

Denise Proudfoot, *Dublin City University, Ireland*

In Sceal Eile : The Stories of HIV Positive Mothers Living in Ireland

denise.proudfoot@dcu.ie

The poster will present an overview of a developing doctorate study that will explore the experiences of HIV positive mothers living in Ireland. It will present a review of key research studies on the topic and the rationale for the study. The study methodology will be within the narrative genre. Koch (1998) described this research method as a mechanism to provide an opportunity for an individual to tell their story through life events. In Ireland women account for 36% of new HIV cases in 2008 (O'Donnell, Moran & O'Hora, 2009). The majority of newly diagnosed women are of reproductive age and many of the women are from Sub Saharan Africa (Foreman & Hawthorne, 2007). How this illness impacts on these women warrants consideration as HIV can impact on a woman's ability to care for her children. I feel exploring the experiences of these marginalised women in Ireland is necessary because: HIV and childbearing are not just issues of health and influence all aspects of a mothers life, thus the study will highlight the centrality of motherhood to the physical and social survival of HIV positive women. This study will provide an understanding about their lives and so facilitate health care professionals to provide effective and appropriate gender specific care to these women.

I am employed in DCU as a nurse lecturer and teach on a variety of programmes within the school. Much of my clinical experience has been within the NHS in London and previously I held a variety of positions which including sexual health advisor, nurse manager in a high support addictions clinic and CNS in HIV/Mental health. I was awarded a MSc in Health promotion/Health Education from Kings College, London University in 1998. My research interests are in the areas of HIV/AIDS, women's health and mental health promotion. I am currently in my third year of a Professional Doctorate in Health at Bath University, UK.