

Orla O'Donovan is a lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Ireland, where her teaching and research interests centre on the politics of health and medicine, and efforts to democratise the production and use of science and technology for public purposes. Her research interests and involvement with HAI have converged on a number of issues including patients' organisations' contributions to the production of knowledge about health and medicine, patients' organisations' relationships with pharmaceutical corporations, conflicts of interests in medicines regulation, and transparency in medicines regulation and pharmaceutical policy. She has been an active participant in public debates in Ireland about pharmaceutical policy; for example she contributed to the work of a 2007 government committee on the adverse side effects of pharmaceuticals, and in 2010 was appointed to a Medical Council of Ireland Ethics Working Group.