Association as a medical student, and subsequently became its Medical Director, all the while promoting safe, effective and accessible contraception. Dr Short was closely involved in the preparation for the provision of Medical Termination of Pregnancy, and educated professionals, politicians and the public in the practicalities of the rollout. Mary was National Director of the Women's Health Project, Sexual and Reproductive Health at ICGP, and Medical Director of Rock Court Medical Centre, providing GP services for many years to her dedicated patients.

Author of 'Guidelines on Medical Abortion in the Community', she was on the Advisory Panel of the Dept of Health during the early stages of the new legislation.

Dr Short's current and past honorary appointments include: President of the European Society of Contraception, Secretary-General of the European Society of Contraception and National Representative to the ESC. She has been a Guest Lecturer to the Faculty of Women's Health Studies at TCD, and Examiner to the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care.

She is a Founder Member of the Saffron Initiative on mid-life and menopause and Watchdog of the Irish website eumom.com. Her roles also include Director of the European Institute of Women's Health and Chairman of the Board of the Irish Family Planning Association Dublin.

As a Mirena Development Advisory Board Member, she is a Specialist Long-acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) Inserter and trainer.

A graduate of RCSI Dublin, she worked initially in Jervis St. Hospital. Her further appointments included Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Rotunda Hospital. She spent time working in Craigavon and Newry before coming back to Dublin to continue campaigning for the provision of safe and adequate reproductive healthcare for women. On her return she became more deeply involved in the IFPA, eventually becoming IFPA Medical Director . Mary was also a trailblazer in the early GP-led Rotunda menopause Clinics.

Mary is an academic globetrotter, presenting seminal papers worldwide. She has led, chaired and facilitated conferences as far afield as Helsinki, Singapore, Morocco, Thailand and Tokyo, to name just a few. She presented at the European Society for Contraception in France, in Brussels and in Athens, Greece.

Recent clinical activities abroad have included working with a mobile medical unit in South East Africa and in Romania with a French Delegation.

As a member of the Irish Family Planning Association Mary trained with Prof John Guillebaud.

She continues to teach practical skills in insertion of both Mirena and Implanon to colleagues.

Dr Short has contributed to medical journals both Irish and International. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Gynaecology Forum and reviewer of The Journal of the European Society of Contraception.

Dr Short has contributed to “FORUM” magazine of the ICGP on various issues relating to Women’s Health, including Cervical Screening, HPV Vaccination, and Long Acting Hormonal Contraception.

Dr Short has contributed chapters to many highly regarded texts such as “Evidence-guided Prescribing of The Pill”, “Infertility and Contraception - A textbook for Clinical Practice”, and “Proceeds of the first Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics Gynecology & Infertility”.

In her spare time (what she has of it) Dr Short enjoys hillwalking and tennis and is a regular theatre and opera goer. In addition to her medical achievements Dr Short is bilingual, French being her second language.

Dr Mary Short has always been a leading light in the profession and is one of the brave women doctors that we must thank for the liberalisation of our societal attitude towards all aspects of female healthcare in Ireland. Thank you Mary.”

(With thanks to Dr Mary Davin-Power)