

**Pre-conference: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2010, 14.00 – 18.00 hrs**

***Sexuality Issues In Older Children With Disabilities: Promoting good sexual health and relationships***

**Facilitator: Prof Roy McConkey**

Prof Roy McConkey is Professor of Developmental Disabilities at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; a post jointly funded by the Health and Social Care Board of Northern Ireland. A psychologist by training and a native of Belfast, he has previously held posts at the University of Manchester, in Dublin and in Scotland.

Prof Roy McConkey has worked in the field of intellectual disability for nearly 40 years and has authored, co-authored and edited over 15 books, and published over 100 book chapters and research papers in learned journals.

Prof Roy McConkey has acted as a consultant to various United Nations agencies and International NGOs. This work has taken him to some 20 countries in Africa, Asia and South America, including Malaysia. He is a Fellow of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability and in 2010, the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities selected him for their International Award.

**Areas of expertise**

- Developmental disabilities.
- Family support
- Social inclusion
- Evaluation of service provision to people with disabilities

**Membership of committees/bodies**

- Chair, Research and Innovation Committee of the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences, University of Ulster.

**Editorial activities**

- Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities
- Journal of Intellectual Disabilities
- Tizard Learning Disability Review

**Abstract:**

**This workshop explores ways in which parents and siblings can assist young people with intellectual disabilities to develop relationships; to gain an understanding of sexuality and to promote good sexual well-being. The challenges are reviewed and ways of coping identified. However the basic requirement is to create opportunities for open communication within families and with other support services.**