

## BIOGRAPHY



### **Professor Irene Tuffrey-Wijne**

Website: [www.tuffrey-wijne.com](http://www.tuffrey-wijne.com) Twitter: [@TuffreyWijne](https://twitter.com/TuffreyWijne)

Irene Tuffrey-Wijne holds the world's first Chair of Intellectual Disability & Palliative Care, at Kingston University & St George's University of London. She qualified as a nurse in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) before moving to London in 1985, where she lived and worked in the L'Arche Community for people with intellectual (learning) disabilities until 1993. She worked as a ward nurse and community nurse specialist at Trinity Hospice (Clapham) from 1993 to 2001.

Since 2001, Irene has been at St George's and Kingston Universities, leading a programme of research focusing on intellectual disability, cancer and palliative care. She completed her PhD in 2007 at Maastricht University (Netherlands), where she keeps close collaborative links. She has published widely and presented her work in the UK and across the world, and is recognised as the leading international expert in the area of palliative care for people with intellectual disabilities.

Irene's research includes investigation the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities around cancer, death and bereavement; communication and breaking bad news to people with intellectual disabilities. She has led international projects looking at the delivery of palliative and end-of-life care of people with intellectual disabilities in different countries. Inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as study participants and as salaried co-researchers is a key part of her work. One of her current projects is leading the co-production arm of the LeDeR programme, which investigates deaths of all people with intellectual disabilities in England.

Irene is founding trustee of the UK based (but international) Palliative Care of People with Learning Disabilities Network ([www.pcpld.org](http://www.pcpld.org)), which she chaired until 2020. Since the start of the global pandemic, she has co-produced their award-winning series of webinars, sharing expertise between academics, professionals, people with intellectual disabilities, families and carers. Irene is chair of the Reference Group for Intellectual Disabilities of the European Association of Palliative Care, working with colleagues from across Europe.

They published the EAPC White Paper on Intellectual Disability in 2015. She won the 2017 EAPC Post-Doctoral Research Award and has been named “Pioneering Nurse” in the St Christopher’s 2020 Palliative Nursing awards.

Irene lives in London (UK) with her husband and a diminishing number of young-adult children. In her free time, she enjoys making music, sewing, and swimming in very cold water.

## **SHORT VERSION**

Irene Tuffrey-Wijne (RN, PhD) is Professor of Intellectual Disability & Palliative Care at Kingston University & St George’s University of London. She has close collaborative links with Maastricht University (Netherlands). She has extensive clinical experience in both intellectual disability and palliative care services.

Since 2001, Irene has led a programme of research focusing on intellectual disability, cancer and palliative care. She has published widely and presented her work in the UK and across the world, and is recognised as the leading international expert in the area of palliative care for people with intellectual disabilities. Inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as study participants and as salaried co-researchers is a key part of her work.

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