

Curriculum Vitae

Professor Donna Fitzsimons

Place and Date of Birth

Bright, Co Down, Northern Ireland

7th May 1965



Present Position and Address

Professor of Nursing & Head of School of Nursing
& Midwifery Queen's University Belfast
MBC, 97 Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 7BL
Northern Ireland

Education & Training

- 1989 ENB 124 Specialist Practice Coronary Care Nursing, English National Board
- 1987 Registered General Nurse, UK Nursing & Midwifery Council
- 1987 BSc (Hons) Nursing University of Ulster
- 1998 PhD University of Ulster, N Ireland

European Society of Cardiology Activities

- 2020 - Present ACNAP, EAPCI & ACCA Silver Member - Active contribution to several projects
- 2018 - 2020 ESC Board Member - Lead for Patient Engagement Initiative
- 2016 – 2018 Elected Councillor ESC Board – Portfolio: Research Grants & Patient Engagement
- 2014 – 2020 Member Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee
- 2014 – 2016 Ex-Officio Member ESC Board
- 2015 – 2016 Invited Board Member Acute Cardiovascular Care Association
- 2015 - 2016 Member Communications Sub Committee ESC Board
- 2013- 2015 Member Taskforce on Prevention of Ventricular Arrhythmia & Sudden Cardiac Death
- 2010 – 2015 Member Credentials Committee
- 2012 – 2014 Chair Council on Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professionals (CCNAP)
- 2010 - 2012 Board Member & Vice Chair CCNAP
- 2012 – 2014 Member Congress Planning, Topic 6
- 2010 – 2012 Member CCNAP Programme Committee

Other International Scientific Committee Participation

- 2015 – 2017 Chair AHA Cardiovascular & Stroke Nursing Association International Liaison Committee
- 2014 – Present Member World Heart Federation Global Alliance for CVD Prevention in Clinical Practice
- 2014 - Present Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke Association Scientific Advisory Committee
- 2013 - Present Global Cardiovascular Nurse Leadership Forum

Editorial Boards

- 2006 – Present European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing
- 2009 – Present British Journal of Cardiac Nursing

Fellowships

- 2003 – Nurse Fellow European Society of Cardiology

Honorary Memberships

- British Cardiovascular Society
- British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care
- British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation
- Irish Nurses Cardiovascular Association

Selected Recent Publications (Total: 181, h-index = 51, i10-index 96)

- McKinney, Aidin; **Fitzsimons, Donna**; Blackwood, Bronagh; McGaughey, Jennifer. (2021) Patient and family involvement in escalating concerns about clinical deterioration in acute adult wards: A qualitative systematic review. *Nursing in Critical Care*. Pub online 20 Dec 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1111/nicc.12582>
- JP Collet, H Thiele, E Barbato, O Barthélémy, J Bauersachs, DL Bhatt, ...**Fitzsimons D** et al. (2020) ESC Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation The Task Force for the management of acute coronary syndromes. *European Heart Journal* 00, 1-79 doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa575.
- G Hindricks, T Potpara, N Dagres, E Arbelo, JJ Bax, C Blomstro, G Boriani... **Fitzsimons D** et al (2020) ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with the European Association of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) *European Heart Journal* 00,1-126 doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa612.
- Caughers, Gemma; Mooney, Maria; Donnelly, Patrick; Bradley, Judy; **Fitzsimons, Donna** (2020) Opportunity knocks: cardiac rehabilitation in Northern Ireland after COVID-1. *British Journal of Cardiac Nursing*, Vol. 15, No. 8, 21.08.2020, p. 1-3.
- **Fitzsimons, Donna**; Stępińska, Janina; Kerins, Mary; F Piepoli, Massimo; Hill, Loreena; Carson, Matthew A.; Prescott, Eva. (2019) Secondary prevention and cardiovascular care across Europe: A survey of European Society of Cardiology members' views. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 27.09.2019.
- **Fitzsimons, Donna** (2019) Patient engagement at the heart of all European Society of Cardiology activities. *Cardiovascular Research*, Vol. 115, No. 10, 01.08.2019, p. e99-e101.
- Barret, Matthew; Boyne, Josiane; Brandts, Julia; Brunner-La Rocca, Hans Peter; Maesschalck, Lieven; De Wit, Kurt; Dixon, Lana; Eurlings, Casper; **Fitzsimons, Donna** et al Artificial intelligence supported patient self-care in chronic heart failure: a paradigm shift from reactive to predictive, preventive and personalised care *EPMA Journal*, Vol. 10, 12.2019, p. 445–464.
- Riegel, Barbara; Dunbar, Sandra B.; **Fitzsimons, Donna**; Freedland, Kenneth E.; Lee, Christopher S.; Middleton, Sandy; Stromberg, Anna; Vellone, Ercole; Webber, David E.; Jaarsma, Tiny..Self-care research: Where are we now? Where are we going? *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, In Press.
- Cassidy, Lorna; McGaughey, Jennifer; Hill, Loreena; **Fitzsimons, Donna** Addressing the psycho-educational needs of caregivers of patients with heart failure: A systematic review & Meta-analysis. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 14.11.2019. In Press.
- **Fitzsimons, Donna**; Doherty, Leanne C; Murphy, Mary; Dixon, Lana; Donnelly, Patrick; McDonald, Kenneth; McIlfatrick, Sonja. 2019 Inadequate Communication Exacerbates the Support Needs of Current and Bereaved Caregivers in Advanced Heart Failure and Impedes Shared Decision-making. *The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 34;1,11-19.
- Casedei B et al (ESC Board) 2019 The future of continuing medical education: The roles of medical professional societies and the health care industry. *European Heart Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 21, 01.06.2019, p. 1720-1727.

Major Research Interests

- Developing evidence to enhance the patient experience
- Implementing evidence based cardiovascular care
- Cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation
- Palliative care in heart failure

Motivation Letter

The core rationale behind my application for this position is to use my existing skills and past experience as a senior board member to assist the ESC to evolve in the following areas:

- Promotion of greater interdisciplinary collaboration and stronger synergies between different sub-specialities within the ESC family
- Developing the patient and public engagement strategy within the ESC, recognising that this has become an integral and rapidly evolving part of contemporary cardiology
- Incorporating the learnings from these activities into both CPG and Advocacy
- Developing simpler processes and better communication in both grants and educational opportunities, promoting especially developing countries and under-served groups

I am honoured to be proposed to stand for election as Vice President on the ESC Board. My motivation for doing so is my commitment to work together as part of an interdisciplinary community, to achieve the ESC mission of reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease. My position on the ESC Board for three consecutive terms (2014 - 2020) has enabled me to appreciate the scope and the importance of the ESC as a global force for cardiovascular health. I have also had the opportunity to lead on important initiatives for the ESC, such as Patient Engagement, the establishment of the Patient Forum and modernisation of the research grants process. I have made an active contribution to several of the core objectives of the ESC in terms of membership, educational activities and guideline programmes. In each of my positions within ESC Committees, Task Forces and Constituent Bodies I have sought to effectively utilise and represent the efforts of all professionals - nurses and allied professionals included, to achieve the ESC strategic aims. As a current member of the Strategic Advisory Committee, I have been consulted on and helped to shape the future strategic direction of the Society.

I bring to this post a successful track record of service to the ESC, evidence of my leadership ability and determination to effect positive change in line with the ESC agenda. Over the past twelve years I have experience developing effective working relationships with colleagues in other constituent bodies such as European Association of Preventive Cardiology, the Association for Acute Cardiovascular Care, European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging and the Heart Failure Association. I have lead the development of CCNAP and supported its transition to become an Association within the ESC, making an effective interdisciplinary contribution to the ESC strategy. As a member of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee I was responsible for Patient Engagement – an initiative that successfully pilot tested and embedded the inclusion of a patient and public perspective in Guideline development, thus enhancing one of the ESC premiere educational offerings. I believe that through such mechanisms the Society will achieve its goals, enhance its reputation and maximise the implementation of its educational products.

Translating evidence into practice remains a key challenge in cardiology, I initiated the CCNAP Be Guideline Smart Toolkit for nurses and allied professionals to promote the inclusion of entire interdisciplinary team in the implementation of ESC Guidelines in clinical practice. As nurses represent the largest professional workforce in cardiac care, this project has enormous potential to cascade information and promote evidence based care internationally. The proposal secured industry support and effectively responded to the needs of our National Societies by translating materials and empowering nurses to act as patient advocates, optimising patient outcomes.

With external experience as a leader in nursing practice, education, research, patient involvement, advocacy and research ethics, I have implemented my expertise and personal values for the benefit of the ESC. I believe that such interdisciplinary activities are key to achieving better outcomes for cardiovascular health. By becoming more inclusive and collaborative the ESC will ensure it more effectively represents the needs of those it seeks to serve. In my opinion the ambitious ESC mission requires the contribution of all professionals and patients, nurses and allied professionals have an important part to play in its achievement. I can assure you of my complete commitment and enthusiasm for this position and see it as a unique opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and operational activities of the ESC – an organization I am proud to serve.