

Dublin City University

February 26 to March 14, 2013

Sabbatical – Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD, ANP-C, FAANP, FGSA

Submitted 5-13-13

Dr. Kate Irving, Convener/Head of Research, Dublin City University School of Nursing and Human Sciences, and Dr. Karen Devereaux Melillo, Professor and Chair, UMass Lowell School of Nursing, have collaborated since February 2011 via videoconferencing on potential nursing research involving the psychosocial well-being of older adults. Dr. Irving also runs the Memory Works Clinic at the Healthy Living Centre, Dublin City University. This collaboration culminated in this international visit to further our mutual interest in cognitive health and early retirement research and practice activities, while having an opportunity to be hosted by Dublin City University.

I was asked by Dr. Gerard Moore, Head of School, to provide a doctoral research colloquium on Evaluation Research: Use of the Logic Model, as the School of Nursing and Human Sciences is exploring and developing knowledge of evaluation-based research. This colloquium was well attended and positively received by faculty and graduate students in nursing, counseling and psychotherapy, and psychology. I was also able to attend the doctoral research colloquia of others. I co-facilitated a Thesis Supervision/Master's graduate research seminar for students in the process of their Master's thesis completion with Dr. Kate Irving.

Dr. Irving's research involving memory disorders and cognitive health allowed me a first-hand opportunity to observe the assessment of clients attending the Memory Works Clinic at DCU. Furthermore, mental status evaluation and screening for community-dwelling older adult recruitment in an aerobic exercise intervention and cognitive health research study were completed, and I was able to actively participate in an intergenerational class focused on cognitive health that was offered to community elders – a major focus of DCU to engage members of the community in research and learning-based activities.

Dr. Irving and I have received notice of DCU Research Ethics Committee preliminary approval of a qualitative proposal on our mutual area of research interest - subjective experiences of early retirement on cognitive, emotional and physical health, memory complaints, and well-being following incentivized, non-planned early retirement of public service eirs.

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In my meeting with Dr. Gerry Moore, Head, School of Nursing and Human Sciences, I learned the detailed history of DCU and the SNHS, while advancing my own knowledge about nursing education in Ireland. We shared in discussions about the promotion and tenure processes and guidelines for faculty at DCU and UMass Lowell. DCU describes their School as “at the forefront of Nursing, Health, Counselling and Psychotherapy and Psychology education, practice and research” (DCU website). I was offered the opportunity to meet with and observe nursing faculty in the teaching of nursing fundamental skills laboratory, as well as an arts-based and humanities