



Melody Buckley

In 2017 my husband was diagnosed with ocular melanoma, a rare eye cancer. Although I had been involved in advocacy for over 40 years, becoming an advocate for people with a rare cancer, impressed upon me the need for additional skills and knowledge to improve my advocacy initiatives. I am grateful to the IPPOSI Patient Education Programme for providing me with information about clinical trials and the regulatory process for medicines and medical devices in the EU and in Ireland. The communication skills, the educational and practical expertise of the lecturers were impressive. A particular benefit of the course was meeting the other patient advocates/experts and becoming part of a supportive peer to peer network.

Experience/Areas of Interest

- Supporting/advocating for patients with Ocular Melanoma and other rare cancers.
- Fostering global research and collaboration.
- Empowering and supporting the participation of Irish patients in clinical trials
- Improving Irish hospital conditions for patients
- Improving patient/medical provider relationships
- Ensuring patient access to Medical Records.
- Graduate, IPPOSI Patient Education Programme (2019)
- B.S. Sociology/Psychology, Masters in Law Psychology & Higher Certificate Advice and Advocacy

Patient Involvement and Experience:

- Advocate/Head of Research for Ocular Melanoma Ireland
- Administrator for the OcuMellrl Facebook Group.
- Community/patient representative, Patient Council, University Hospital Group Limerick
- Advocate for older people in Nursing Homes, Sage Advocacy, Limerick, Clare, & Northern Tipperary
- Advisor: Free Legal Advice Centre, Citizens Information Centre
- Law Lecturer, University of Limerick School of Law