



## 2nd European Collaborative Conference -1-4 May 2008

### Update - April 2008

The 2nd European Collaborative Conference at the fabulous 5 star facility The Sheraton Fota Island Hotel is due to commence on the 1st May and will continue to the 4th May 2008. Details of the conference can be accessed on the Association of Collaborative Practitioners' website, [www.acp.ie](http://www.acp.ie). The conference which will be formally opened by Her Excellency, **President Mary McAleese**, will also be attended by the Attorney General, the Deputy and Incoming President of the Law Society, The Minister for Justice who will formally close the conference, The Bar Council of Ireland, Members of the Judiciary at all levels, Senior Counsel and Senior officials from the Education Dept of the Law Society. In addition, **Stu Webb**, the founder of the collaborative movement who hails from the US and which movement is now world wide will be in attendance.

Delegates to the conference will include the vast bulk of the 60 plus ACP membership as well as delegates from **Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Czech Republic and from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand.**

We have also had enquiries from **South Africa** who should they attend will be a new country in the fold and from **Israel**. The interest expressed in these two countries is indeed exciting from a political point of view, as collaboration has the potential to revolutionise the manner of dealing with all sorts of conflict resolution.

We are very honoured to be hosting this conference in Cork. I have been involved at the highest level in organising and designing this Conference. My particular area was the conference program. I can say with some pride that the conference programme is exciting and innovative and provides interest not just for family practitioners but also and far sightedly for commercial and civil practitioners.

In addition, there is a wonderful social programme both for participants and for companions attending. It promises to be a bank holiday to remember and one which I believe will prove a turning point for the practise of collaboration in Ireland.

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### Update - March 2008

The Program for the 2nd European Collaborative Conference is now on the collaborative practise website, [www.acp.ie](http://www.acp.ie). This is a very exciting program attracting speakers and presenters from all over the world. Already the Sheraton Fota Island Hotel is well on its way to being booked out. The program has something for everyone. A Pre Forum Day on the 1st May affords collaborators the opportunity to brush up their skills and participate in training seminars on 4 different topics to include marketing your practise, negotiation skills, civil law and collaboration and neuroscience and collaborative coaching. The conference itself opens on the 2nd May and concludes late afternoon on the 3 May. The conference includes two 3 hour presentations on both afternoons the first outlining the use of the financial neutral in collaborative practise and what they can contribute to a good resolution and the second a full team presentation which shows how all the people at the collaborative table, lawyers, coaches, child specialist and financial neutral work together towards a deep peace and effective resolution of a case. The IACP (the International Body) are co-sponsoring the conference and are offering as part of that sponsorship a training seminar on both days for those collaborative professionals wishing to learn how to train others in collaborative skills. In addition to the

business program of the conference there is a fabulous social program both for participants and their companions. The 4th May is given over completely to socializing but all the way through there are truly wonderful events to participate in not least of which is the Golf Classic on the 1st sponsored by the Southern Law Association and amongst others, the Gala Dinner at Fota House at which the Slow Food People are catering.

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### **Update – December 2007**

Plans for the Cork conference are well underway. The conference will be of interest not only to lawyers but also to therapists, mediators, accountants and other financial professionals. Plenary session and workshops will cater for all of the above interests as well as being of interest to lawyers and the conference will feature such renowned presenters as mediator and collaborator Chip Rose, financial specialist Susan Miller, psychologist and divorce coach, Susan Gomache and Ken Cloke from the Harvard School of negotiation among others. Trainings will also be organised during the days coming up to the conference and in the days after. Any financial people wishing to attend should get in touch with the ACP ([www.acp.ie](http://www.acp.ie)) as it is hoped to organise a full training while the trainers are here. In addition some credits will be given for attending the plenary and workshops to financials coming. Basic training for lawyers wishing to come on board is also being organised with Pauline Tesler who with Stu Webb (founder of collaboration) is giving the key note speech to the conference. Those interested should contact the site ([www.acp.ie](http://www.acp.ie)).

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### **Update – September 2007**

[Kenneth Cloke](#), prestigious author and Harvard School of Law professor and [Chip Rose](#), Mediation Expert from San Francisco have agreed to co- present at the Cork Conference a paper entitled The Dance of Conflict. Ken's area of expertise is in negotiation skills and theory. Chip is a renowned collaborator and a mediator. Bringing the two together to show how to sail in troubled waters both in theory and practise should prove wonderfully enlightening to all practitioners and not just collaborators.

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### **Update – August 2007**

After some hot competition from England, Ireland has secured the 2nd European Collaborative Practise Conference in 2008. It is to take place in Cork from the 1st to the 4th of May 2008 in the beautiful surroundings of the 5 star Sheraton Fota Island Golf Resort & Spa. The hotel has been block-booked for the 4 days of the conference.

[Anne O'Neill](#) of P. J. O'Driscolls is one of the organisers of this landmark event. Lawyers, financial experts, mental health professionals and child therapists, many accompanied by their families, are expected to travel from all over Europe and in large numbers from Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand. The President, Mary McAleese, has kindly consented to open the conference. An estimated 220-250 will attend and participate on this prestigious occasion.

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