

# BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

## VICE PRESIDENT (ELECT ONE)



### Thomas Kearns EdD, FFMRCISI, MEd, BNS, RNT, RGN, RPN



My nursing career commenced in 1980, I worked in a range of clinical settings including community mental health, Community Care, Older person care and Aids Patient Care. I am a Registered Psychiatric and General Nurse and a Registered Nurse Tutor. I have a Bachelors

degree in Nursing, a Masters degree in Education, a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI and my Doctorate is in Education. My leadership experience ranges from clinical leadership to policy, regulatory and academic leadership at local, national, European and Global levels. As a nurse program leader I managed undergraduate and post graduate nursing education in University College Dublin in the 1990s. I worked for the Statutory Regulatory Authority for Nursing in Ireland for 14 years as Deputy/ Interim Chief Education Officer. In this capacity I facilitated the development of national standards for nursing education and professional practice including Scope of Practice Guidance . I lead the approval and monitoring of Mental Health, Public Health, Nurse Prescribing and Post Graduate Education leading to Specialist and Advanced Nursing Practice.

I was invited to work for the Irish Ministry for Health in 2004 to project manage the restructuring of the Undergraduate Nursing Degree program in Ireland. This led to the development of an integrated theoretical and clinical program across the four year degree , a program structure still in place today.

In 2014 I was appointed Professor /Executive Director of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI. I lead the strategic and operational education and research direction of the Faculty. I am the founding Director of the European Center of Research Excellence. This Center is developing the

science of continuing education and Continuing Professional Development with partners in 21 European Countries. This Center has an MoU with the Coalition for Certification Research based in Sigma.

I am the academic partner for the European Nursing Council (Council of Nursing Regulatory Authorities) I provide research and evidence to support better regulation of professional practice in Europe to strengthen better professional practice and better patient care in the Region.

In 2017 I took a career break, invited to become the Interim CEO of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). I was the Executive head of the organisation and I facilitated a transition within the Governance and leadership of the organisation. I facilitated a strengthening of executive values, Risk management of the organisation and established an evaluation review of the ICN strategy.

My values include Care, Compassion and Commitment linked to Research, Collaboration, Scholarship and Innovation. I passionately believe my values and leadership experience will support Sigma to deliver its Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals as the voice for individual nurses locally, nationally, regionally and globally. This would be a joy and an honor.