

# IrishRSA Annual General Meeting 2021 Chair's Report

Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 4pm

Andrew P. Allen, PhD

Chair of the Irish Research Staff Association

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# Reformation/Renaissance

- Irish Research Staff Association had previously been active a number of years ago
- Reformed in 2020
- Representation
  - Wide range of universities on committee; University College Cork (UCC), Maynooth University (MU), National University of Galway (NUIG), Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), University College Dublin (UCD), Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
  - Keen to have more representation from technological universities and Northern Ireland

# Committee 2021/2022

FUNCTION	NAME	HEI
Chair	Dr Andrew P Allen	TCD
Vice-Chair	Dr Richard Lombard-Vance	MU
Secretary	Dr Michael Creane	NUIG
Treasurer	Dr Gordon Dalton	UCC
International officer	Dr Rosarii Griffin	UCC
Ordinary member	Dr Darren Fayne	TCD
Ordinary member	Dr Tara Dirilgen	UCD
Ordinary member	Dr Stephanie Annett	RCSI
Ordinary member	Dr Richard Carroll	RCSI

# Irish Research Council Funding



- Three years
- Allows for administrative support
- Organisation for annual (inter)-national forum
- Funding to support attendance at relevant meetings

# IrishRSA online

- Website: <https://www.irishrsa.ie/>
- Twitter: @rsa\_irish



## Home

### Welcome to the IrishRSA official website

The Irish Research Staff Association (IrishRSA) represents salaried research staff in Ireland, including researchers within Research Staff Associations and individual researchers who lack representation through an RSA, and to advocate for their common interests at a National and International level in particular towards the goal of sustainable research careers.

# IrishRSA in the media



Contribute : [Support us now](#)

[Irish News](#) [FactCheck](#) [Voices](#) [The Good Information Project](#) [Covid-19](#)

## On social welfare, unable to buy a house: The reality facing Ireland's academics

Analysis reveals an average of over 11,200 lecturers working in temporary and casual contracts.

Nov 15th 2020, 12:05 AM  83,566 Views  96 Comments

 Share 153

 Tweet

 Email 6

# COVID-19 response



**The Irish Research Staff Association and IFUT call for Emergency Measures to tackle the Labour Market Crisis of Researchers: Keep Talent in Research and Higher Education**

Open Letter from the Irish Research Staff Association and IFUT to the

Government of Ireland:

- Joe McHugh T.D., Minister for Education and Skills. [minister@education.gov.ie](mailto:minister@education.gov.ie)
- William Beausang, Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Policy and Research- Department of Education and Skills [william\\_beausang@education.gov.ie](mailto:william_beausang@education.gov.ie)
- Dermot Mulligan, Assistant Secretary for Innovation Policy and Programmes - Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation [dermot.mulligan@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:dermot.mulligan@dbei.gov.ie)
- Dr. Alan Wall, Chief Executive Officer, Higher Education Authority - [Alan\\_W@hea.ie](mailto:Alan_W@hea.ie)

Irish Universities Association:

- Dr. Patrick Prendergast, Chair, [provost.office@tcd.ie](mailto:provost.office@tcd.ie)
- Dr. Lisa Keating, Director of Research and Innovation [lisa.keating@iua.ie](mailto:lisa.keating@iua.ie)

# Meeting with Minister Harris, Dept FHERIS

- Met with Minister, August 2020
- Also made submission on Statement of Strategy



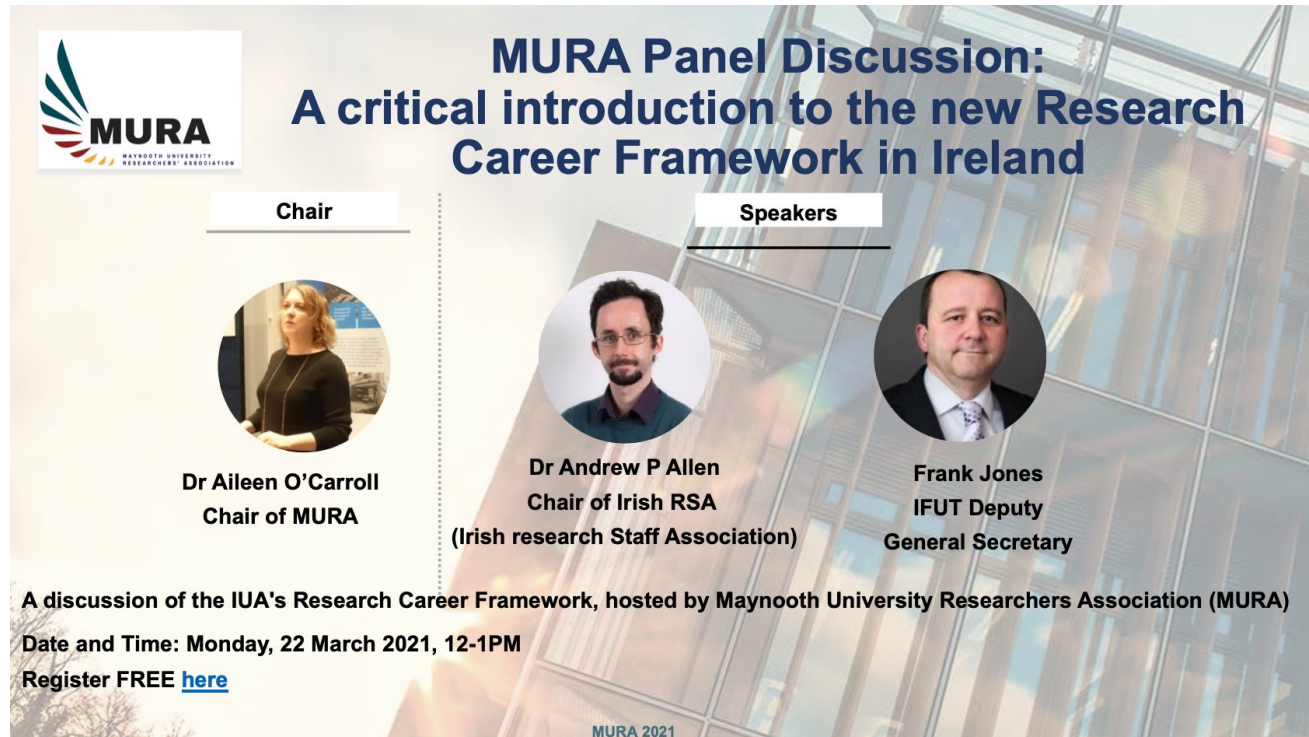
# Engagement with Royal Irish Academy

- HE Futures
- Membership on Young Academy



# RCDEF

- Published on Irish Universities Association website November 2020
- <https://www.iua.ie/for-researchers/researcher-career-framework/#>



The poster features a background image of a modern glass building. On the left is the MURA logo, which includes a stylized bird icon and the text 'MURA MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS' ASSOCIATION'. The main title is 'MURA Panel Discussion: A critical introduction to the new Research Career Framework in Ireland'. Below the title, there are two columns: 'Chair' and 'Speakers'. The Chair is Dr Aileen O'Carroll, Chair of MURA. The Speakers are Dr Andrew P Allen, Chair of Irish RSA (Irish research Staff Association), and Frank Jones, IFUT Deputy General Secretary. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text about the discussion, the date and time, and a registration link. The text 'MURA 2021' is at the bottom right.

**MURA**  
MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCHERS' ASSOCIATION

**MURA Panel Discussion:**  
**A critical introduction to the new Research Career Framework in Ireland**

**Chair**

  
**Dr Aileen O'Carroll**  
Chair of MURA

**Speakers**

  
**Dr Andrew P Allen**  
Chair of Irish RSA  
(Irish research Staff Association)

  
**Frank Jones**  
IFUT Deputy  
General Secretary

A discussion of the IUA's Research Career Framework, hosted by Maynooth University Researchers Association (MURA)  
Date and Time: Monday, 22 March 2021, 12-1PM  
Register FREE [here](#)

MURA 2021

# Positive aspects

- Clarity and transparency on career progression pathways for researchers at a national level
- Provide consistent Terms and Conditions for researcher employment across the system independent of source of funding

# Key concerns

- “Up or out”
- Senior research fellows are not HEI academic appointments
- Post-doctoral researcher appointment = professional training and development role
- Lack of consultation in design of RCDEF
  - IUA met with IrishRSA, but only to request our support with a document IUA viewed as complete.

# IrishRSA National Forum



- Opening Speech: Mike Jennings, Former Gen. Sec., IFUT



# IrishRSA National Forum



- May 6<sup>th</sup>

- **PART 1: Research Career Frameworks & Research Career Precarity**

International Consortium of Research staff Associations (ICoRSA)	<b>Gordon Dalton</b>	Research Career Precarity – a global perspective	Confirmed
Vitae UK	<b>Janet Metcalfe</b>	UK Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and Careers Progress	Confirmed

## Panellists

**Linda Doyle** | Trinity College, University of Dublin

**Frank Jones** | Irish Federation of University Teachers

**Dipti Pandya** | University College Dublin

# IrishRSA National Forum



## • PART 2: Best Practices & Solutions for Irish Research Careers

UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	<b>John Crowley</b>	UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers	Confirmed
Portuguese Research Staff Association (ANICT)	<b>Nuno Cerca</b>	Researcher influence on research career policy in Portugal	Confirmed
EC Directorate for Research and Innovation	<b>Apostolia Karamali</b>	European Career Framework	Confirmed

### Panellists

**Carole Chapin** | Association Nationale des Docteurs (ANDès)

**Gareth O'Neill** | Principal Consultant on Open Science

**Susan K. Fetics** | Marie Curie Alumni Association