

# Keynote Speakers



**Professor Anthony Back**

*University of Washington, Seattle, USA*

Anthony Back, MD is Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is Director of the Cancer Communication and Palliative Care Programmes at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC). He is board-certified in Palliative Medicine and Medical Oncology, and he practices both palliative medicine and gastrointestinal oncology. He is the Principal Investigator for Oncotalk Teach, an NIH-funded communication skills training programme for Medical Oncology Fellows and is an investigator on other NIH-funded observational studies of doctor-patient communication about hope, information and prognosis in hematologic malignancies. Dr Back was a Faculty Scholar on the Project on Death in America and is a member of the ASCO Communication Task Force. He is author of the recently published *Mastering Communication in Seriously Ill Patients: Balancing Honesty with Empathy and Hope*.



**Dr John Bourke**

*Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*

John Bourke is a consultant & senior lecturer in cardiology (since 1991) in the Department of Cardiology and Head of Arrhythmia Service at Freeman Hospital and Institute of Human Genetics, Newcastle University. He has a sub-specialty interest in cardiac electrophysiology & arrhythmia management.

John trained at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne and Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia (BHF AngloAustralian Fellow 1989). He has published articles on Cardiac arrhythmias, catheter & surgical ablation, pacing & defibrillator therapy and cardiac protection in Duchenne & Becker Muscular Dystrophy.



**Dr Martin Connolly**

*The University of Auckland, NZ*

Martin Connolly has been Freemasons' Professor of Geriatric Medicine at The University of Auckland and Geriatrician at Waitemata District Health Board since March 2006. He originates from Manchester (UK) and qualified with honours at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1980. He obtained his MD from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1990 on the subject of bronchial responsiveness in asthma. Before being appointed to his present position Martin was Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester from 1991 to 2006.

He was a member of the Guidelines Group for the UK National Institutes of Clinical Excellence COPD Guidelines and sat on and chaired numerous British Geriatrics Society and British Thoracic Society Committees over 15 years. He is currently a member of the New Zealand Executive of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine.

His research interests are around chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the elderly, chronic conditions management, the organisation of care for the very elderly, quality of life in the very elderly, the frailty syndrome and the development of robotics for elderly people. He has authored or co-authored nearly 140 scientific papers, and is Associate Editor of the journals 'Age and Ageing' and 'CME Geriatric Medicine'.



**Dr Sinéad Donnelly**

*Wellington Public Hospital, NZ*

Dr Sinéad Donnelly is a Consultant in Palliative Medicine working at Wellington Regional Hospital since 2008. Previously Dr Donnelly has worked as a Consultant in Palliative Medicine in the Palliative Medicine Department in Limerick, Ireland from 2000. She did her post graduate training at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio and the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Scotland as well as Our Lady's Hospice, Harrolds Cross, Dublin. Her research interests focus on qualitative research having published on folklore traditions associated with dying and the experience of the moment of death in a palliative care unit, at home and in hospital. Dr Donnelly uses documentary as an accessible medium to present qualitative research. The four documentaries to date have been broadcast on national television in Ireland and explore the importance of community support in home care, how children deal with grief and the experience of dying at home. Dr Donnelly also has an evolving interest in the merging of the Arts/Humanities with Medicine and their applicability to the teaching of Medicine. The fifth documentary "At Home" produced in New Zealand is being presented for the first time to the public at this conference.