

Harbour Hotel, Galway

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017



***‘Steps to getting the Veterinary Nursing profession regulated within your State’***

**Lisa Geraghty, Athlone Institute of Technology**

The profession of veterinary nursing is in its infancy in Ireland. Regulated for the first time, the Veterinary Nursing Register of Ireland came into being in 2008 and has been expanding in number and strength ever since.

This lecture includes a review of the origins of the veterinary profession within the State, the role played by the Veterinary Council of Ireland and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the unique period of “provisional registration”, and the strength of the profession in 2018. The lecture will also include a taste of how veterinary nurses are educated in Ireland and importantly, how the profession views itself in these rapidly evolving times in the veterinary profession.

A graduate of veterinary medicine from UCD, Lisa practised veterinary medicine in both food animal and companion animal practice in the West of Ireland for 9 years before taking up a permanent position at Athlone Institute of Technology in 2008.

Her role includes the education and training of veterinary nurses, coordination of the BSc. Veterinary Nursing programme, accreditation and validation of the programme with the Veterinary Council of Ireland, and roles which include academic standards and quality control and plagiarism officer for the Department of Life and Physical Science. Lisa also holds an MSc by Research in Veterinary Microbiology, and is an accredited mediator, facilitating civil and commercial mediation cases.

While Lisa’s first love is veterinary, she is currently in the final year of a Law degree, and publishes in the area of regulation of the veterinary profession, veterinary employment and health and safety law, and the regulation of the veterinary nursing profession.

## INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

### ***'International Exchange Programmes'***



**Bogdan Zdovc, BIC Ljubljana**

VETNNET offers many opportunities to set up student and teacher exchanges between different schools and countries. This is mostly the initiative of individual members, but the network does help to facilitate these exchanges.

The exchanges have proved to be very beneficial for everyone. Students gain valuable experience of other cultures, improving their language skills and confidence.

Bogdan Zdovc will present a BIC Ljubljana Veterinary nursing school experience in students mobility which has been enabled by the project Erasmus+. With the lecture we want to inspire others to start such activities.

Bogdan Zdovc, DVM, has been a teacher at veterinary nursing school BIC Ljubljana for 15 years. In this time he has been the representative of BIC for VETNNET and in the project PEPAS. He organises students mobility programmes in many European countries and at the same time organises practice for students from other countries in Slovenia.

The BIC Erasmus projects team were awarded a national prize for their achievements in 2017 among all participating vocational schools.

### ***'Veterinary Nurse Education "Will it blend?"***

**Daan den Uijl, Aeres mbo Barneveld**

Blended learning is an upcoming trend in education. Is this just a new glossy name for something we already use or a revolutionary new approach? What is blended learning, how can this be embedded in education and what are the benefits? During this presentation these kind of questions will be answered and you will get an inside look how Aeres Training Centre Barneveld works on the development of their veterinary nurse course.



Later on, during the workshop there will be time to share experiences, but there will also be the possibility to try out yourself what blended learning is about. A smartphone, tablet or laptop is needed for this as well as access to internet, a pair of earphones are recommended. Try blended learning and see what this can mean for your school!

Daan den Uijl teaches Biology and Etholgy & Training at Aeres MBO Barneveld and holds a Master's degree in Educational Sciences. By combining his knowledge with his practical experience, he is always looking for ways in which ICT can enhance traditional education. Of this, an important project and example is the implementation of Blended Learning in the Paraveterinary training program at Aeres Training Center Barneveld.



## ***'Professional Ethics – What do you do, and what works'***

**Kathy Kissick**

In this two part session, we will look at the teaching delivery of law and ethics in the classroom and how this translates to the professional veterinary sector.

To begin, you will share your thoughts and experiences in a structured workshop designed to help you discover what other schools are trying to achieve and what methods they use to help develop professional ethics in their students.

In the second part, Kathy will share her experiences and teaching delivery methods; providing inspiration for strategies to use in your own classroom.

Kathy qualified as a RANA in 1983 after spending her training years in a small animal practice in Stockport, Cheshire and then progressed to a Head Nurse position in Preston, Lancashire where her passion for teaching started to develop.

Kathy took part-time teaching positions in Liverpool, St Helens, and Preston and throughout her teaching career has kept her practical skills up to date in veterinary practice but her passion has always been teaching and seeing students achieve their full potential. She graduated with a Masters degree in Education in 2008.

Kathy's position at Myerscough College has been varied; she started as a part-time animal care instructor and progressed through the ranks to become a Learning Manager and to see Veterinary Nursing and Farriery stand alone as a department in its own right.

Kathy is responsible for 28 members of staff and in excess of 350 veterinary nursing students ranging from Animal Nursing Assistants to Advanced Veterinary Nurses and Undergraduates and Equine Veterinary Nurses, and 145 Farriers ranging from pre-farriers to BSc farriers – an interesting mix of students!

## ***'No excuses! Creating an effective learning environment'***

**Gillian Coughlan, Athlone Institute of Technology**

“A ‘no excuses’ mentality means that even if you believe it should be the students’ job to be engaged, you accept that it’s your job to engage them” (Dr Eric Jensen).

Through a virtual tour of Athlone Institute of Technology’s clinical teaching laboratory, this lecture will include the importance of using an effective learning environment and easy to make models to teach practical skills to veterinary nursing students.



***“If a student can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn”  
(Ignacio Estrada).***

Gillian graduated from Athlone Institute of Technology with a BSc in Veterinary Nursing in 2007. Having practised in both a first opinion companion animal practice and a referral equine practice, she returned to college to study Agricultural science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education.

Gillian commenced her role at AIT in 2011 as lecturer on the BSc in Veterinary Nursing. Her role includes the education and training of veterinary nurses, updating and progressing the Veterinary Nursing programme and working to ensure the programme delivered by AIT is maintaining standards set out by the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI). Since joining the team at AIT, Gillian has been a member of the VCI’s Veterinary Nursing Training and Education Committee and has completed an MSc by Research in Veterinary Microbiology.

Gillian strives to provide students with every opportunity to apply scientific theory to practice. This requires the continuous development and adaptation of her classroom and models, ensuring the learning environment is more tactile.



## ***'Make it real'***

### **Georgie Hollis, Intelligent Wound Care Ltd**

Get hands on and messy with Georgie Hollis (Intelligent Wound Care Ltd, Founder of the Vet Wound Library). Georgie will show you how to use the Smooth On silicone to make realistic wounds, suture pads and ear canals.

Georgie will host a short demo to familiarise you with the rules and tools required for working with special FX silicone, after which you can make your own model to take away with you.

Georgie Hollis BSc is an independent specialist in wound management and dressing technologies. She has lectured widely, both nationally and internationally across equine and small animal disciplines and has authored many peer reviewed articles across the UK and beyond.

Georgie's day to day role is focused on running the Veterinary Wound Library ([www.vetwoundlibrary.com](http://www.vetwoundlibrary.com)). This site provides a resource for members to access specialist telemedicine support and further education in wound management.

Georgie also heads up her team of 'Bandaging Angels' who deliver tailored in house CPD to help practices refine their dressing selection and overcome their bandaging demons.

Georgie is an associate member of the BVNA, AVSTS, a member of EWMA (European wound management association) and past secretary of the Vet Wound Healing Association (VWHA).