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2018 Lifesaving Foundation Projects

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2018 Lifesaving Foundation Projects

The Lifesaving Foundation is a not-for-profit company registered as a charity in Ireland. The charity initially provided equipment to small groups of lifesavers and funded local training initiatives in developing regions in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean helping establish national lifesaving organisations in Kenya and Lesotho. Its Lifeguard Training Project funded the training of 2000 unemployed young swimmers as lifeguards in developing countries giving the unemployed youth's job qualifications and their communities lifeguards and first aiders. In partnership with The Sri Lanka Women's Swimming Project it promotes the provision of swimming instruction to females in cultures where it was not previously done for modesty reasons. Recent changes to Irish charity law have made it very difficult for small charities to fund projects overseas. The charity hopes to overcome these obstacles.

Foundation members are involved in many research projects worldwide. The Foundation has published research on suicide by drowning, foreign holiday drownings, and why swimmers drown. It has a project researching self-rescue in common drowning situations called The I Am Not Drowning Project. The first part concluded with the publication of a poster explaining how to survive the first minutes of a clothed entry into cold open water. The following are its 2018 projects;

- **Drowning Research Conference**
- **Ireland Medal**
- **Lifesaving Foundation Collection**
- **Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden Student Scholarship Fund**
- **Garda Commissioner Eamonn Doherty Police Research Project**
- **Waterford Institute of Technology Research Partnership**

1. Drowning Research Conference

The Foundation's 8th International Drowning Research Conference takes place between Monday 10th to Thursday 13th September 2018.

2. Ireland Medal

The Ireland medal is awarded by the Foundation to an Irish person or organisation or to a person of proven Irish descent who has made a long exceptional contribution to saving lives from drowning. Every three years a special medal is awarded to a person who is not of Irish descent.

3. The Lifesaving Foundation Drowning Collection

The collection of drowning related training manuals, adventure autobiographies, and other emergency response books is located in Waterford Institute of Technology's Luke Wadding Library. It is part of the Foundation's research partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology's School of Health Sciences (WIT).

<http://library.wit.ie/Resources/lifesaving-foundation-collection>

<https://witcat.wit.ie/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?q=se,phr:%22The%20Lifesaving%20Foundation%20Collection%22>

4. Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden Student Scholarship Fund

The late Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden MD, PhD, RN was a world expert on survival in cold open water. Supported by Frank's family a student research support fund has been established in his name. From 2019 access to the fund will be open to a student presenting (oral or poster) at any recognised conference (recognised by the Foundation Research Committee). Grants will be in the range €200 - €300 initially and the number awarded will be subject to funds in a special account.

5. Garda Commissioner Eamonn Doherty Police Research Project

The late Garda Commissioner Eamonn Doherty had a long interest in the prevention of drownings. In his memory the Foundation and his family have established a long-term research project investigating police involvement in drowning prevention, rescue, aftercare and community support.

6. Waterford Institute of Technology Research Partnership

The Foundation has established a long-term research relationship with Waterford Institute of Technology's School of Health Sciences. The aim is to undertake joint projects studying all aspects of drowning.