

## EVIDENCE INFORMED HEALTHCARE CHARTER

Irish health librarians are committed to supporting the principles of evidence-informed healthcare.

Evidence-informed healthcare requires that decisions about patient care or health policy *“are based on the best available, current, valid and relevant evidence. These decisions are made by those receiving care, informed by the tacit and explicit knowledge of those providing care, within the context of available resources.”* All health professionals need to *“understand the principles of [evidence-informed healthcare] ... recognise it in action, implement evidence-based policies, and have a critical attitude to their own practice and to evidence. Without these skills professionals will find it difficult to provide best practice.”*

—“Sicily Statement on Evidence-Based Practice.”

I agree that:

1. It is important to espouse, implement and further promote evidence-informed healthcare as a core component of everyday practice;
2. Health librarians – through their expertise in acquiring, organising and actively promoting the use of best evidence – play an important role as facilitators of evidence-informed healthcare.

Signed: *Aisife Lawton*

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Dawes, M. et al. (2005), “Sicily Statement on Evidence-Based Practice,” *BMC Medical Education*, 5 (1), 4-5.