

Presentation of Ireland Medal to Professor Linda Quan

The 2011 Ireland Medal was presented to American Professor of Paediatrics Linda Quan MD for her



Presentation of the Lifesaving Foundation's 2011 Ireland Medal
John Connolly, Prof. Linda Quan, Prof. John Pearn, Brendan Donohoe

outstanding work in the fields of drowning prevention and resuscitation. The presentation, by fellow paediatrician and 2005 Ireland Medal recipient Australian Professor John Pearn MD, was made during the recent Lifesaving Foundation Drowning Research Conference. She is the ninth medal recipient; previous recipients include Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden and Chief Justice Terence Higgins, both of whom were represented at the ceremony and who sent messages of congratulations. Professor Quan's grandmother Ethel Bennett emigrated from Ireland to the USA.

Speaking after the event she stated that
"All the planning, pomp and circumstance that John Connolly and the Lifesaving Foundation put into my award and ceremony are beyond belief."

Being surrounded by many of the worlds' most committed, focused, and thoughtful experts on drowning and its prevention was the only thing that seemed real! Everyone there is so important as they bring a different and special perspective to the problem and just as important a camaraderie. Your respect and friendship are imbedded in my medal and memory."

In addition to receiving a gilded medal a specially commissioned large parchment was presented to her by the Lifesaving Foundation containing gold leaf representations of the Seattle skyline (where she is based), an adult and child wearing lifejackets (an area of drowning prevention she is particularly interested in) and images of an Irish cottage and a Chinese house joined together behind the Statue of Liberty.

The medal ceremony was part of the 2012 Lifesaving Foundation's Drowning Prevention and Research Conference. One of the conferences main themes was Drowning Morbidity with presentations from Professor John Pearn (Australia), Dr. Joost Bierens (Netherlands),



Mr. Michael Morris, Dr. David Szpilman, Prof. Linda Quan, Prof. Roberto Barcala-Furelos in discussion.

Dr. David Szpilman (Brazil), Dr. Christopher Gardner-Thorpe (United Kingdom), Dr. Cormac Breathnach (Ireland) and Mr. Michael Morris (Samuel Morris Foundation Australia). Secondary themes included hosting the Can You Swim Project, lifesaving in developing countries and training lifeguards.

Nominations are open for the 2012 Ireland Medal which will be presented during the Lifesaving Foundation's 2013 conference (24th – 28th April) at a venue close to Dublin. Medal and conference details are available on the website www.lifesavingfoundation.ie.

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The following are comments on the 2012 Lifesaving Foundation conference ;

Colin Macdonald OBE (President, Royal Lesotho Lifesaving Association)

"It was a wonderful conference. For me, it was a privilege to be with so many expert speakers, and I picked up many hints on matters of direct relevance to the work I am doing in Lesotho. Thank you all."

Professor Roberto Barcala-Furelos PhD (Dept. of Sports Sciences, University of Vigo, Spain)

"I want to thank you for the treatment I received in Ireland. All have helped me a lot, and for me it was an honour to be with such important people in lifesaving. Although my English is bad, my talk went well. The language to prevent drownings has no boundaries"

Dr. Patrick Morgan MD (Medical Advisor, Surf Life Saving Association, Great Britain)

"Thank you for an excellent conference! A fantastic group of experts on drowning that were enthusiastic and very approachable. Superb!! "

Dr. Per-Ludvik Kjendlie PhD (Vestfold University, Norway)

"Thank you all for a wonderful meeting. And again to John, Maria, Brendan and the rest of the team: Thanks for your efforts, it was all perfect."

Dr. David Szpilman MD (Medical Advisor, Brazilian Life Saving Society)

"An excellent experience, wonderful atmosphere, marvellous old and new friends and certainly a great contribution to reducing drowning."

Dr. Ana Catarina Queiroga, PhD (Chair, Portuguese National Lifesaving Association Research Committee)

"I was overwhelmed with the wonderful atmosphere. Knowledge was shared and great new ideas came out from the discussions during the presentations and social events. Definitely a must attend event on drowning prevention and rescue!"

Dr. Joost Bierens MD (Editor, The Handbook on Drowning, Netherlands)

"You again made a unique venue for all of us. Thank you for your leadership in setting this up. Although I, as well as all other participants, are very aware of the unique opportunities that your boutique conference offers, I think that the English speaking participants will be much more able to put this into words."