

## **CV Valerie O'Brien**

Prof Valerie O'Brien is the Programme Director of the Systemic Psychotherapy programme in the School of Medicine at University College Dublin since 2018.

She has been an EFTA Board Member (EFTA TIC) since 2016 and she was recently re elected to the 2025 – 2028 Board.

Valerie was awarded a EFTA Award 2025 at the European EFTA – Relates Conference in Lyon France – Aug 2025, in recognition of her work in Chairing the Task Force charged with the development of European Training Standards for Family Therapy and Systemic Psychotherapy 2022 – 2025. This work marks a major development for the future of the training of psychotherapists and family therapists, especially given the changing landscape for the profession across Europe. Valerie is particularly thankful to the Task Force members which also includes Federico Ferrari; Julia Hardy; Lucie Hornova; Teresa Moratalla Gellida; Martine Nisse; Yvain Piketty; Marie Jeanne Schon; Shan Tate.

As part of her academic role, Valerie in addition to her Programme Director role, she is a researcher, lecturer, clinician and clinical supervisor. She has a particular interest in practice and service development. She has led a number of action-based demonstration projects in respect of foster and relative care, family group conferencing and adoption. She continues to consult with agencies both in Ireland and overseas at both a service delivery and case level.