



**IPSON**  
Irish Psycho-Social  
Oncology Network

## IPSON Leadership Award

### 1. Introduction

The Irish Psycho-Social Oncology Network (IPSON) is the representative group for professionals working in the area. The group is made up of nurses, doctors, social workers, psychologists, academics and researchers, psychotherapists and other therapists working with cancer patients.

Launched in 2016, the key objectives for IPSON are the development of first class Psycho-Social Oncology services in both our hospitals and community settings, ensuring these services are equitable and inclusive and developing a strong psycho-social research focus with international links.

As envisaged in the Cancer Strategy 2017 – 2026, important strides are being made in the field of Psycho-Social Oncology including the appointment of a National Lead and the publication of a Model of Care. Designated cancer centres are establishing dedicated services to address the psychosocial needs of patients with cancer and their families and patient pathways are starting to develop.

The absence of protected time for healthcare professional's involvement in the leadership of IPSON is recognised as a significant impediment to the sustained evolution of the network.

In line with its strategic goals to achieve more through effective partnerships, drive improvements in public services and ensure Irish patients benefit from world class cancer research; the Irish Cancer Society wishes to invite eligible professionals in the field of Psycho-Social Oncology to submit an application for the IPSON Leadership Award.

The purpose of the IPSON Leadership Award is to buy out the time of an outstanding individual currently working in the field of Psycho-Social Oncology in Ireland.

The successful applicant of this award will be supported with funding to **enable them to spend a minimum of one day per week away from clinical and administrative commitments for up to 2 years to focus purely on developing and growing IPSON.**

This is intended to be a **transformative investment** for IPSON which will result in the establishment of IPSON as an independent professional body.

Application Form and supporting documents should be emailed to [ipson@irishcancer.ie](mailto:ipson@irishcancer.ie) by 9am on Monday, 13 September 2021.

## 2. Funding

The maximum total funding available is €21,500 per annum, inclusive of employer PRSI and pension contributions. The maximum funding period is 24 months (i.e. maximum of €43,000 over 2 years). Expected start date is Q4 2021.

Please note that this award will fund protected time for the recipient and is **not** for funding a specific research project or consumables.

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

### Essential

Applicants must:

- Currently reside in the Republic of Ireland
- Hold an academic/clinical qualification and position in, or relating to, psycho-social oncology. Applicants with a clinical background should come from a nursing or allied health discipline with a significant focus on psycho-social aspects of cancer.
- Demonstrate a clear and unambiguous high level of support from their employer to be able to make use of this award.
- Have a demonstrable history of successful cross-profession networking

### Desirable

- Have a demonstrable experience in organisational development / change management.

## 4. Key Deliverables

- Work with key stakeholders to develop terms of reference for IPSON. To include, but not limited to, the following articles:
  - Vision, Mission and Purpose
  - Governance
  - Membership: Eligibility, Application, Resignation, Rights, Fees
  - Officers
  - Executive Committee: Officers; Members; Election; Term; Powers & Duties; Meetings, and; Policies
  - Network Meetings: AGM, Voting, Rule of Procedure; Minutes;
  - Finance
  - Special Interest Groups and Committees
  - Amendments
- Develop IPSON into a sustainable and active representative group for professionals working in the psycho-social oncology. Develop a strategic plan to include:
  - Funding model

- Communications (including website development/maintenance and social media presence).
  - Membership growth, sustainability, and benefits (including networking and professional development opportunities)
  - Long term collaborations with relevant national and international groups.
- Host and plan for IPSON AGMs and networking events, incorporating elections for a new Executive Committee. If social distancing restrictions are still in place then this will take place as a virtual event.

## 5. Application Process

**Applicants must submit the following documents to [ipson@irishcancer.ie](mailto:ipson@irishcancer.ie) by 9am Monday 13 September 2021.**

- [Completed Application Form](#)
- [Employer Declaration of Support](#)
- Curriculum Vitae (max 3 pages)

## 6. Contact

Informal enquiries can be directed to Donal Buggy, Director of Service Delivery and Innovation on [dbuggy@irishcancer.ie](mailto:dbuggy@irishcancer.ie).