



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT THE FACULTY AND COLLEGE

Governance

The Faculty of Paediatrics was established by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) in 1976 and functions within and as an integral part of the College.

The standing orders of the Faculty have stated objects which are:

- To advance the science, art and practice of Paediatrics in Ireland. To promote education, study and research in Paediatrics for the public benefit.
- To act as an authoritative body for consultation on matters of educational or public interest concerning Paediatrics.
- To represent the specialty of Paediatrics on international, national and regional councils or committees concerned with postgraduate medical education.
- To obtain and maintain recognition for itself as the body responsible for advising on all matters concerning Paediatrics under any scheme for specialist training in Ireland provided always that any benefit obtained by Members or Fellows of the Faculty as the result of such recognition should be merely incidental to the achievement of the charitable objects of the Faculty.

The Faculty acts in an advisory capacity to key stakeholders such as Government and statutory bodies in all matters pertaining to Paediatrics, which can include sitting on committees, contributing to consultation papers and advising bodies such as the Implementation Committee for the Ferns 4 Report and the National Immunisation Committee.

The Faculty is the recognised training body for postgraduate medical training in the specialty of Paediatrics in Ireland and is responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the Membership of the Faculty of Paediatrics examinations. The Faculty has developed curricula and approved posts for training, capable of furnishing all the training experiences necessary for Senior House Officers (SHO), Registrars and Specialist Registrars (SpRs) to satisfactorily meet the requirements of the Basic Specialist (BST), Registrar and Higher Specialist Training (HST) programmes.

The Faculty has developed core competencies in the specialty that the Members and Fellows are required to maintain through Continuing Professional Development and are working with the relevant bodies to fulfil the requirements of Professional Competence as laid out in the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The Faculty of Paediatrics currently has 413 Fellows, 17 Honorary Fellows, 30 Collegiate Members and 99 Associate Members.

The functions and responsibilities of the Faculty of Paediatrics are devolved within its governance structure to the Board, Specialty Training Committee and other Committees and appointed Specialists such as the National Specialty Directors and Trainers. These are in turn supported by the general management and professional services of RCPI. Consistent application and delivery of these functions and responsibilities is ensured by the reporting and accountability structure of the governance framework.

Background on RCPI

RCPI is the oldest surviving medical institution in the country and has been part of the ups and downs of Irish history for three and a half centuries.

As a professional organisation for Physicians, the RCPI has been involved in the setting of and of maintaining Irish professional standards in medicine since 1692 and now includes four Faculties and an Institute, which are integral parts of the College. RCPI is Ireland's largest postgraduate medical institution and is recognised by the Irish Medical Council as the training body for 29 specialties.

From a junior doctor in their first postgraduate training post through to a senior consultant undertaking their continuing professional development, RCPI delivers a wide range of training programmes, study days, masterclasses and academic meetings to ensure the very best in-patient care.

RCPI also conducts over fifty post-graduate examinations annually in Ireland and overseas. Graduates of all medical schools on this island, and from countless overseas universities, have been achieving their MRCPI qualifications since 1879.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Message from the Dean

The poet RW Emerson, is credited with the phrase 'Life is a journey, not a destination' Paediatric developments are on an ongoing journey similarly, constantly changing and evolving. We marked the 40th Anniversary of the Faculty of Paediatrics at the Autumn meeting in 2022, by stepping back and truly appreciating the journey to date, the milestones reached and thank the individuals that changed the face of paediatrics over the past 40 years. The journey continues presently, learning from the past to guide the future, with the support and work of paediatricians and neonatologist throughout this country.

I would like to outline the Faculty of Paediatric developments this year.

Faculty of Paediatric Board

I am truly grateful to the board for their ongoing contribution and support in progressing paediatrics. Thank you to those who are demitting or changing roles, for their wisdom, hard work and advice over the past few years.

In particular we have had four experienced NSD's demitting from their roles - John Murphy, Anne Marie Murphy, Martin White and Kevin Walsh. Thank you for your individual and collective contribution to paediatrics. We recognise your outstanding work, commitment, expertise, guidance and achievements. Their roles have now been taken up by Juan Trujillo (BST NSD), Orla Flanagan (HST NSD), Orla Franklin (Cardiology NSD) and Brian Walsh (Neonatal NSD) – welcome to you all.

From our Faculty board I want to recognise the work by Gavin Stone as the collegiate representative, for his contribution to committees especially the governance working group and his continued guidance with the clinical exam tutorials. Thank you to John Joyce our Board HST representative, who has guided Faculty with many training issues and organised teaching awards. We welcome Emily Farnan to the board to work with Ruth Carey as trainee representatives. I am grateful to Emma Curtis for her dedication to the board, her valued opinions on many faculty topics, her tireless efforts progressing the New Children's hospital and especially for bringing the board members to have a tour of our impressive new hospital. Thank you to Sinead Callinan, one of our first two lay members on the Faculty board, who has been a wonderful addition to the board. We valued her opinion and advise over the past three years and wish her success in her new role. Congratulations to Michael O'Grady who is taking up the role as Paediatric lead for Diabetes from Nuala Murphy, who is stepping down from this role. We acknowledge Nuala's outstanding contribution and expertise over the years. We wish her well taking up a lead role on the paediatric diabetes audit in NOCA, which will bring further improvements to diabetes care in due course.

Thank you to those who have agreed to be the representative on other boards - Hilary Stokes on the NOCA audit and Gene Dempsey on NOCA governance. The awards committee that Basil Elnazir and Michael O Grady kindly chair has trainers assigned specifically to an award: Anne Marie Murphy – Henry Marsh medal, Jean Donnelly – Conor Ward Essay competition, Michael Boyle – Victoria Coffee award and Basil Elnazir for the Kathleen Lynn medal. The National Teaching Awards are organised by the training representatives on the board. Thank you to you all.

Advocacy

- Faculty of paediatric's opinion was sought by Mr R Watt, Secretary General, Dept of Health regarding implications of extending free contraception to 16 year olds with respect to age of consent, policy and services for children. Considerations were highlighted and Dr Aisling O' Riordan kindly agreed to be the Faculty representative on the group if further engagement required.
- The Faculty advocated for strengthened legislation/banning disposable vapes/flavourings with regard to protecting minors by preventing addiction from a young age. In addition there is a significant environmental waste with disposable vapes. The RCPI policy department, chaired by Prof Des Cox, and Faculty of Paediatrics each sent in submissions in July 2023 to Mr Oisian Smyth, Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, following his invitation to the public to participate in giving feedback to inform Ireland's policy response to dealing with disposable vaping devices.
- Faculty gave opinion on The Global Health Competency framework pathway from the paediatric perspective.

- Request from the Down Syndrome (DS) National Register steering group to advocate for unmet needs of those with DS and their families for a national register to support clinical care which was discontinued in Oct 2022.
- The National Rehabilitation Hospital, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Children's Health Ireland and Brain Tumour Ireland requested, via Dr Irwin Gill, consultant paediatrician with SI Neurodisability, comments and support of Faculty and CAG in their strategic direction paper: Rehabilitation for children and young people in Ireland following acquired brain injury - current services and potential future directions. The Faculty supports the further development, equity of access and increase of services for these patients.
- The document on 'Improving services for general paediatric surgery/Model of Care -2023, was sent to CAG/Faculty for review and comment. Recommendations have been made to develop this document further, especially the surgical on call arrangements, surgical leads and support for regional and local paediatric units. Suggestions included mandatory paediatric attachments for surgical trainees. Thank you to David Mullane and Paula Cahill for paediatric representation on the committee.
- Faculty responded to Prof Mary Horgan following her request on an opinion on a poster presentation, at the Irish Cardiac Society, Oct 2022, on rugby: Six nations under age rugby and BMI - what is price of success, authored by Dr W Fennell.
- Dr Aoibhinn Walsh presented the Migrant Care Pathway to the CAG group for their opinion and it was very much supported.
- Barnahus working group proposed a service specification document for child and adolescent forensic medical services following concern or disclosure of sexual assault/abuse was submitted for review. The HSE CCO Clinical Forum has approved the clinical design of this Service Specification Document, subject to few minor changes.
- Dr Nuala Quinn was appointed Paediatric Lead for Trauma Services last year and presented to the group the planned integration of paediatric trauma into the National Trauma System. An addendum with recommendations for paediatric units was added to the New National Trauma Unit specification document.
- Participation in a group interview with members of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies for part of the intern review project that was commissioned by the Irish Medical Council: External review and recommendations regarding the quality and configuration of medical education and training posts.
- Faculty asked Mr Colm Small, Head of Training /Education of RCPI, to write to Ms Eilish Hardiman with request for an RCPI office in the New National Children's Hospital. Prof J Hourihane recommended to the board that the year of the opening of the New National Children's Hospital should be marked by a dedicated St Lukes lecture and/or specific paediatric-related topics. The Board and the RCPI executive are supportive and open to consider this.
- RCPI hosted a Masterclass in March 2023: 'Achieving Equity in Healthcare – more than just an appointment'. Dr Aoibhinn Walsh, Paediatrician with a special interest in Inclusion Health, spoke on 'Social adversity in Paediatrics – stories behind the statistics' which received excellent reviews.
- A Memorandum of understanding re: Faculty of Paediatric financial reserves was agreed with RCPI.

Governance Framework Document : Faculty of Paediatrics

The Governance Working Group was established by the Faculty of Paediatrics RCPI in 2022 to review the governance framework of the Faculty, benchmarking as appropriate, and to report recommendations for improvement to the Faculty Board. The Faculty has completed a governance review of the Faculty of Paediatrics, including review of terms of reference, role specifications, standing orders, and hope to table a document for AGM approval on the 6th Oct 2023.

Thank you to the members of the group Chair: Dr Norma Goggin (Fellow), Mr James Doorley (Lay member of Faculty Board), Deputy Chair - Dr Beth Gordon (HST Gen Paeds & Trainee Rep), Dr John Fitzsimons (Fellow), Prof Mary Higgins (O&G Consultant, MIOG, FRCPI, appointed RCPI VP), Dr Louise Kyne (Fellow & current Dean), Dr Angela O'Leary (Associate Member), Dr Ethel Ryan (Fellow) and Dr Roy Gavin Stone (Collegiate Member).

It has been an important piece of work for the Faculty to address the role of the sub- committees/networks and the standing orders that need reviewing at the AGM. It is a start and will require updating regularly.

A Faculty awards committee has been established to bring all of our awards under one subcommittee.

Education and training

- Paediatrics were very fortunate in obtaining 6 Aspire fellowships and 2 management fellowships this year. We have had 12 excellent applications for aspire fellowships this year and 4 have been successful so far. Our next

webinar on the 7th November 2023, 5pm will highlight their work, what proved successful and areas in which improvement/suggestions may prove beneficial.

- The Faculty has developed and introduced 2 new fellowships, an International Fellowship in Developmental Paediatrics and Neurodisability and in Adolescent Medicine, both of which are due to commence shortly. An international fellowship in Oncology will be advertised next year.
- The Clinical Advisory Group reviewed, updated and approved Paediatric algorithms with the help of paediatric SpRs and consultants. Thank you to all who contributed.
- The Faculty created a resource document on inclusion and support of LGBTQ+ individuals for use as an educational resource for BST/HST trainees study days.
- The Faculty endorsed, with recommendations, the proposed pathway for further development of paediatric critical care higher specialist training posts. In addition, advice was sought from Faculty on Critical Care job descriptions on posts from CACC.

Thank you to Dr's Ahmed Khan, Juliette Lucey, Judith Meehan, Sinead Murphy, who have helped me each year organise webinars and the Spring and Autumn Faculty of Paediatric educational conferences.

The **Autumn Conference October 2022**: "The Past, Present and Future of the Faculty of Paediatrics - A celebration of 40 years", took place on 21 October. The 40th anniversary history book was launched on the day – it remains available on line for free or a hardcopy can be purchased on the RCPI website.

The Ralph Counahan Lecture was given by Prof Conor O'Mahony, School of Law, University College Cork on "Children's rights and the Irish Constitution - what has article 42 A changed". Following the conference, an admission ceremony included an Honorary Fellowship for Prof Peter Rosenbaum, Prof of Paediatrics McMaster University and co-founder of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research. The ceremony was concluded with a gala dinner.

The **Spring Meeting May 2023**: "Challenges and Choices for the paediatrician" had as the guest speaker, Dr Tammy Hedderly, paediatric neurologist from the Evelina Hospital London who gave a lecture on 'Functional tic-like movements in adolescents'. Updates on a number of issues including cochlear implants/visual impairment/neonatal seizures/stroke in children/adolescent gynecology and invasive bacterial sepsis were presented.

Webinar from Portlaoise paediatric department, November 2022, on their successful experience following the development of the paediatric respiratory and allergy services in their unit.

Webinar from Mayo paediatric department, January 2023, on Innovations in a model 3 Hospital, which included a talk on understanding feedback and its implications.

Webinar from Portluncula paediatric department, February 2023, on challenges to providing intensive care outside of the paediatric intensive care setting with suggestions going forward on keeping our skills up as paediatricians for emergencies so children can be stabilised. Cases highlighted a number of important issues in paediatric care/paediatric surgical care/ paediatric emergency skills that will need to be looked at in more detail to support model 3 hospitals/paediatricians.

All webinars got excellent feedback and highlighted the team work in these units, challenges and suggestions for progressing paediatric care nationally were welcomed.

The **Autumn meeting this year 2023** is titled 'Paediatric practice, education and trending topics'. We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker for The Ralph Counihan lecture, Dr Hilary Kingdon, President of the RCPCH. Dr Kingdon and Dr Andrew Cant are being recognised today with honorary fellowships of the College.

We have a special award also to be given at the Autumn meeting, nominated by Dr Emma Curtis, to Dr Sabine Maguire, a fellow of the College, for her outstanding contribution to child health.

This year and going forward, paediatric doctors in non-training posts working in paediatric units can avail of free online access to the Spring and Autumn study days.

HSE-NDTP Development Funding 2023 to Paediatric projects:

NDTP has generously funded 2 paediatric projects endorsed by the Faculty of Paediatrics:

- ***Paediatric pocket tutorials*** (Prof J Fitzsimons).

- ***Paediatric mentorship programme*** (Prof D Slattery).

The aim of the pocket tutorial project is to expand and improve access to specialist and generalist paediatric tutorials for clinicians, to facilitate short and targeted learning opportunities, enhance knowledge for clinical practice and to refresh critical paediatric clinical knowledge in a variety of general and specialist paediatric care areas. This project, initially started in 2020 in response to Covid and the changing educational environment, has been very successful. We aim to develop further tutorials on many other paediatric topics. Please encourage your paediatric departments to use these tutorials in their teaching practice/training of NCHD's.

The Mentorship programme for NCHDs is initially for 12 months and is across the continuum which will support registrars, SHOs and interns across CHI hospital group from a career and personal viewpoint particularly during times of transition. This mirrors the existing CHI consultant Mentorship Programme, developed in December 2022, for recently appointed consultants.

Medical parents update: Dr Siobhan Connor presented to the Forum the medical parent initiative. They have kindly funded and extended meeting invites to all trainees in all training bodies. Each paediatric hospital has a named 'medical parent' champion/paediatrician to offer support and advice on returning to work, signpost breast-pumping facilities/on call options to support trainees and link with management. Biannual 'medical parents' webinar and coffee mornings were extended to all trainees across all training bodies in June with good attendance. The next meeting is planned for December 2023.

Medical doctor training posts in paediatrics, in Ireland and Tanzania. Meetings and discussions with learnings from other training bodies, on possible opportunities, are ongoing. It is envisaged to have 2 funded paediatric trainees go out to Tanzania 2024. The plan is to bring trainees here from Tanzania also. Guidelines to develop these posts safely continue to be explored.

All Ireland paediatric committee Terms of reference were updated to develop further cross border initiatives and relationships between consultants /trainees in Northern Ireland and Ireland schemes. A pilot infectious disease fellowship, jointly sponsored by both schemes, is the first to start this initiative. We would hope further fellowship opportunities will be possible. Recognition of Neonates/cardiology by the GMC is an ongoing issue – we hope to have further details after changes to legislation in November 2023 are finalised.

BPSU is linking at Faculty meeting today to recruit new members and share research possibilities between Ireland and UK.

Examination

Thank you to Dr Eoin O'Curraín, Associate Dean for Examinations, and to Dr Niamh Lynch and Dr Ngosi Osuafor, our two convenors, for progressing the paediatric examinations. Our first International Clinical exam in Suliman Al Habib Hospital in Riyadh is scheduled on Friday, 13 October. This is being led by Dr Hassan Eliwan, Consultant Paediatrician who has trained in Ireland. They are currently doing site visits and having meetings with International Examination centres in the Gulf, with a view to holding an international diet of the Clinical examination again at a later date.

Question writing blitzes are ongoing and in addition to the current board members, we welcome the attendance of trainers, retired consultants, faculty members and trainees who are at the appropriate level (minimum of 4th year training or above) to attend. Next question writing blitz is on 26th October 2023 in No. 6 Kildare Street.

Events and awards

The Faculty celebrated some of their members outstanding contribution to paediatrics in Autumn 2022:

Kathleen Lynn Medal: Prof Tom Clark. Congratulations to Prof Hillary Hoey winning the award for 2023 with the award being planned to be presented in Spring 2024.

Sir Henry Marsh Medal: Dr Aoife Branigan - for her paper on *"An Evaluation of the Quick Wee Method of Inducing Faster Clean Catch Urine Collection in PreContinent Infants - A Randomised Control Trial"*.

The inaugural Conor Ward Essay Competition: Dr Laura Reaney - *"Collaboration and Teamwork: getting through bad days together"*. Prof Ward's family were in attendance when the award was presented at the Faculty's 40th Anniversary Autumn Conference.

Victoria Coffey Medal: Dr Sinead McGlacken-Byrne - *"Pathogenic variants in the human reader YTHDC associated with primary ovarian insufficiency"*.

National Excellence in Teaching Awards – 4 categories, 2022:

- Subspecialty in the Tertiary Children's Hospitals (CHI):

Dr Kathleen Gorman, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, CHI Temple Street

- Neonatology in tertiary and regional centres:

Dr Anna Curley, Consultant Neonatologist, National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street

- General with Special Interest, and Community Paediatrics (tertiary and regional centres):

Dr Daragh Finn, Consultant Paediatrician with expertise in Cardiology, Cork University Hospital

- General and Community Paediatrics (local centres): Dr Mohammed Islam, Consultant Paediatrician, Portlincula University Hospital, Ballinasloe

We await this year's winners at the Autumn Faculty 2023 meeting.

And Finally...

I would like to express my gratitude to a number of staff at the College that assisted me during my tenure as Dean for their expertise, integrity and advice on challenging topics. The professionalism and support from Faculty board members and all those who agreed to join committees has been inspiring. During my tenure, I have been fortunate and grateful to have had Dr Ellen Crushell, in her past dean role, sharing her mentorship and experience with me and Dr Pamela O'Connor as vice dean and council member, encouraging and assisting me in my role.

A sincere thank you to all our departing board members for their expertise, advice and work on behalf of the Faculty of paediatrics. Thank you to Prof Michael O'Neill, now Director of paediatric training and education for his sage advice, counsel, insight and wisdom. I thank our Faculty manager, Maria Golden, for her fountain of knowledge, common sense and dedication to the Faculty of paediatrics. I wish her well in her new manager role in health and wellbeing at the RCPI.

A special thank you especially to Barbara Conneely, Faculty coordinator for her leadership and wisdom, always carefully guiding me and the Faculty. Thank you to John Hunt who recently joined us to progress developments /activities /projects of the Faculty.

Thank you to Prof Mary Horgan, President RCPI, Audrey Houlihan CEO and Colm Small Head of Training/Examination, for their unfailing dedication, leadership and support to the Faculty of Paediatrics. We congratulate Prof Horgan, who will be completing two terms as president of the College this October. We welcome Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, the incoming president of RCPI and wish him success in his new role.

I would like to conclude by welcoming Dr Judith Meehan, the incoming Dean, who has a wealth of experience in paediatrics and faculty affairs. Judith has played an instrumental role in progressing paediatrics, serving already as faculty's honorary secretary and as convenor of educational meetings. Judith has been an invaluable help to me with her unwavering support and encouragement. I have no doubts Judith will ensure the Faculty will continue to advance, flourish and thrive under her guidance.

Dr Louise Kyne, FFPAED, FRCPI
Dean of the Faculty of Paediatrics

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Faculty Board

The Board convened 5 times: 18 November 2022, 13 January 2023, 31 March 2023, 16 June 2023, and 8 September 2023.

Board Members were as follows:

Dr	Louise KYNE	Faculty Dean, demitting October 2023
Dr	Judith MEEHAN	Vice Dean
Dr	Sinéad MURPHY	Honorary Secretary
Dr	Ethel RYAN	Honorary Treasurer
Dr	Juliette LUCEY	Convener of Meetings
Dr	Muhammad AZAM	Board Member
Dr	Michael BOYLE	NSD (HST)
Ms	Sinead Callinan	Lay Person, demitting October 2023
Dr	Ruth CAREY	Trainee Representative
Dr	Ellen CRUSHELL	Clinical Programme Lead
Dr	Emma CURTIS	Board Member, demitting October 2023
Mr	James DOORLEY	Lay Person
Dr	Basil ELNAZIR	Board Member
Dr	John FITZSIMONS	NSD (CPSP)
Dr	Montasser GADELSAYED	Board Member
Dr	Conor HENSEY	NSD (BST)
Prof	Hilary HOEY	RCPI Director of Professional Competence
Dr	John Gabriel JOYCE	Board Member, demitting October 2023
Dr	Ahmed KHAN	Board Member
Dr	Íde NIC DHONNCHA	Board Member
Dr	Eoin Ó CURRAÍN	Associate Dean of Examinations
Dr	Michael O'GRADY	Board Member, demitting October 2023
Dr	Michael O'NEILL	Director of Training & Education
Dr	Ikechukwu OKAFOR	Board Member
Dr	Roy Gavin STONE	Collegiate Member Representative, demitting October 2023

Faculty Representation

RCPI

RCPI Council: Dr Pamela O'Connor
RCPI Credentials Committee: Dr Raymond Barry
RCPI Education Committee: Dr Michael O'Neill
RCPI Examinations Committee: Dr Eoin O'Curraín
RCPI Executive Board: Dr Louise Kyne
RCPI Fellowship Steering Group: Dr Michael Boyle
RCPI LTFT Training Group: Dr Jean Donnelly
RCPI Policy Group on Alcohol: Dr Turlough Bolger
RCPI Policy Group on Obesity, Prof Hilary Hoey
RCPI The Child Protection Peer Review Group: Dr Louise Kyne
RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco: Dr Des Cox
RCPI Faculty's Community Child Health (CCH)/ Neurodisability Group: Dr Nick Van der Spek and Dr Niamh Lagan
RCPI Postgraduate Education Advisory Group: Dr Raymond Barry
RCPI Professional Competence Assessors: Drs Michael O'Neill and Pamela O'Connor
RCPI Professional Policy Group on GDPR: Dr Ellen Crushell
RCPI Recruitment & Retention Group: Dr Paul Gallagher

RCPI Research & Ethics Committee: Dr Bernadine (Edina) Howard Moylett
RCPI Simulation Group: Dr Robert Kieran
RCPI Steering Group for National QI Programme: Dr John Fitzsimons
RCPI Steering Group for St Luke's 2022: Dr Louise Kyne
RCPI National Tuberculosis Advisory Group: Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh
RCPI Trainees Committee: Dr Nora Marie McGrath (BST), Dr Beth Gordan, Dr Carol Stephens (Forum Reps)
RCPI Training Site Accreditation: Prof John Murphy, with Prof Michael O'Neill on the TSA Working Group
RCPI Wellness Group: Dr Juliette Lucey

External Agencies

All Ireland Paediatric Committee: Dr Louise Kyne, co-chair
BPSU Scientific Committee: Prof Susan O'Connell, ROI Rep
Children's Palliative Care Policy Development Working Group: Dr Siobhán Gallagher
Consultant Applications Advisory Committee: Dr Carol Blackburn
Diabetes Federation of Ireland: Prof Hilary Hoey
European Academy of Paediatrics: Dr Louise Kyne and Dr Martin White
European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology: Prof Hilary Hoey
EURYPA: Drs Roy Gavin Stone & Marguerite Lawler
Forum of Postgraduate Specialist Training Bodies: Dr Louise Kyne
Forum Global Health Working Group: Dr Ikechukwu Okafor
Forum Health & Wellbeing: Dr Michael Boyle
Forum Quality and Safety Subcommittee: Dr John Fitzsimons
Joint Forum/ NDTP Protected Training Time Working Group: Dr Anne-Marie Murphy
Services: Drs Joanne Beamish, Sinead Harty, Mathew Thomas, Padraic Curran, Siobhan Gallagher & Paul Gallagher
Informing Families Project Steering Group: Prof Jonathan Hourihane
Intercollegiate Transport Medicine Liaison Committee: Dr Nuala Quinn & Prof John Murphy
Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit: Dr Robert Cunney
Medical sub-committee of Disability Advisory Group: Prof Denise McDonald
National Clinical Programme for Respiratory Disease: Dr Muireann Ní Chróinín
National Immunisation Advisory Committee: Dr Kevin Connolly
National Neonatal Transport Programme: Dr Anne Twomey
National Office for Clinical Audit Governance Board: Dr Ellen Crushell
National Office for Clinical Audit Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon
National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB): Dr Emma Curtis
NOCA Governance Board: Dr G Dempsey
NOCA Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon
NOCA Audit: Dr Hilary Hoey
Obesity Task force: Prof Edna Roche
Royal College of Paediatrics in Child Health (RCPCH): Prof Hilary Hoey

Changes to Faculty Committees:

There are four demitting NSDs:
BST NSD: Dr John Murphy demitting, now Dr Juan Trujillo now appointed
HST NSD: Dr Anne Marie Murphy demitting, Dr Orla Flanagan now appointed.
Neonatal NSD: Dr Martin White demitting, Dr Brian Walsh now appointed
Cardiology Lead: Dr Kevin Walsh demitting, Dr Orla Franklin now appointed

Board Composition:

2 Fellow Representative have been elected onto the Faculty Board, from October 2023 to October 2026. The board welcomes Dr Ethel Ryan, re-elected, Prof Clodagh O'Gorman and Dr Emily Farnan. The Dean and Board thanks Dr Roy Gavin STONE, Dr Emma CURTIS, Dr Michael O'GRADY, Dr John JOYCE and who are demitting their elected roles.

The board wish to extend enormous gratitude to our Demitting Dean Dr Louise Kyne for all her work and service over the past 3 years. The board welcomes Dr Judith Meehan to her new role as Dean of the Faculty of Paediatrics.

New Associate members of the Faculty

The Board welcomes 4 new Associate Member Sinead Ni Argain, Noelle Casey, Jane Mac Donagh, Yvonne Kelly.

New Fellows of the Faculty

The Board welcomes 2 new Fellows, being Dr Emer Ryan and Dr Roy Gavin Stone.

New Honorary Fellows of the Faculty

The Board and Faculty welcomes Dr Andrew Cant and Dr Camilla Kingdon.

Dr Sinéad Murphy

Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

General

A surplus of €6,984 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2023. This is €25,792 (21%) lower than last year's surplus of €32,776.

Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year end June 2023 was €159,976, an increase of 11% on last year.

Income is classed under four broad headings:

- Subscriptions and Admission Fees
- Event Fee Income and Sponsorship
- HSE Grant Income
- Miscellaneous Income

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €44,302 in 2022/2023 versus €43,475 in 2021/2022, an increase of €827 (2%) on last year. Faculty admissions totalled €270 in 2022/2023 versus €NIL in 2021/2022.

In 2022/2023, 60% of Associate Members, 66% of Collegiate Members and 90% of Fellows paid their subscriptions. In 2021/2022, 64% of Associate Members, 58% of Collegiate Members and 87% of Fellows paid their subscriptions.

Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

Event fee income for 2022/2023 was €32,400 versus €7,750 in 2021/2022.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training.

The amount of €83,004 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover cost of overheads and administration running costs. This has decreased by €10,440 when compared to 2021/2022.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2023 were €8,839,497 of which €28,315 were apportioned to the Faculty – an increase of €691 when compared to 2021/2022.

Costs

Costs are categorised as follows:

- Direct Costs, which staffing and administration costs;
- Overhead recharge, which is for rent, insurance, light, heat, etc, and also to cover the provision of the services of Finance, IT and HR, etc.

Direct Costs total €82,781 for the year, an increase of €20,186 when compared with 2021/2022. Included under direct costs are wages and salaries which increased by €1,412, event costs which increased by €966 compared to €13,181 in 2021/2022, administration costs increased by €2,039, IT costs increased by €8,864 (hybrid event costs) and miscellaneous costs increased by €7,875 (history book).

Overhead recharge of €70,897 has been charged to the Paediatrics accounts for 2022/2023 (€48,143 in 2021/2022). This constitutes 1% of the overall College overhead.

NATIONAL SPECIALTY DIRECTORS' REPORTS

HST General Paediatrics

After completing 2 terms as National Specialty Director, Prof. Anne-Marie Murphy demitted from her role as NSD. Prof. Murphy has been a strong advocate for her trainees and the training programme and has provided excellent mentoring to her colleague NSDs on commencing in our roles, thank you Anne-Marie, you will be missed. Earlier in the year the fourth NSD post was filled through a competitive process by Dr Orla Flanagan, Galway. Dr Flanagan joins the team with her much needed experience in Community Paediatrics. The current NSDs of Dr Carol Blackburn, Dr Jean Donnelly and myself are delighted to welcome her to the fold, welcome Orla!

164 trainees are registered on the HST scheme in General Paediatrics in Ireland for the 2023-24 academic year. There were 10 HST study days in the 2022/2023 academic year and happily most of these were run as in person events with recordings taken to share with those unable to attend. 36 candidates were interviewed over a two-day period in March 2023. 31 appointments were made with all 31 first-year trainees taking up their positions in July 2023. End of year evaluations were held in May and June including penultimate evaluations. A total of 145 trainees were assessed. Interim assessments will be held again in November/ December 2023. CSCSTs were awarded to 15 trainees in July 2023 and a further 3 trainees are scheduled complete the programme on or before January 2025. The recruitment process for July 2024 will open in October 2023.

- Prof Michael Boyle, National Specialty Director

HST Neonatology

Thirteen trainees are registered on the HST scheme in Neonatology in Ireland for the 2023-2024 academic year. Interviews were held on 2nd March 2023 and 4 new trainees were appointed to the scheme. This is the highest number of trainees appointed to the scheme in an academic year to date. Seven trainees are in clinical placements and the remaining 6 are doing OCPE, in research posts. There were 9 Neonatal Study Days in the 2022/2023 academic year, these were hybrid in-person and remote events. The end of year assessments were held on the 23rd June. There were 5 graduates from the scheme in July 2023, and 1 further trainee due to graduate in Jan 2024. This is the highest number from graduates from the scheme since it began. Three recent graduates are overseas (UK) doing clinical fellowships, and 2 are completing higher research degrees in tertiary centres in Ireland.

The recruitment process for the July 2024 intake will open in October 2023 with interviews due to be held in February/March 2024.

- Prof Lisa McCarthy, National Specialty Director

HST Paediatric Cardiology

A very successful year for the program.

Key Points:

- 1) Joint training in Paediatric Cardiology between CHI and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Belfast commenced with SpRs training in both hospitals. The dual site training model got off to a great start with trainees benefiting from the different training programs on both sites.
- 2) The program currently has 2 people who have received their CCSTs in Paediatric cardiology and another is in their final year.
- 3) Research opportunities have been significant and 3 trainees have embarked on or are about to embark on OOPE. The SpRs have continued to publish and present at International meetings.
- 4) There are currently 5 SpRs – 1 in Belfast and 4 in Dublin – one of whom is doing research as part of OOPE. Another has moved to the ICAT scheme.

- 5) The only current problem is that the Irish Medical Council CCST in Paediatric cardiology isn't recognised by the UK GMC. Discussion/negotiations to solve this are ongoing
- 6) Prof Orla Franklin will take over as NSD from September 2023.
- 7) I would like to thank the Faculty of Paediatrics for all their help in getting this very successful training program up and running. We have also been extremely fortunate with the excellent hard working doctors who have given us the opportunity to train them in Paediatric Cardiology. It is thanks to them that the training program is so successful.

- Dr Kevin Walsh, National Specialty Director

BST

There are currently 100 trainees enrolled in the BST scheme with 51 commencing this year, and 49 in their second year of training. Interviews for BST took place via video conference in February 2023. There remains strong interest in BST in General Paediatrics, this year 90 candidates were interviewed, 67 were deemed eligible and 57 received offers over a number of rounds. 51 successful trainees were appointed to the BST program of which 20% are non-EU nationals/residents.

Each successful candidate was assigned a 2-year rotation with posts in neonatology, general paediatrics, and specialty paediatrics. Rotations were adjusted this year to facilitate general paediatric training in the first year of the scheme where possible and to take into consideration geographical spread and the need for relocation. A very successful orientation day for incoming BSTs took place in July, with excellent feedback from all in attendance, thank you to all that took part in organising the event.

This year Prof John Murphy is stepping down as NSD; we would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge his significant contribution both at BST and HST level, he has provided consistent support and guidance, and has been a strong advocate and valued mentor to trainees throughout their early paediatric careers. Dr Edina Moylett and Dr Conor Hensey continue as NSDs and will be joined by Dr Juan Trujillo who was recently appointed. Ms Tina Balogun is the Programme Coordinator. There were eight BST study days in the 2022/2023 academic year, and these were run as in person events which provides trainees with the opportunity to meet and develop with their peers and to support each other as a network. A revised curriculum and updated E-Portfolio have recently been launched and further improvements to the E-Portfolio are planned.

Annual trainee assessment took place virtually in May and June, inclusive of feedback from trainers, review of logbook and training progress. Approximately 75% trainees plan to apply directly to HST with most others taking the opportunity to travel or gain additional experience prior to HST. A smaller number of trainees opt to continue training in other specialties. We plan this year to undertake a survey of career progression of trainees from BST to provide information to assist future workforce planning. We appreciate the support trainers and colleagues have provided to the BST programme, and to trainees over the past year, and we welcome any feedback.

- Dr Conor Hensey, Dr Edina Moylett, and Dr Juan Trujillo - National Specialty Directors

IMC APPLICATIONS TO THE SPECIALIST DIVISION OF THE REGISTER (SDR)

Applications numbers from July 2022 to July 2023:

New Applications Received: 14 in total (12 Paediatrics; 1 Paediatric Cardiology; 1 Neonatology) Written Reviews/Re-Apps Received: 5 in total

Recommendations made during this period

Initial Assessments (New applications):

Recommended – 2

Not Recommended - 10

Written Reviews:

Recommended - 0

Not Recommended - 2

Re-Applications:

Recommended: 2

Not Recommended: 0

Information and Guidance for Applicants along with a recording of the Webinar held in October 2022 with the IMC are available on the RCPI website Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Website > Learn and Develop > SDR Advice (rcpi.ie)

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the SDR Subcommittee have been reviewed, updated and approved by the Governance review committee. All National Specialty Directors along with the Director of Education and Training will be invited to join this committee. Training will be provided to all new members over the coming months.

The Faculty are always happy for new members to join the panel of assessors for the assessment of applications received from the IMC. Training will be provided. If you wish to join please contact us at sdr@RCPI.ie

- **Ms Siobhán Kearns, RCPI SDR Senior Administrator**

EXAMINATIONS

In this past year the Paediatric Examinations Committees have focussed on embedding the new examination format and the new roles of convenors, expanding membership of the committees, and establishing an international centre for the clinical examination.

Committees:

A small group of paediatric consultants from around the country voluntarily contribute their expertise to ensure the successful facilitation of the examination to high standards. The group is organised into two committees, each with a convenor. The work of the committees includes question writing, editing, review, approval, standard setting, corrections, and preparation for and facilitation of clinical examinations. I wish to extend my gratitude to Dr Niamh Lynch, clinical examinations convenor, for her dedication and substantial commitment to organising and facilitating the clinical examinations and welcome to Dr Ngozi Osuafor who has recently commenced as convenor of the single best answer committee.

Single best answer (SBA) committee: Dr Ngozi Osuafor (Convenor), Dr Ciara McDonnell, Dr Michael Riordan, Dr Turlough Bolger, Dr Clodagh Sweeney, Dr Joanne Beamish, Dr Ciara Martin, Dr Sheena Durnin, Dr Taha Hassan (on leave) and welcome to Dr Emer Ryan and to Dr Bridget Freyne who joined the committee in 2023. Short answer question (SAQ)/Clinical examination committee: Dr Niamh Lynch (Convenor), Dr Cathy Gibbons, Dr Muhammad Azam, Dr Louise Kyne, Prof Naomi McCallion, Dr Juan Trujillo and welcome to Dr Madeleine Murphy and to Dr Orla Walsh. My sincere thanks to Dr Stanley Koe, who demitted from his role this year, for his hard work on the committees over many years.

The examinations would not be possible without the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the Examinations Team (Colm Small, Sinead Freeman, Louise Treacy, Rachel Bishop, Virginia Cid Fuentes & Sirpa Makinen) and the Education team (Aisling Smith & Keith Farrington) who support the committees and facilitate the efficient running of the examinations.

Examination Format: Written exams are computer-based and run by remote invigilation allowing access to candidates worldwide.

Table 1. Examination Schedule

Examination	Format	Dates
MRCPI Part I Written	100 question Single Best Answer (SBA)	Held in January & April/May
MRCPI Part II Written	Paper 1:20 Short Answer Questions (SAQ, Paper 2:) 80 Question SBA	Held in March & August
MRCPI Part II Clinical	6 clinical station examination	Held in May & November

Clinical examinations: There is an agreement in place with Children's Health Ireland (CHI) to host the examinations at the CHI urgent care centres at Connolly Hospital and Tallaght Hospital twice per year in May and November. My sincere thanks to Dr Shashi Vaish, Dr Una Murtagh, Dr Cathryn O'Carroll and Dr Conor Hensey for their diligence and hard work as patient recruiters for the examinations. In May 2023 we successfully held the examination in Cork University Hospital using the same format. The examination was coordinated by Drs Lynch and Trujillo with excellent local representation for clinical examiners. This centre ran extremely well and had very positive feedback from all involved. We plan to establish further new centres in Ireland in 2024.

International sitting for the clinical examinations: A significant number of candidates each year travel to Ireland to take the clinical examination. To help to facilitate these candidates we have aimed to establish international examination centres. The examinations department have successfully met with representative from Suliman Al Habib Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the RCPI currently run clinical examinations in General Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, who kindly agreed to facilitate the Paediatric Clinical examination. Dr Hassan Eliwan, Consultant Paediatrician, was appointed as the local organiser and Dr Eliwan travelled to Ireland in May 2023 to observe the paediatric clinical examination in CHI and to receive examiner training. Our first sitting is planned in Saudi Arabia on 13 October 2023 in conjunction with Dr Eliwan. Members of the examination department and nominated committee members/convenors will travel to the centre to support the exam, complete examiner training and standard setting.

Governance: The Associate Dean of Examinations reports to the Board of the Faculty of Paediatrics and to the RCPI

Examinations Committee. The RCPI Examinations Committee finalised and accepted the Examination Appeals policy in December 2022. The RCPI Examinations Regulations, covering issues such as candidate conduct and restrictions on mobile phone use, were also updated in 2023. All candidates applying to sit an exam must agree to abide by all applicable college policies and regulations. The Paediatric Examination review conducted in 2019-2020 included the creation of terms of reference for both committees as well as a blueprint for the examination process. The terms of reference were updated in 2023.

Fees: In line with RCPI policy, examination fees will increase by 3% for all examinations taking place after 1st January 2024. The overall increase reflects rising costs driven by inflation. The 2024 examinations open for enrolment from August 2023 will be subject to the new fee structure. The examination fee structure is available on the relevant exam page on the RCPI website. An examination candidate working in Ireland can apply for a refund upon successfully passing an examination, under the HSE Clinical Course and Examination Refund Scheme.

Outcomes: Following examination data feedback requests by the Trainee Committee, the Examinations Committee has approved the publishing of pass rates on an annual basis. From August 2022, the pass rate data is made readily available to candidates, their supervisors and the wider public on the RCPI website. The pass rate reflects the number of candidates who met the specified standard of the examination.

Table 2. Examination candidates and pass rate 2022/2023

Examination	Date	Candidates	Pass Rate
Part I Paediatrics	26 January 2023	84	76%
Part I Paediatrics	5 May 2023	64	55%
Part II Written Paediatrics	24 August 2022	75	49%
Part II Written Paediatrics	23 March 2023	97	58%
Part II Clinical Paediatrics	17/18 November 2022	52	88%
Part II Clinical Paediatrics	26 May 2023	50	84%

In my first year in this role I would like to extend my gratitude to the College for their wholehearted support, in particular to Dr Ciara McDonnell, Dr Louise Kyne, Rachel, Louise, Virginia, Sirpa and the examinations department, the examination committees and my paediatric consultant colleagues who continue to show such commitment to ensuring the ongoing success of the examinations. I would encourage all Fellows of the Faculty to contribute to the examinations process through question writing, examining or committee membership so we can continue to consolidate the strong standards set for our trainees in future years.

Is mise le meas

Dr Eoin Ó Curraín

Associate Dean of Examinations, Sept 2023

NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR PAEDIATRICS AND NEONATOLOGY

NAME OF CLINICAL PROGRAMME: NCP Paediatrics and Neonatology

Reported by: Dr Ellen Crushell, Clinical Lead for Children Date:
August 2023

Clinical Programme Leadership:

Clinical Advisory Group Chair: Dr Louise Kyne. Dr Paula Cahill

Clinical Lead: Dr Ellen Crushell

Programme Manager: Ms Jacqueline de Lacy (HSE PM)

Programme Objectives 2023:

Insert short summary of main objectives for 2022/2023.

1. Develop pathway for Migrant Children
2. Review and update 2014 Paediatric Algorithms
3. Conduct site visits to Paediatric units nationally
4. On conclusion of all site visits DRAFT a status update to the 2016 Paediatric and Neonatal Models of Care
5. Prepare a Model of Care Status Update Report as requested by the Department of Health
6. Oversight of the Barnahus service specification
7. Seek review of access to surgery for children at regional and local sites.
8. Develop Standard Operating Procedure for Testing infants for Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) following “No Clear Response” on Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
9. Consultant Paediatricians with SI Disability Posts– in collaboration with the NCP for People with Disability to seek funding for posts to support children with disability in the community and CDNTs.
10. Develop National Anorexia Guideline in collaboration with CHI
11. Establish a working group to review established PAU arrangements.
12. Develop guiding principles/ recommendations for future PAU development
13. Palliative Care: Develop educational resources and guideline. Agree Consultant posts
14. In collaboration with the Emergency Medicine Programme and NCAGL Office, develop a Framework for unscheduled care delivery for children and young people at regional and local sites
15. Scope out support required and feasibility of commissioning a study to explore the impact of ANPs in relation to Paediatric Unscheduled care delivery within mixed EDs and the advantages/ disadvantages of a shared Governance Model between Paediatrics and Emergency Medicine.

Key Activities and Achievements:

Note: Please include a summary description of the key achievements and activities of the clinical programme during the 12 months to end June 2023. Add additional sub-headings where relevant.

1. Pathway for Migrant Children finalised and approved by CAG and NCAGL. Circulated widely. Document has been very well received.
2. 22 one page algorithms reviewed and updated. CAG approved. Minor edits and formatting required.
3. Paediatric and Neonatology Models of Care Status update: NCPPN have conducted 17 site visits. CHI site visit to Neonatal directorate scheduled for September. A Status Update report including recommendations on conclusion of site visits will be drafted and shared with the CAG in 2024
4. Standard Operating Procedure for Testing infants for Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) following “No Clear Response” on Universal Newborn Hearing Screening: Final draft of SOP including algorithm, site letter checklist and Parent Information Leaflet under review. Arrangements with NVRL and the New-born Hearing Screening Programme to be finalised.
5. Consultant Paediatrician with SI Disability: funding confirmed for 3.0 WTE Consultant posts with SI Neurodisability. Job description and governance arrangements agreed.
6. National Anorexia Guideline development in collaboration with CHI – near completion.
7. Expressions of interest will be sought mid-August for representation on PAU Review Group. First meeting scheduled for Q4 September to agree TOR and membership.
8. Participation on working group tasked with reviewing Paediatric Surgery nationally to review and update the Model of Care for Paediatric Surgery
9. Collaboration with the EMP to agree the location of Paediatric Emergency Department ANPs including job descriptions, scope of practice, governance etc.
10. Palliative Care: Educational resources document published and local education day delivered. Clinical guideline pilot is underway. Workforce planning complete. Consultant posts progressing with Cork and Limerick posts agreed. Galway and Waterford at final stages.
11. Barnahaus Model-interagency collaborative approach for management of children following concern or disclosure of child sex abuse. 3 Barnahaus in development in the South, East and West located in Cork, Dublin and Galway. Resources allocated in NSP 2022 to enhance access to forensic medical service (2 consultants and 2 CNS per site). Service Specification document presented to the HSE Clinical Forum in June 2023 who have approved the clinical design of this Service Specification Document, subject to inclusion of one recommendation.
12. It was agreed by the NCAGL, the EMP and the NCPPN that a review of unscheduled care delivery is required and constitutes a significant piece of work and planning for same is underway.

Clinical Advisory Group Membership 2022 – 2023

Note: Please list all committee members from the last year and their position on the committee (such as Chair, Member etc)

Name	Position
Dr Louise Kyne	Co-Chair
Dr Paula Cahill	Co-Chair
Dr Ellen Crushell	Clinical Lead for Children/ Member
Prof John Murphy	Clinical Lead for Neonatology/ Member
Dr Aideen Byrne	Member
Dr Ann Hickey	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Mathew Thomas	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Aoife Carroll	Member
Dr Brendan O'Hare	Member
Dr Clodagh O'Gorman	Member
Dr David Mullane	Member
Dr Davina Healy	Member
Dr Edna Roche	Member
Dr Elizabeth Barrett	Member
Dr Ethel Ryan	Member
Dr Hilary Hoey	Member
Dr Jacqueline McBrien	Member
Prof John Murphy	Member
Dr John Twomey	Member
Dr Karl McKeever	Member
Dr Martin White	Member
Dr Mary Devins	Member
Dr Muhammad Azam	Member
Dr Niamh McSweeney	Member
Dr Ray Barry	Member

NAME OF CLINICAL PROGRAMME: NCP Paediatric Diabetes (June 2022- June 2023)

Reported by: Prof Nuala Murphy, Date: August 2023

Clinical Programme Leadership:

Paediatric Clinical Advisory Group Chair: Dr Louise Kyne. Dr Paula Cahill Clinical Lead: Prof Nuala Murphy
Programme Manager: Ms Jacqueline de Lacy (HSE PM)

Programme Objectives 2023:

Insert short summary of main objectives for 2022/2023.

1. Translation of Paediatric Diabetes Parent Resource
2. Engagement with HSE Aids and Appliances and PCRS to support funded new technology access for children and adolescents with T1DM.

Engagement and support of sites in resourcing trained MDTs to allow children, teens and their families to receive the care they need to support optimal control close to home in line with the agreed model of care. Saolta deliver care in 5 sites with regional centres in Galway (outreach to Castlebar and Ballinasloe) and Sligo (outreach to Letterkenny).

Support planning and expansion of future network developments initially in:

Drogheda (planned outreach to Cavan)

Waterford (with planned outreach to Kilkenny)

Cork (integrating Clonmel service and outreach to Tralee)

Additionally seek consultation to progress outreach and development of networks to integrate the remaining unlinked small services such as Wexford (likely to Waterford), Portlaoise (likely to CHI).

Key Activities and Achievements:

Note: Please include a summary description of the key achievements and activities of the clinical programme during the 12 months to end June 2023. Add additional sub-headings where relevant.

1. Funding received for the Translation of the Parent Resource into languages: Polish, Ukrainian, Portuguese and Russian –in progress
2. Close engagement with HSE Aids and Appliances and PCRS. Individual patients can now access two closed loop system options (T-slim pump /MM780G pumps with two CGM systems (dexcom and Guardian 4) as well as standalone glucose monitoring using Dexcom G7 for patients on multiple daily injection regimens.
3. Site visits to St. Luke's Kilkenny, University Hospital Limerick, University Hospital Waterford and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda to support network development and engagement with Endocrinologists leading services in Cork, Waterford and Drogheda and General Paediatricians in Kilkenny and Cavan.
4. Close engagement with the Adult Diabetes Clinical Programme led by Prof Sean Dineen (and now Prof Derek O Keeffe) re the current significant transition gaps when affected teens age out of some paediatric services. This has resulted in a review of young adult diabetes services identifying what is required and engagement is ongoing
5. Completion of the National Paediatric Diabetes Audit (NPDA) feasibility study which was published in collaboration with NOCA in 2022.
6. Intense and regular engagement with policy makers and funders to secure funding for audit development (granted in National Service Plan 2023). Await NOCA appointment of programme manager and initiation of the audit development phase

Paediatric Diabetes Working Group Membership 2022 – 2023

Note: Please list all committee members from the last year and their position on the committee (such as Chair, Member etc)

Name	Position
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Prof Nuala Murphy	Chair
Prof Michael O Grady	Member
Prof Colin Hawkes	Member
Ms Aisling Egan	Member
Ms Claire Maye	Member
Ms Laura O' Shea	Member
Dr Vincent McDarby	Member
Dr Sean Dinneen	Member
Dr Kate Gajewska	Member
Ms Jacqueline de Lacy	Member

NAME OF CLINICAL PROGRAMME: NCP Paediatrics and Neonatology

Reported by: Prof John Murphy, Clinical Lead for Neonatology Date: August 2023

Clinical Programme Leadership:

Clinical Advisory Group Chair: Dr Ann Hickey/ Dr Mathew Thomas Clinical Lead: Dr Ellen Crushell/ Prof John Murphy

Programme Manager: Ms Jacqueline de Lacy (HSE PM)

Programme Objectives 2023:

Insert short summary of main objectives for 2022/2023.

1. Submit proposal to NSAC for Universal Screening for DDH
2. Collection of the 2021 and 2022 data for the 'Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia in Ireland' report
3. Development of a Suite of Neonatal Guidelines
4. Site visits to all neonatal units nationally
5. Draft a status update following site visits to the 2015 Neonatal Model of Care on completion of site visits
6. Establish a neonatal clinical psychologist forum
7. Seek support and funding for Neonatal Nurse tutors
8. Continue NRP training across the country
9. Establish a working group to review IPN service delivery, governance and issue escalation pathway

Key Activities and Achievements:

Note: Please include a summary description of the key achievements and activities of the clinical programme during the 12 months to end June 2023. Add additional sub-headings where relevant.

1. Proposal submitted to NSAC for new Population-Based Screening programmes in relation to Universal Screening for DDH
2. Suite of guidelines at various stages of completion, researcher appointed by NWHIP to support the project
3. Status update to the Neonatal Model of Care commenced, due completion q1 2024

4. Neonatal clinical psychologist forum established
5. Standard Operating Procedure for Testing infants for Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) following “No Clear Response” on Universal Newborn Hearing Screening: Final draft of SOP including algorithm, site letter checklist and Parent Information Leaflet under review. Arrangements with NVRL and the New-born Hearing Screening Programme to be finalised.
6. IPN Clinical working group established. Ongoing discussions in relation to Oversight of IPN and establishment of an Oversight Group with robust governance and monitoring capability

Appointment of 3 Neonatal Nurse Tutors to support and further develop the level 8 and level 9 courses (1 tutor to the Coombe, 1 tutor to Galway, 1 tutor to Cork).
9. All NRP trainers (nationally) are compliant with the new 8th edition of the NRP

Clinical Advisory Group Membership 2022 – 2023

Note: Please list all committee members from the last year and their position on the committee (such as Chair, Member etc)

Name	Position
Dr Ann Hickey	Co-Chair
Dr Mathew Thomas	Co-Chair
Prof John Murphy	Clinical Lead for Neonatology/ Member
Dr Anne Doolan	Member
Dr Michael Boyle	Member
Dr Margaret Moran	Member
Dr Claudine Vavasseur	Member
Dr Colm O'Donnell	Member
Dr Deirdre Sweetman	Member
Dr Eleanor Molloy	Member
Dr Ethel Ryan	Member
Dr Jan Franta	Member
Dr Johannes Letshwiti	Member
Dr Jana Semberova	Member
Dr John Kelleher	Member
Prof Martin White	Member
Prof Naomi McCallion	Member
Dr Pamela O'Connor	Member
Dr Lisa McCarthy	Member
Dr Peter Filan	Member
Dr Regina Cooke	Member
Dr Rizwan Kahn	Member

CLINICAL ADVISORY GROUPS

CAG in Paediatrics

Remit of Clinical Advisory Group in Paediatrics: It is a subcommittee of the Faculty of Paediatrics. It is required to give multidisciplinary oversight into national clinical framework/pathway developments. With regard to the model of care and national clinical programmes, the role of CAG has shifted from the design of the model of care to supporting its implementation.

Membership: All the members of CAG are medical practitioners working in child health (n=23). The membership was reviewed in Nov 2020. There are representatives from tertiary, regional and local units, also Northern Ireland. Representation was sought from GP, paediatric surgery and Public Health. Prof Alan Mortell, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon nominated to CAG March 2021. Terms of reference for CAG were updated 2023.

Clinical framework documents Discussed with feedback:

CAG received updates from:

1. Dr Ciara Martin gave a very informative overview of her role as National Clinical advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People. (NCAGL)
2. Fiona Ward, dietician, presented to the group on the PNPLUS clinical decision tool relevant to safety around delivery of TPN. It was agreed that the pilot project demonstrated that it was a beneficial tool to improve safety of TPN delivery. Next step was to include it on the HSE website and Clinibee app.
3. Dr Sarah Richardson updated CAG on the MEED guideline (Medical Emergencies in Eating Disorders). This has replaced the Junior marzipan Guideline and is more inclusive of all eating disorders. Guideline being finalised.
4. Dr Nuala Quinn presented sections of the National Trauma Programme relevant to the general paediatrician. CAG gave feedback on this aspect of the programme. These changes will be added as an addendum to the document.
5. Neonatal Clinical Advisory Group updates from Dr John Murphy. (1)Perinatal genetics is being funded across Dublin maternity sites with posts for geneticists and genetic counsellors approved. (2)The DDH working group are aiming for Universal DDH screening to replace high risk screening and a business case has been submitted.(3) Concern re lack of neonatal MRI services in regional centres. (4)Pathway for infants with neonatal deafness and CMV being developed.
6. Update from Dr Mary Devins on the implementation of the recommendations from the "Clinical Governance and Operational Arrangements for the Model of Care to Support Children with Life Limiting conditions in the Community in Ireland" or "Bee Wee report ". There is a guideline being developed with upcoming implementation. Also a Palliative Care Educational resource document has been developed and distributed to all relevant staff in South East (SE) area to help with development of Paediatric Palliative care services in the SE.
7. 'Rehabilitation for children and young people in Ireland following acquired brain injury : current service and potential future direction' sent to CAG for review by DR I Gill
8. Document on 'Improving services for general paediatric surgery /Model of Care 2023, sent to CAG for review and comment.
9. Dr Aoibhinn Walsh presented the Migrant Care Pathway to the CAG group and it was approved and supported.

Others Items: Dr Michaela Pentony and Dr John Joyce (SPR reps on faculty) have overseen the completion of the Paediatric Algorithms/Clinical Practice guidelines on common paediatric conditions. These are relevant to all health care professionals dealing with children. They are now complete and have been distributed to CAG for final sign off/comments.

From concern voiced by Dr Ellen Crushell and Dr John Murphy, national clinical leads in paediatrics and Neonatology a letter was written to all Hospital Group CEO's and Paediatric clinical leads, from Dr Ciara Martin requesting feedback with regard to the current location of paediatrics facilities. The letter encouraged strongly that all paediatric facilities be returned to pre-covid locations.

Dates of CAG meetings: meeting dates 16/9/22, 9/12/22, 23/4/2023 and 22/9/22

Dr Paula Cahill and Dr Louise Kyne, Co-Chairs

Neonatal Clinical Advisory Group (NCAG)

Dates of meetings: 13th September 2022, 19th January 2023, 18th April 2023, 6th July 2023.

The NCAG group met four times during the year continuing their remit to ensure structured and formal professional involvement in and support for the programmes being developed in neonatology. The group determines and inputs into the development of the clinical management guidelines under the governance structure of the Clinical Care Programmes developed between the HSE and faculty of paediatrics at RCPI.

Meetings included representation from the 19 maternity hospitals and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) neonatal services.

Co-chairs: Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Matthew Thomas

Clinical Programme lead: Professor John Murphy

Current and completed work streams for 2022/2023 include:

- National Neonatal Frameworks for Practice Process with expert advisory group established.
- Multiple guidelines in process with pulse oximetry most recently ratified
- Parenteral nutrition (PN) working group completing national guideline supporting increased use of standardised PN in line with ESPGHAN 2018 recommendations. New suite of SPN bags developed at CHI with SPN neonatal to continue in maternity hospital settings
- Review of membership with a view to increasing representation from peripheral units
- Retro transfer programme supported but not implemented to date
- Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) national co-coordinator role proposed and funded (CHI). Priority to ensure timely and safe screening and treatment for all infants.
- Neonatal Drug library supported by group to work in tandem with national paediatric drug library
- New-born screening criteria for hypothyroidism in preterm population reviewed and agreed with Dr Nuala Murphy, paediatric endocrinologist
- Support and funding for neonatal nurse tutors for Galway, Cork and Dublin to develop and enhance neonatal nursing workforce
- Speech and Language therapists funded and appointed to neonatal services in Cork, Galway and Dublin maternity units.
- Patient flow work streams into and out of CHI from maternity services developing with progression of neonatal high dependency at Crumlin and future NICU planned at CHI in 2024
- Cooling checklist to be ratified
- Initiation of Sudden Unexpected Postnatal Collapse (SUPC) review in view of increase in incidence
- Proposal for national milk bank to be considered
- Perinatal Management of Extreme Preterm Birth at the Threshold of Viability re-presented to group to consider update in view of national and international practice changes.
- Presentations to group from Fiona O'Brien; Paddington Study (Parent co-Designed Drug Information for Parents and Guardians Taking Neonates home) and Ms Niamh Murphy and Ms Emma Gentles on PNPLUS, a collaboration between CHI and UL, funded by the Public Service Innovation Fund, which allows planning of individualised parenteral nutrition.
- Model of Care Status Update: Clinical programme team visits to all maternity unit neonatal services and CHI completed with draft report in preparation by Professor Murphy.

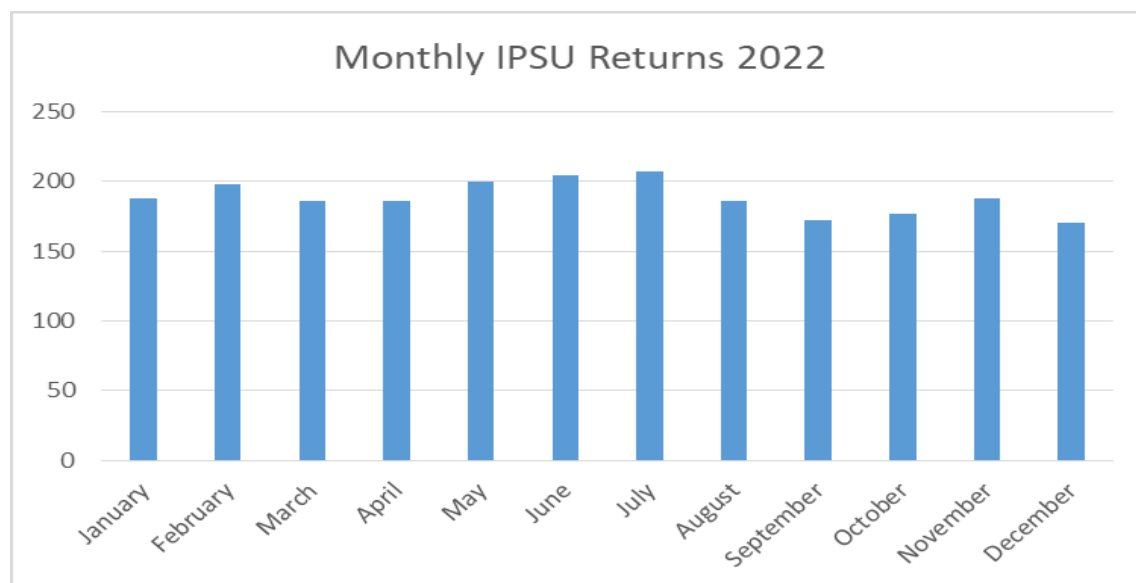
Prof John Murphy, National Clinical Lead for Neonatology

Dr Ann Hickey, Co-Chair Neonatology CAG

Dr Mathew Thomas, Co-Chair Neonatology CAG

IRISH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT (IPSU)

In 2022, 313 paediatric physicians participated in IPSU, with 255(81%) reporting via printed card and 58 (19%) reporting via e-mail. The average proportion of IPSU cards/e-mails returned by month for 2022 was 60% (compared to 60% in 2021, 63% in 2020, 68% in 2019 and 67% in 2018). The highest monthly number of IPSU cards/e-mails returned during 2022 was in July (figure). This contrast with previous years, where the highest returns were in January, and likely reflects promotion of IPSU participation by RCPI Faculty of Paediatrics during 2022.



The region with the highest average return for IPSU cards/e-mails for 2022 was HSE West, though paediatricians working in Children's Health Ireland reported the highest number of individual cases.

Four conditions were included in IPSU in 2022, and the number of reported cases were:

Acute flaccid paralysis	1
Subdural Haemorrhage/Haematoma	8
Paroxysmal Movement Disorder	3
Near-fatal asthma	5

IPSU would like to see greater participation in the programme by researchers with an interest in child health, including those outside of paediatric specialties, as well as a higher monthly return rate. Ongoing promotion of IPSU participation and regular reminders via the RCPI Faculty of Paediatrics would help to achieve this. Conversion to a fully digital system (such as REDCap, as employed by the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit (BPSU)) would also help in this regard, and discussions around facilitating this are ongoing.

Dr Robert Cunney
IPSU Coordinator

BRITISH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT (BPSU)

The BPSU is a world leading centre for rare paediatric disease surveillance. It enables doctors and researchers to investigate how many children in the UK and Republic of Ireland are affected by particular rare diseases, conditions or treatments each year, using epidemiological surveillance to record new cases.

The BPSU was founded in 1986 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in the UK, The Health Protection

Agency and The Institute of Child Health (London). Participation of paediatricians in Ireland in the BPSU is supported by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) Faculty of Paediatrics, in collaboration with the Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit (IPSU) which is led by Dr Robert Cunney. Professor Susan O'Connell represents Ireland on the BPSU Scientific Committee.

Each study has a lead investigator who has been granted ethical approval from their local/national research and ethics committee. The BPSU provides the most effective and efficient platform for notification of new cases of the particular condition. Investigators can then directly contact the reporting clinician for further details on the particular case using a short confidential questionnaire which is compliant with data protection legislation. This centralised reporting system ensures a broad reach across paediatricians in the UK and Ireland, and ultimately better case ascertainment for incidence calculation of rare conditions.

What has the BPSU achieved? The BPSU has facilitated research into over 100 rare conditions. In many instances, the findings have had an immense influence over decisions relating to the condition and patients. In recent times, the BPSU has been the most effective for the rapid surveillance and reporting of new emerging situations such as during the COVID-19 pandemic and acute hepatitis. The results of these studies have informed public health decisions.

Irish participation in BPSU. Of late, the BPSU has been concerned about the ascertainment of cases from Ireland, due to a relatively low response rate from paediatricians in Ireland compared to other regions, most likely due to retirements and new appointments of consultants who are not aware of the BPSU. The data we collect from Irish consultant paediatricians are central to the BPSU's methodology and will inform scientific knowledge and clinical management of various conditions. It is vital that all BPSU publications are reflective of both UK and Irish incidence rates. These studies impact positively on patient care, training and research. Those enrolled in BPSU can become lead investigators collaborate with colleagues in the UK, and all participants can access the BPSU educational webinars. The BPSU awards annual certification for participation, which can then be used as part of personal learning/research domains under the RCPI Continuing Professional Development Scheme.

Ultimately, we would like to see an integrated system that maximises and facilitates participation in BPSU and IPSU by all Members and Fellows of the RCPI Faculty of Paediatrics.

Current studies on BPSU

- Progressive intellectual and neurological deterioration (PIND) – excluding Rep of Ireland
- Congenital and hospitalised rubella (CR)
- Acute hepatitis (AH) – excluding Scotland
- Near fatal asthma (NFA)

If you are currently a practising paediatrician or neonatologist in Ireland, please sign up to the BPSU or update your contact details at <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/form/bpsu-sign-up-ereporting>. Monthly reporting cards are received electronically and do not add to significant workload. For further information, please email: bpsu@rcpch.ac.uk.

Useful links

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/british-paediatric-surveillance-unit>

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/bpsu-impact-case-studies>

Prof Susan O'Connell
BPSU ROI Representative

RETIRED PAEDIATRICIANS GROUP

The Retired Paediatric Group (RPG) were grateful to have been involved in the 2022 AGM that celebrated the first 40 years of the Faculty of Paediatrics. Many members of the group contributed to the book that was produced to remember this event. Members of The RPG participated in the section of the AGM entitled "Challenges and Changes over 40 years" chaired by Professor Peter Kearney, a foundation member of The Faculty. The speakers included Professor Hilary Hoey (past Dean), Dr. Freda Goman (past Dean), Professor Tom Clarke (past Dean), Dr. Kevin Connelly (Faculty Foundation member) Professor Gerard Loftus

The Group met again in April 2023 when we had a tour of the new RCSI research and simulation building on St Stephens Green. This had been arranged by Professor Joe McMenamin. Following lunch, the group met in The RCPI to hear talks given by Dr Paul Osizlok ('The search for Longitude', Dr Rohininath Tammaluru ('Volunteering in India') and Professor Trevor Duffy (RCPI supporting members and fellows as leaders')

The RPG are pleased to have become involved with the newly established Academy for senior RCPI members and fellows that is being led by Professor Trevor Duffy and which is aimed at involving retired College member and fellows in activities such as mentoring newly appointed consultants, helping with interviews and other college work where appropriate.

The group is due to meet again on October 27th, 2023

Dr Terry Bate
RPG Convenor

RCPI SUPPORTING FUNCTIONS

Postgraduate Training and Education

Colm Small, Head of Function

Purpose

The overall aim of the Postgraduate Training and Examinations Function is to pursue excellence in all that we do as we support doctors. Key parts to that include the delivery and supports for training, examinations, accreditation (including the Irish Medical Council), projects, initiatives and quality assurance / quality improvement as it relates to training, supports in health and wellbeing and supports for the effective operation and management of RCPI's six Faculties and Institutes.

The College and the PTE Function prides itself in being responsive and innovative.

Training and Faculties Office (TFO)

The purpose of the TFO is to support the key activities of the RCPI Training Bodies. It is responsible for providing high-quality administrative services to the Boards and various Committees of the six Faculties and Institutes.

TFO is also responsible for the delivery of the RCPI postgraduate training programmes. The purpose of the office is to be a model for excellence and leadership in the development and delivery of postgraduate specialist training programmes, emphasising high quality service, efficiency, effectiveness and excellence in Trainer and Trainee engagement on behalf of the Faculty of Paediatrics and the other five Faculties and Institutes: Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Faculty of Pathology and the Institute of Medicine (IoM).

The office supports approximately 1,750 trainees and 1,300 trainers in the administration of the College's 29 training programmes. In terms of Paediatrics, this is the two-year BST programme and three HST training programmes.

The office also runs four RCPI Regional Offices across the country.

HST Completing Trainees

These are five-year programmes. The Faculty graduated 30 CSCSTs in summer 2023.

BST Trainees

Demand remains very strong for the BST in Paediatrics and we currently annually intake about 45 doctors.

Examinations Department

The purpose of the Department is to develop, manage, coordinate and deliver the College's examinations both nationally and internationally. The College's Membership examinations have a global footprint.

As well as leading in the development of virtual platforms and classrooms for education and assessment, RCPI was the first training body in Ireland or the UK to introduce high stakes written examination by remote invigilation. We did so in March 2020. Others followed our lead such as the Royal Colleges in the UK. We have continued to successfully run our written examinations by remote invigilation over the last year - Parts I and II written, ramping up to and overtaking pre-pandemic examination candidate numbers.

We have increased our capacity in examination offerings and we continue to support our BST trainees in their career progression while at the same time looking after all our international and other examination candidates.

Clinical examinations by their definition are more complex given the elements and logistics involved. We have clinical / OSCE examinations across several Faculties and Institutes and we also have overseas offerings in some Membership Examinations with the first ever offering of the Paediatrics clinical abroad planned for in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in November 2023.

Over the last year the College has engaged with our colleagues in Europe and won the business to support and deliver an end-to-end examination solution for the European Board Examination in Endocrinology, CESMA – provision of their written exam at HST level. The College is really proud of this deeper partnership with our

European partners. CESMA is an advisory body of the UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES (UEMS). It was created in 2007 with an aim to provide recommendation and advice on the organisation of European examinations for medical specialists at European level. We are looking to deepen our relationship with them.

Paediatric Numbers – Examinations Over the last Three Years

Part I

The next Paediatrics Part I Written will take place in January 2024.

Part I Written	Total	
	Candidates	Pass Rate
2021		
January	63	76%
April	55	49%
2022		
January	74	64%
May	48	56%
2023		
January	84	76%
May	64	55%

Part II

The next Paediatrics Part II written examination will take place on 25 August 2023. This will be the last diet for 2023. The next examination will be March 2024.

Part II Written	Total	
	Candidates	Pass Rate
2021		
March	122	56%
August	72	35%
2022		
March	92	46%
August	75	49%
2023		
March	97	58%

Part II Clinical

The next Paediatrics Part II Clinical examination is due to take place on 13 October 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This is a new centre for Paediatrics and will be the first time running a Paediatric clinical internationally. The next Clinical examination in Ireland will take place on 24 November and 1 December 2023 in Tallaght Hospital.

Part II Clinical	Location	Ireland		International		Total	
		Candidates	Pass Rate	Candidates	Pass Rate	Candidates	Pass Rate
2021							
June	Ireland	40	82%	-	-	40	82%
November	Ireland	53	85%	-	-	53	85%
2022							
May	Ireland	39	92%	-	-	39	92%
November	Ireland	52	88%	-	-	52	88%
2023							
May	Ireland	50	84%	-	-	50	84%

Accreditation and Improvement Projects Department

As part of an overall approach to improving quality in postgraduate medical education and training, RCPI and its constituent training bodies are committed to a programme of continuous quality improvement. This Department leads out on these key projects as we support and develop the best training we can provide as a College.

Projects and initiatives are achieved through driving and developing standards in the quality of postgraduate medical education and training, ensuring improved standards are maintained, and delivering robust processes that will assure and engage the medical profession and the public about the standards and quality of postgraduate medical education and training in Ireland.

A key priority for this Department is our system of Training Site QAQI. This model works on a five-year timeline for each training site and it is chaired by an extern from outside of Ireland. There are embedded annual quality checks.

The Department also supports the Medical Council accreditation for all of the RCPI's postgraduate training bodies and programmes as well as the assessment of applications to the Specialist Division of the Register.

An example of a successful project worked on over the last year includes the RCPI Trainer Programme. This important project started in 2021 and saw the College's first ever Trainer Conference held in December 2022. We have our second Conference in November 2023. The project has also included the rolling out of more enhanced supports for trainers.

Health and Wellbeing

Our health and wellbeing service is a key support for those trainees who are experiencing challenge or difficulty. Apart from supporting individual doctors, this office has been proactive with various initiatives and projects. It is also supporting a number of trainers.

Over the last year a Review has been conducted. The College has recommitted itself to supporting trainees in difficulty and a Manager will continue to deliver the support infrastructure to support trainees and those who support them (e.g. NSDs, RPDs, Dean, RCPI staff). The Manager will ensure that there is excellent communication transfer between the College, hospital sites, the HSE NCHD Hub (this sits under the Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit) and the HSE National Doctors Training Programme to ensure that supports are maintained throughout the individual's training programme. Appropriate referrals for additional care will be advised to the HSE as the employer.

Outcomes Based Education (OBE):

The curriculum development process is on-going within the Faculty of Paediatrics. As of July 2023, HST Paediatrics is live having transitioned to outcomes-based format. The curriculum underwent an intensive development process through practical workshops and a robust reviewing process by the Specialist Training Committee. New outcomes-based Paediatric Cardiology and Neonatology curricula have been developed by the education team, with practical workshops arranged for October 2023 to review and validate the curricula in advance of going live in July 2024 in line with all RCPI training bodies. There will also be an implementation phase for OBE which will be designed to support Trainers and Trainees in applying their new outcomes-based curricula in practice.

Mandatory Teaching Review

The new Taught Programme for BST launched for year 1 Trainees in July 2023, replacing the generic mandatory courses. Trainees are given access to online learning material, which will be released every quarter. Each quarter will round up with a 90-minute virtual tutorial to consolidate that quarter's learning. Trainees will be allocated to Tutorial Groups and assigned a Clinical Tutor that they will stay with for the duration of their BST Training Programme.

Overview of Programme:



Part-time Clinical Tutors were recruited for the delivery and rollout of the new Teaching Programme. Dr Sinead McGlacken-Byrne was appointed to the role of Paediatrics Clinical Tutor. She commenced the role in July 23, Sinead is managing 3 tutorial groups with a total of 51 trainees.

Simulation Governance Project

A college wide Simulation Steering Committee had its first meeting in February 2023. The steering committee is the decision-making body in RCPI for implementation of a simulation strategy and for ongoing decisions relating to simulation-based education. All of RCPI's six training bodies are represented on the committee and includes BST and HST trainees. The committee is chaired by Prof Dara Byrne, RCPI Clinical Lead for Simulation and Dr Robert Kernan is the representative for The Faculty of Paediatrics.

A Train the Trainers Day took place on 25 May in the ICAPSS simulation facility Galway University Hospital. A number of programmes for Trainers in simulation are planned for 2023-2024.

QQI

The first intakes of the newly QQI validated Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare commenced in September 2022.

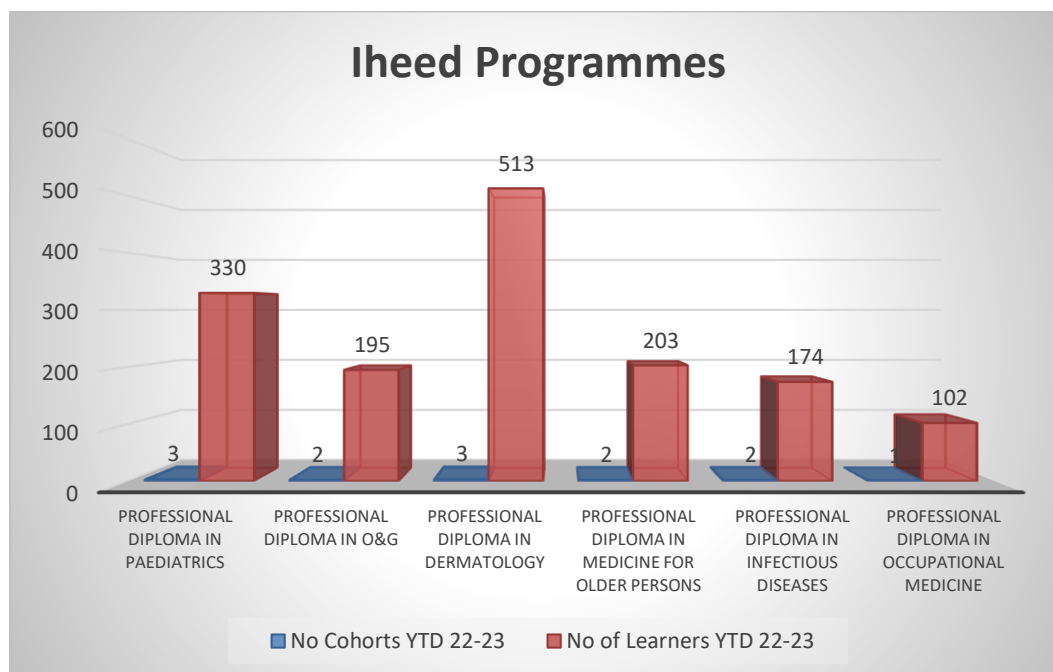
Two further programmes were validated by Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) as an NFQ Level 9 Postgraduate Certificate in 2022-2023 - the PG Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the PG Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics.

iheed/RCPI Partnership

The partnership with iheed continues to be a huge success in terms of programmes delivered and revenue generated. There are now six live programmes:

- Professional Diploma in Paediatrics
- Postgraduate Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Professional Diploma in Dermatology
- Professional Diploma in Medicine for the Older Person
- Professional Diploma in Infectious Diseases
- Professional Diploma in Occupational Medicine

The table below outlines the collaborative programmes developed and delivered with iheed in 2022-2023. There were 13 cohorts of the six programmes with over 1,500 learners.



Revenues were strong with iheed this year, with a total projected income of €1.49 million.

Quality Improvement

Twelve teams from HSE paediatric, maternity and acute adult medical and surgical settings and one self-funding private hospital team recently graduated from the 5th Irish cohort of the Situation Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) patient safety programme. Each team implemented or improved a bespoke safety huddle in their clinical setting and focused on measuring the impact on key safety measures. In May, RCPI hosted an inaugural SAFE Sustainability Workshop to draw on the learning and achievements of SAFE 2018-23 Teams. Wave 6 of the programme, funded this year by HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate for HSE teams, will commence in September 2023 with 10 acute hospital teams and one self-funding private hospital.

Two cohorts of the RCPI Quality Improvement in Action course ran virtually with 20 and 12 learners respectively. Three learners from CHI Crumlin attended one cohort and worked on complementary projects in respiratory medicine. Two paediatric non-consultant doctors completed the second cohort.

The QI Scholarship in Residence Programme took place with five scholars from a range of specialities including Obstetrics, Psychiatry and Gastroenterology. The programme helps specialist registrars develop as clinical leaders through mentoring and bespoke QI training.

NDTP project funding for 2023-2024

NDTP project funding was secured for two education projects *Paediatric Pocket Tutorials* and *Trainer Development Programme*.

Education Delivery

New Course in 2022-2023

Certificate in Clinical Care for Residential Facilities launched in Sept 2022 and was designed for General Practitioners, physicians, Directors of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Managers and Persons in Charge who wanted to develop their expertise in the care of older people living in residential care and collaborate with other healthcare professionals and experts to drive improvements in this area. The programme covers clinical care of the older person, including the management of dementia, therapeutics, the prescribing and de-prescribing of medication where appropriate and end of life care. It also provides learners with an opportunity to gain an understanding of best practice when communicating with residents, families, and carers and when working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

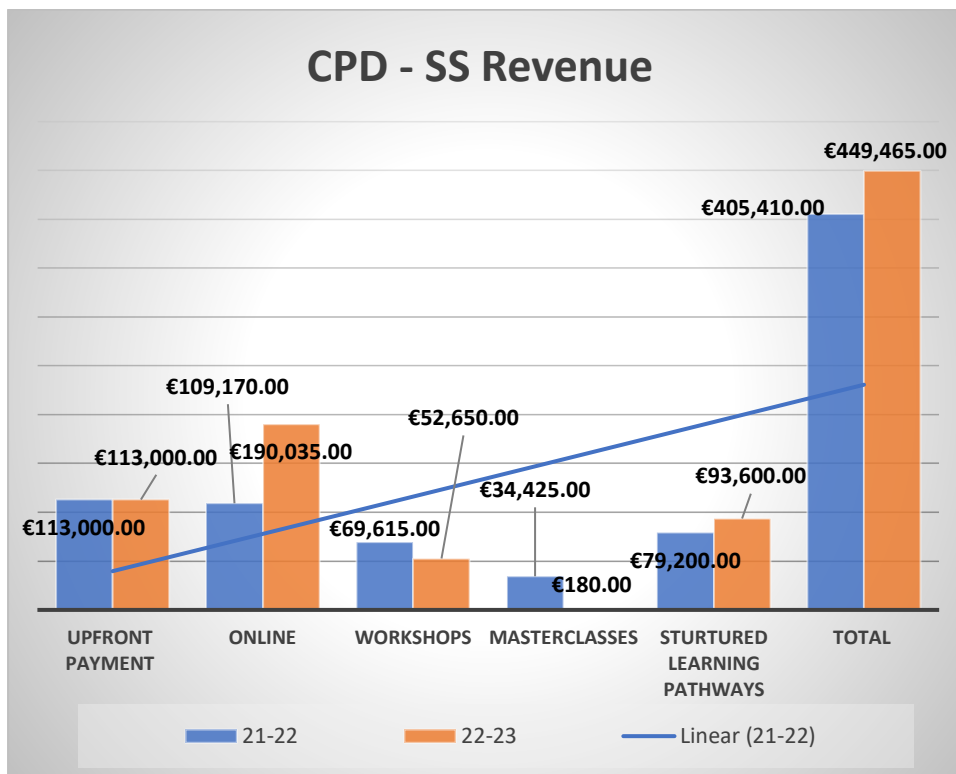
The Reflective Practice Guide was developed as an introduction to the theory of reflective practice and to provide practical examples of how to enrich your own reflective practice. The guide is beneficial to those with little or no experience of reflective practice and may also direct those seasoned practitioners into novel areas to use this skill. Reflective practice can be applied to many domains of a physician's practice, from clinical decisions, patient interactions and teamwork, to personal development and lifelong learning.

Introduction to Telemedicine and Digital Health module was launched in early 2023. The aim of the programme is to provide learners with foundational knowledge of Telemedicine and Digital Health and to enhance the outcomes of telemedical consultations for both patients and clinicians in Ireland.

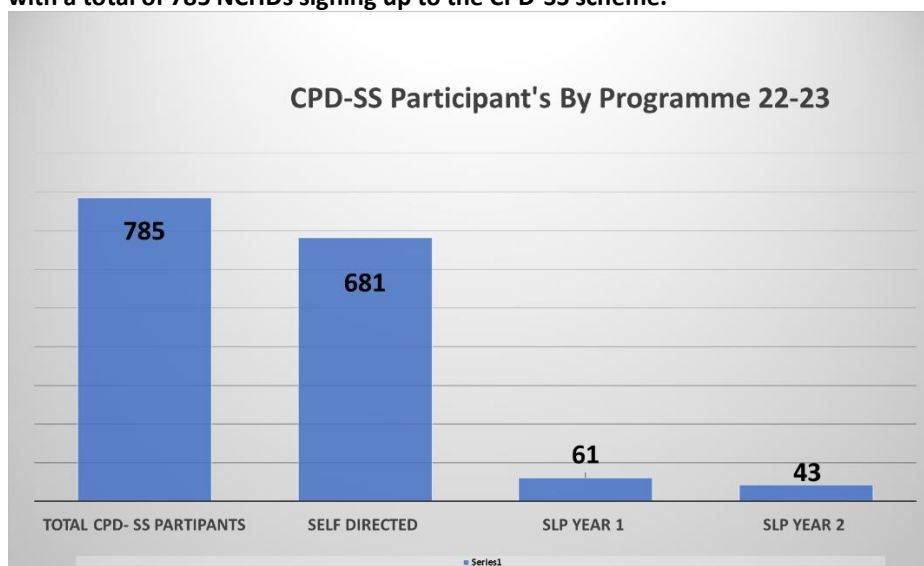
Paediatric ECG Interpretation is an online course introducing learners to interpreting ECG and identifying common abnormalities specific to the paediatric patient. It was developed as part of a research study by Dr Niall Linnane and Dr Jennifer Jones and launched in March 2023.

CPD-SS

The CPD-SS programme continues to grow in terms of participants and in revenue year on year. The forecasted revenue for year end 2022-2023 for CPD-SS is approx. €449K which is almost a 10% increase on last year.

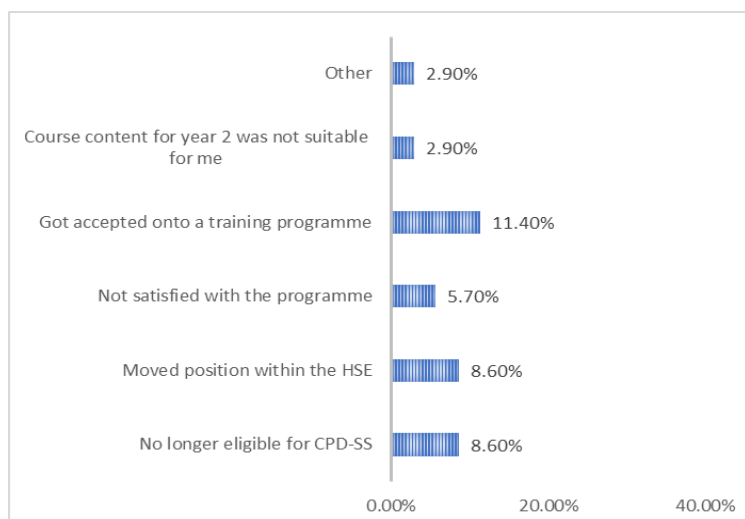


Total number of learners on the programme reached the highest intake for RCPI since the programme began with a total of 785 NCHDs signing up to the CPD-SS scheme.



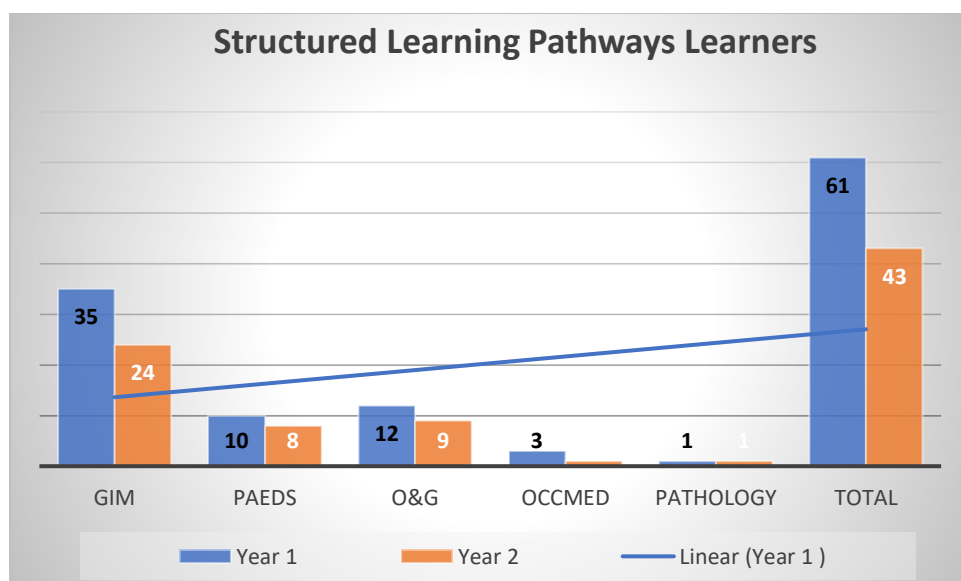
The structured learning pathways (SLP) programme which launched in 2021-2022 saw only approx. 50% of learners progress from SLP Yr1 to SLP Yr2. The reason doctors gave when surveyed as to why this was the case was varied. Of those who provided feedback, the most prevalent reasons cited included being accepted on to a formal Training Programme, moving position within the HSE and no longer being eligible for CPD-SS. One respondent noted that "While the courses provided are very helpful and important they may not necessarily meet every member's needs and interests. The selection of courses was not optional I had to repeat some courses I have done in the past." However, 71.4% did report that they would recommend the CPD-SS programme to a colleague.

Reasons for not progressing to Year 2 of the CPD-SS structured learning programme cited.



Engagement to date on the programme in terms of completing online content and attending tutorials has been mixed.

The table below outlines the total number of learners on the SLP years 1 and 2.



Learners used their CPD-SS vouchers for many RCPI workshops and online courses. This year 12 virtual workshops ran between October and April.

- Ethics Foundation x2
- Ethics for Paeds x2
- Ethics for O&G x2
- Mastering Communication x2
- Leadership in Clinical Practice x2
- Wellness Matters x2

Delivery of courses for Paediatrics

The following mandatory courses were delivered for Paediatric Trainees in 2022-2023:

- BST Leadership Skills
- BST Communication Skills
- Thriving in BST
- HST Ethics Foundation
- HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- HST Mastering Communication
- HST Wellness Matters
- HST Ethics For Paediatrics
- BST Ethics, Prescribing Skills, and Blood Transfusion for Paeds
- Principles of Antibiotic Use for Paediatrics
- BST Child Protection: Recognition and Response
- BST Paediatric Procedural Skills
- HST Childhood Development Disorders
- HST Performing Audit
- HST Intro to Health and Research Methods

Other courses open to Paediatric Trainees, Members or Fellows during 2022-2023 were:

- Contact Dermatitis: Patch Testing
- Paediatric Food Allergy
- Paediatric ECG Interpretation
- Paediatric Respiratory: SPARC module
- aEEG in the NICU setting
- Cert in Essential Leadership for New Consultants
- QI in Action
- SAFE QI Collaborative
- PG Cert Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare
- Introduction to Data Analysis Using SPSS
- Diploma in Paediatrics
- Physicians as Trainers – Essential Skills for Trainers

There are also many self-paced online courses available.

RESEARCH

Research Strategy and staffing

In early 2022, a new research strategy focusing on internal institutional research, aligning with college and broader health research standards was produced. This set out a focus on research governance and forming a Research Committee to oversee this, with representation from across the college's institutes and faculties. The associated Research Committee, with oversight of research to be undertaken internally and overseeing implementation of the strategy, had its first meeting in June 2022, Chaired by the College Registrar, Prof Michael Keane.

Training Post Evaluation

The Training Post Evaluation (TPE) is an anonymous online survey of all trainees (BST and HST) rolled out by RCPI in 2016. The purpose of the evaluation is for trainees to harness feedback on each rotation trainees have completed over the past year. The most recent survey, conducted in June 2022, based on the 2021-2022 year, gathered feedback from doctors in Basic and Higher Specialist Training programmes in 86 training sites across Ireland. The majority of posts were in the Institute of Medicine who represented 67.8% of respondent BST Trainees and 55.6% of HST Trainees.

This data has been used throughout the year to inform site accreditation visits and provides an important source of confidential feedback from Trainees regarding their training posts. Additional data collection led by Research, in collaboration with colleagues in Quality Assurance and supported by colleagues in communications is due to take place for six weeks from the 14th June 2023. A cross-training body sub-group of the Training Committee was convened in 2022 and reviewed and amended questions and approaches for the 2023 survey, ensuring accuracy, appropriateness and utility of the survey for the future. Questions will broadly mirror those utilised in recent years but reflect these amendments.

Supporting engagement within RCPI's Professional Competence Scheme

This research project explores the compliance trends in RCPI Professional Competence Schemes (PCS) in order to identify factors contributing to meeting the PCS criteria and to improve the process and develop more appropriate Continuing Professional Development opportunities. The research team have supported the PCS team through analysis of annual data and compiling an annual report integrating information regarding RCPI PCS enrolees including members, fellows and non-affiliates and their PCS-associated behaviour in 2022. This report will be launched in 2023.

The research team also supported CPD Education Delivery in January and February 2022 by surveying registered CPD-SS enrolees. This had a 58% response rate, with the majority of respondents to the survey reporting to be working in a registrar role (N=30, 61%) and working in General Internal Medicine (GIM) (N= 29, 62%). When asked if CPD-SS learners wished to apply for a second year of the structured learning path, all but one respondent (98%) declared that they would. Respondents were also offered the opportunity to give feedback on the course and their experience to date. This was broadly very positive, with a recognition that this was a supportive initiative for NCHDs not in a specialist training programme. Suggestions included making the training more hands-on, clinical and practical, and more personalised.

Behaviour and attitudes towards mentorship for new consultants: a qualitative study

Much of the mentoring that takes place in medicine is traditionally informal in nature, and while valued by physicians and often extremely important and useful for their personal and professional development, the lack of a more formalised mentorship structure may codify inequality as regards opportunities for all interested physicians to avail of the benefits of mentorship. Formal mentorship programmes have been established in many countries and by various institutions and bodies for medical physicians at various stages in their career. The majority of mentorship arrangements, however, whether formal or informal, focus on the junior stages of the physician career. This focus group study aimed to investigate the understanding of and attitudes towards mentorship with the aim of informing the design and development of a pilot RCPI mentorship programme for new hospital consultants in their first two years of independent practice in Ireland. The study also aimed to gain further information on the factors that would facilitate effective and sustained engagement with a mentorship programme for new hospital consultants in the present-day Irish context.

Two focus groups, consisting of a purposive sample of RCPI faculty members, were facilitated by members of the RCPI Research Department between 26th October and 24th November 2022. Faculty members were recruited by the Programme Manager in Healthcare Leadership on behalf of Consultant Dr Trevor Duffy and the RCPI Research Department to represent a diverse range of specialties.

Findings were grouped into two core umbrella themes:

1. Perceived value of mentorship, and
2. Facilitators of participation and sustained engagement.

These have been used to inform the development of a pilot RCPI mentorship programme for new hospital consultants in their first two years of independent practice in Ireland, commencing in 2023.

Less than Fulltime Training and Geographical Rotations.

In 2022, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) was engaged by HSE NDTP to conduct two strategic Trainee Projects aimed at exploring the opportunities to:

1. develop less than full time training positions
2. reducing cross-regional rotations for trainees

A nine-member Steering Group was established in August 2022 comprising representation across RCPI Departments of Research, Education, Medical Training and Healthcare Leadership. The group was Chaired by John Magner and met fortnightly for the duration of the projects. Clinical representation was ensured through membership of the Clinical Working Group, established in September 2022. All Faculties and Institutes were represented alongside three Trainee Committee nominees. This group met monthly from October 2022 to February 2023 and was Chaired by Dr Trevor Duffy.

The Research Department conducted a significant body of work, gathering, evaluating and synthesising evidence, including conducting national and international literature reviews, Trainer and Trainee views and attitudes surveys and focus groups, a survey of Medical Manpower personnel and consultation with other European Postgraduate Medical Education Bodies to inform this process in 2022. Based on evidence, the Trainee Projects Steering Group and Clinical Working Groups drafted recommendations for RCPI's Postgraduate Medical Education Bodies, the NDTP and Medical Manpower consideration.

RCPI Research Ethics Committee

The RCPI Research Ethics Committee met quarterly in 2022. This Committee was chaired by Dr Una Fallon until March 2022, when she stepped down after Chairing the Committee from its inception in 2013, having given a decade of her dedication and expertise to RCPI Research Ethics. Additionally, in June 2022, the Committee's Vice-Chair, Prof Kathleen Bennett, also stepped down from the Committee. Dr Fiona Boland was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee from June, and in practice led the Committee in 2022. Following an extended recruitment period, in March 2023, a new Chair, Dr Niamh Clarke, has taken up the role. The Committee reviewed 18 applications in 2022, with 17 of these favourably reviewed applications listed below. Three of these studies included a paediatric focus.

Research reviewed by the RCPI Research Ethics Committee 2022

1. RECSAF 169: Breastfeeding education in postgraduate training. PI: Dr Anne Doolan
2. RECSAF 170: An evaluation of the impact of plain packaging for tobacco products in Ireland PI: Dr Paul Kavanagh
3. RECSAF 171: Awareness, knowledge, practices and barriers in relation to annual seasonal influenza vaccination and appropriate infection prevention and control practices among individuals in regular contact with poultry or waterfowl in Ireland. PI: Dr Ellen Cosgrave
4. RECSAF 172: Understanding transitions in medical education: a qualitative study of first year Basic Specialist Trainees PI: Assoc Prof Mary Higgins
5. RECSAF173: Assessment of a New Education Intervention to Deliver Teaching on Paediatric Electrocardiogram Interpretation. V2. PI: Dr Niall Linnane
6. RECSAF174: Breastfeeding support for doctors on returning to work in Ireland
PI: Dr Ann Doolan
7. RECSAF175: Behaviour and Attitudes study on new consultant Mentorship. PI: Prof Trevor Duffy
8. RCPI RECSAF 176: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Mandatory Training Programme Redesign Evaluation Project. PI: Ms Janet O' Farrell
9. RCPI RECSAF 177: Irish Medical Trainees and Digital Health PI: Dr Lizeri Jansen
10. RCPI RECSAF 178: A prospective review of paediatric trainees' exposure to palliative care in Irish hospitals. PI: Dr Katie Flinn
11. RCPI RECSAF 179: Building an evidence base to define acceptable transfer times from home to maternity units for planned home births in Ireland. PI: Dr Paul Kavanagh
12. RCPI RECSAF 180: Evaluation of the outcomes-based curriculum for Public Health Medicine. PI: Dr Niamh Bambury
13. RCPI RECSAF 181: Meat processing plant COVID-19 outbreak – retrospective cohort study. PI: Dr Lucinda Ryan
14. RCPI RECSAF 182: Preparing Paediatricians for a career in Local Hospitals in Ireland. PI: Prof Nigel Fancourt
15. RCPI RECSAF 183: Peer Review and its Impact in Histopathology- a National Study. PI: Prof Niall Swan

16. RCPI RECSAF 184: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland: Perceptions of less-than-fulltime training and geographical rotations. PI: Prof Trevor Duffy
17. Chair review: RECSAF 185: Telephone Consultation in Occupational Medicine: opinions of Occupational Medicine Physicians. PI: Dr Abigail O' Reilly

Healthcare Leadership

Dr Trevor Duffy, Head of Healthcare Leadership

Overview

This is a new function within the RCPI. Strategic Initiative 7 of the strategic plan is: to be the voice of physicians, shaping and influencing healthcare policy, at a national level. In partnership with a range of stakeholders, RCPI already provides leadership in areas such as National Quality Assurance System (National Quality Improvement), National Immunisation Advisory Committee, National Office for Traffic medicine and National Clinical Programmes.

New activities within the function include a strategic approach to gathering advocacy wishes and views of trainees, members and fellows. This will be backed up by an education programme, individual policy development and active advocacy, pushing the voice of RCPI out into the healthcare community. To strengthen current RCPI offerings of formal leadership education the Healthcare Leadership function will develop a programme of supports for doctors in their day-to-day role as leaders and will also continue to develop the college's own leadership role.

Healthcare Leadership Projects

Pilot Mentorship Programme for New Consultants

The project is now live. Mentorship sessions have commenced. The research evaluation survey approved by the Research Ethics Committee was sent to mentees and aims to measure changes in priority areas of professional and personal development as a result of participating in the mentorship programme (survey completed at start mid and end of programme). There is ongoing communication and engagement with both existing and new mentees and mentors which will continue throughout the pilot programme.

During the next phase of the project, we plan to organise peer networking events for mentees and a reflective learning session for mentors, expected timing Q4 2023. We will also explore potential funding sources which would be required to scale the programme in the future.

RCPI Academy for Retired Doctors

As proposed by the recently formed committee, the Academy is getting involved in St Luke's Symposium. An Academy member will speak on the Heritage Day and all retired or semi-retired members of the Academy will be invited to a social gathering in No.6 on the 17 October. Some volunteers will also be involved in the invigilation of the Art Exhibition during St Luke's.

Through the work of the Academy, we endeavour to get more retired Members and Fellows involved in many activities of the College. A recent example of this is; a few volunteers participated in recent Membership graduation ceremonies, and we will encourage others to get involved in Fellowship ceremonies in October. We will continue to seek opportunities to connect this group of retired and semi-retired doctors through social and educational events and provide ongoing support to the committee as this new College initiative evolves.

Professional Competence

Summary of Key Activities 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2023

Scheme Enrolment

The numbers enrolled on our Professional Competence Schemes have been increasing year on year since they were first introduced in May 2011, with the highest number of doctors enrolled to date at the end of the 2022 – 23 PCS year. This included 1,053 new enrolments during the year.

Compliance with Scheme Requirements

The overall percentage of participants across RCPI's 11 Professional Competence Schemes who met the PCS requirements for the 2022 – 23 PCS year was 82%, an increase of 7% on last year. The individual Scheme compliance rates for the 2022-23 year ranged from 74% to 94%. The percentage of Participants in the Faculty of Paediatrics Schemes who met the PCS requirements for the 2022 – 23 PCS year was 90% in the Specialist Division and 76% in the General Division, an increase of 10% and 11% respectively on last year.

Annual Verification Process (AVP)

The Annual Verification Process was undertaken for the 2021 - 2022 PCS year between July 2022 and April 2023. A random selection of 4% of all Scheme participants plus a further 4% of those who had not met requirements for 2021-2022, were chosen from each of RCPI's 11 Schemes. Detailed administrator and clinician reviews were conducted with a view to preparing constructive advice for the relevant doctors. Reviews were completed in March 2023 and at the conclusion of the process, 61% of doctors were verified with no further action required. Doctors who were Verified action received an annotation on their 2022-2023 Annual Statement.

Annual Statements

The Annual Statements issued in May 2023 were once again annotated to indicate that there may have been extenuating circumstances which may have prevented doctors from engaging in and recording the required CPD and Audit activities.

Medical Council Reporting

The following PCS Annual Reports were submitted to the Medical Council on Friday, 30 June 2023 on behalf of RCPI's six Training Bodies:

- Qualitative Report, which consists of: -
 - Implementation Plan for new Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Framework
 - List of CPD Activities Provided by RCPI
 - List of CPD Activities Recognised by RCPI
- Quantitative Report for each Training Body containing KPIs on their Specialist & General Division Schemes

New Maintenance of Professional Competence Framework Model

RCPI engaged with the Medical Council on their Public Consultation on the new Draft Rules and Guidelines for the Maintenance of Professional Competence. The new Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Framework will be implemented on 1 May 2024. The new framework is more flexible and relevant to individual doctors, enabling them to plan, engage in and record required CPD activities relevant to their scope and stage of practice. RCPI will continue to collaborate with the Medical Council, RCPI's six Training Bodies and the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Sub Committee with regard to the implementation of the new MPC Framework.

IACPDA – Substantive Equivalence

RCPI submitted an application to the International Academy for CPD Accreditation (IACPDA) for substantive equivalency for RCPI's CPD programme on 24 February 2022. However, the IACPDA is aware that the Irish Medical Council, following the recent Public Consultation, is reviewing its roles/procedures/requirements including a new accreditation process and is also collaborating with and being advised by Dr Graham McMahon President and CEO of ACCME regarding this. The IACPDA have suggested that RCPI waits until that process is complete.

RCPI will continue to collaborate with the Medical Council, the ACCME and Dr Graham McMahon. We will also continue to work with the IACPDA and pursue RCPI Substantive Equivalency, an evolving process, in order to further enhance our international profile along with opportunities to conduct independent initiatives and innovations in education, accreditation and research and contribute to CPD & lifelong learning in Ireland and internationally.

CPD Event Approval

RCPI facilitates a process of reviewing and accrediting external activities provided by both RCPI and other individuals or bodies for the purpose of awarding CPD credits.

Outlined below is a summary of activity for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	394	2213
Non RCPI	446	2311
TOTAL	840	4524

National Specialty Quality Improvement (NSQI) Programmes

RCPI currently manages four National Quality Improvement Programmes in Histopathology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Radiology and Bronchoscopy. The goal of these programmes, three of which are funded by the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate and Bronchoscopy which is funded by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), is to optimise patient care through facilitating and supporting the use of evidence-based quality improvement in diagnosis and reporting. The data gathered via these programmes are available to report on locally and are also aggregated in annual national data reports by the NSQI programme management team, which can then be used to drive quality improvement in 50 participating public, voluntary and 14 private hospitals.

National GI Endoscopy QI Programme

The National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement (NEQI) Programme published the 7th annual national data report in 2022 with 36 public and voluntary hospitals and 15 private hospitals contributing to the national dataset. This report was a retrospective review of programme activity from 2016 to 2021, with additional analysis on available data from 1st January to 31st December 2021. This year, the NEQI programme also began the development of a new key quality indicator, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP).

National Radiology QI Programme

In 2022, the National Radiology QI (NRQI) programme published its 3rd national data report, outlining findings from analysis of data from 48 public and voluntary hospitals. The programme has also commenced a total turnaround time (TAT) pilot project which aims to investigate turnaround times at one pilot site and how to better capture the current patient journey and to explore how delays might be minimised.

National Bronchoscopy QI Programme

The National Bronchoscopy QI Programme has begun the first phase of key quality indicator development with the working group, focusing on sedation. The working group was set-up in November 2022, successfully recruiting 13 members from public hospitals around the country. The initial response and engagement with this new programme have been positive and in agreement with the need to establish QI processes within the specialty to benefit patient care.

National Histopathology QI Programme

The National Histopathology QI Programme launched the 9th annual national data report in 2022, with 21 laboratories in public and voluntary hospitals and seven private laboratories contributing to the national dataset. Two presentations were delivered at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) annual meeting; “The role of MDT Histopathology Review and Impact on Revised Reports” and “Persistence of Peer Review During the Pandemic, prepared by the National Histopathology QI (NHQI) programmes research group. The NHQI programme is also collaborating with the newly established Autopsy Quality Improvement Committee (AQIC), the aim of which is to improve the quality of autopsy practice in Ireland and gathering data from all autopsies carried out in hospitals and by coroners.

Data Sharing and Data Protection

The NSQI programme management completed a large body of work in increasing the standardisation and transparency of all policies across the programmes, including a large collaborative project on the information governance policy. This led to a robust data requesting process which was used four times in the last year, contributing to research conducted by the NHQI programme, the Irish Cancer Society investigating the impact of COVID-19 on Irish cancer services, the NCCP and the National Acute Operations Endoscopy Programme. This ensures the high-quality data reported on by the programmes can be used to contribute towards better patient care and service improvements.

Advocacy

Advocacy refers to actions to influence people, primarily decision-makers, to create change. For RCPI this change may be in legislation supporting healthcare and health and wellbeing; health sector plans and actions; or plans and actions in other sectors - impacted by, or which have an impact upon, health or healthcare.

RCPI engages in advocacy by defining the issue or desired change through development of position papers and reports, through communication of these issues directly to stakeholders and decision makers and by using media

to promote messages or recommendations on the issue. RCPI also provides responses to relevant national consultations as they arise.

Advocacy priorities

New advocacy priorities for 2023-2025 were approved by Executive Board and Council. These priorities followed consultation with trainees, members and fellows at three hospital sites, consultation with exec board, council, senior management and other staff and a survey open to all RCPI members fellows and trainees. This is the first time that RCPI developed advocacy priorities through wide consultation with its membership. The process also included a review of previous advocacy work and successes, and the new priorities will build on this work and existing collaborations.

These priorities are: Patient Safety and Dignity, Health Equity, Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (with a focus on obesity, in particular obesity in children, also with focus on tobacco and vaping), Climate Change and Healthcare / Sustainable Healthcare

Papers/reports published September 2022 to Aug/Sept 2023

- [Tobacco 21 report](#) was launched in Sep 2022 by the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco. This report was produced in collaboration between the Institute for Public Health and the Policy Group. The report presents the evidence and feasibility for increasing the minimum legal age of sale of tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21 years of age. The report received extensive coverage in print, online and broadcast media. Spokesperson for the group is Prof Des Cox, Paediatric Respiratory Consultant
- Paper on Climate Breakdown was developed in collaboration with Irish Doctors for the Environment (IDE) and approved by Executive Board and Council in April 2023. This report will be formally launched in Oct 2023.
- [RCPI Report on Health Equity](#). This report captures the main themes and discussion points from an RCPI Masterclass held in March 2023 titled “Achieving Equity in Healthcare – More than just an appointment”. The masterclass, developed by the advocacy department had a record number of registrations of 461, with total live attendance of 445. A section of the report “Social adversity in Paediatrics – Stories behind the statistics” documents several case studies presented at the Masterclass by Dr Aoibhinn Walsh, Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in Inclusion Health - Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street.
- The Faculty of Paediatrics and the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco made submissions to a Department of Environment, Climate and Communications consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices. The consultation submission highlighted the harms caused to the environment and the disproportionate usage of disposable vaping devices among children and young people, and the associated health concerns.
- A further position statement from the Faculty of Paediatrics on vaping and young people is also under development and will be launched in Autumn 2023.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) plays an essential role in Irish healthcare. This expert group is a standing committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and comprises members nominated by a range of healthcare professional bodies (including the Faculty of Paediatrics) and lay members. NIAC provides independent, evidence-based advice to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Department of Health on vaccines, immunisation and related health matters.

NIAC experienced a significant transition in personnel in the past year, which included the retirements of Professor Karina Butler (Chair/Interim Clinical Lead), Drs Brenda Corcoran and Kevin Connolly (Special Advisors). Their dedication, wealth of expertise and significant contributions have been greatly appreciated. NIAC welcomed the appointments of Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan as NIAC Chair, Dr Bryony Treston as Interim Clinical Lead and more recently the appointment of Dr Sarah Geoghegan as Clinical Lead. A new team of Special Advisors (Dr Fiona Cullinane, Dr Helena Murray, Professor Corinna Sadlier) and a Programme Coordinator (Grace Horan) have also been appointed. NIAC experienced changes in membership which has added further depth to the expertise and skillsets of the Committee.

NIAC’s workload in the past year has remained demanding and was regularly performed under considerable pressure. This has relied upon the dedication and availability of respected and experienced voluntary members,

supported by an agile, skilled, and resilient Secretariat.

The provision of vaccine related advice has been and continues to be an important element of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NIAC has also provided advice for topics including but not limited to: BCG vaccination, HPV vaccination, and the immunisation of children aged 2 months to 5 years of age.

Governance and Operations

NIAC awaits an update from the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the transformation of NIAC to a National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization. This formal designation will enable NIAC to operate more sustainably, with additional resources to support capacity building. An update from the DOH is also awaited on hosting arrangements for NIAC in 2024 and beyond.

NIAC has continued to host Full Committee meetings on a bimonthly basis, with working groups (including COVID-19, Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule, RSV) meeting as needed to focus on specific work tasks.

Advice provided to the Chief Medical Officer and Department of Health

NIAC have produced recommendations through considered and timely decision making, informed by reliable and robust evidence. This work was aided by regular meetings of working groups, participation in European Union NITAG meetings and engagement with global experts on vaccines. Over 15 recommendations to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) have been made since September 2022 (Table 1).

Table 1. Examples of NIAC advice issued to Chief Medical Officer since September 2022.

Date of Issue	Recommendation
10 October 2022	Selective strategy for BCG vaccination (version 1.2)
15 February 2023	Immunisation of children aged 2 months to 5 years of age
11 April 2023	2023 COVID-19 vaccination strategy (version 1.1)

NIAC has also been involved in updating the Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 vaccines for people with pre-existing allergic conditions, and Questions and Answers for pregnant and breastfeeding women about COVID-19 vaccination.

National Immunisation Programme

NIAC has reviewed vaccines for suitability for inclusion or removal (in the event they are no longer available/needed) in the national vaccine schedule. This has included a review and subsequent recommendation to the CMO regarding the immunisation of children aged 2 months to 5 years of age.

Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland have been prepared and maintained by NIAC as a robust and reliable immunisation resource for healthcare professionals. Ten chapters have been updated since September 2022.

National Resource, Stakeholder Support and International Collaboration

NIAC has continued to serve as a trusted and respected national resource for healthcare professionals and the public. Over 90 queries have been received pertaining to immunisation and national recommendations in the past year. These have been addressed by NIAC or referred to the appropriate agency for response.

As a standing committee of RCPI, NIAC has profited from being sited in a collegial setting at the forefront of postgraduate medical education. This has facilitated critical inputs from the Institutes and Faculties of the College and also supported dissemination of NIAC's outputs. At a time when trust in vaccination information is so important, NIAC as a committee of RCPI, is further validated because of that association as a trusted information source.

NIAC continues to benefit from its strong collaborative working relationship with stakeholders including the DOH, HSE, HPRA, and HPSC, among others.

NIAC has engaged with the wider international immunisation community and participated in the EU NITAG meetings as well as national and international meetings as appropriate (for e.g., EU NITAG, WHO Strategic Advisory

Group of Experts on immunisation).

NIAC continues to reinforce these relationships with regard to general immunisation practices through continued engagement, participation and advocacy.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative – Sponsored

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative continues to provide a route for sponsored overseas doctors to experience structured postgraduate medical training in the Irish public health service. It enables suitably qualified medical trainees from the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) to undertake a fixed period of training in clinical services in Ireland. Trainees participating in these programmes are fully sponsored by their governments for the duration of their training. Income generated through the programme is invested into improvement projects that benefit all RCPI training programmes. RCPI offers two streams of training under this Initiative, Residency and Clinical Fellowship training, and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.

International Residency Training Programme

The International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is designed for doctors who have completed their internship. This program allows doctors to do their Residency training in Ireland, enabling them to acquire a qualification equivalent to the Saudi/Arab Board and become members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Currently, this program is available for Internal Medicine and Paediatrics, with plans for Histopathology to be offered from next year. Within the IRTP in Paediatrics, there are currently three doctors in training in Ireland, the first trainee graduated in June 2023. All trainees to date are from Saudi Arabia. Bahrain will join the IRTP in the coming months, and other Gulf countries are working closely with RCPI to meet the requirements.

International Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training for post-Residency doctors who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen speciality or sub-specialty. There are currently fifty-one trainees on the programme across all specialities. There are thirty-eight specialty programmes offered across RCPI Faculties and Institutes. Now in its ninth year, 144 trainees have graduated from the Clinical Fellowship programmes and returned home to embed their newly acquired knowledge and skills in health services of their home countries.

Last year, Adolescent Medicine Mental Health and Developmental Paediatrics and Neurodisability were added to the programme list. This year, Paediatric Oncology and Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine will be offered for the first time, bringing the total number of Paediatric programmes to fifteen.

The Clinical Fellowship Programme has had outstanding success in the Paediatric specialities, with 30 graduates to date and fourteen trainees currently in post.

Feedback received in both the Residency and Clinical Fellowship Programmes has consistently reflected excellence. Both trainees and sponsorship bodies have expressed their appreciation for the high quality of training and support received.

Special recognition and gratitude are extended to key individuals who have played pivotal roles in development of recently added programmes and to those that continue to support international trainees.

New Marketing Initiative for IMGTI

As of FY24, RCPI has taken a digital-first marketing approach to support the continued growth and awareness of the International Medical Graduate Training Initiative. Utilising new systems and a new way of marketing ourselves, we are embracing this new digital-first approach to reach our target audience wherever they spend their time online. Having now used this strategy for Fellowship and Residency programs, we are now seeing lots of new doors open to us for not only marketing ourselves but also pushing specific specialties lacking in applications, it allows us to pivot as needed and invest more granularly.

To date (May 1st – August 31st) our ads have been seen 3,712,015 times and have been clicked 53,705 times leading to an overall average click-through rate (CTR) of 1.45%. We have seen a total of 540 conversions meaning 540 people have followed our ads and either signed into or created accounts on Quercus meaning a conversion rate of 1.01% across all platforms.

Membership and Fellowship: There has been strong growth in membership in the last 12 months with

125 doctors being conferred MRCPI in Paediatrics in 2022. The numbers of new doctors choosing to join as members is factor driving the growth as well as improvements made in the membership subscription collection process as well as more accessible Continuous Professional Development (CPD) online offering for Members and fellows.

In the past year, the Faculty was involved in a comprehensive College-wide review of how Fellowships are awarded and how they are recruited. Fellowship is a prestigious award and it is awarded in recognition of a doctor's contribution to their speciality. Following an AGM in October 2022 which approved changes to how Fellowship was awarded, a new fellowship strategy to make fellowship more inclusive and attractive was introduced. In July 2023, three new pathways to fellowship were opened. The purpose of this is to encourage graduates of RCPI training programmes to join a Fellows and as well as doctors on the specialist division of the register in Ireland. As a result, it is expected the number of doctors joining as Fellows will increase over the next period.

A Collegiate Membership and Engagement Group was established in 2022 to create a new membership model with clearer membership pathways with more attractive membership benefits.

The committee has found that the current membership pathways are disjointed and confusing and that they should be streamlined as much as possible for a better experience for members. The Group is expected to make recommendations to address this over the next 12 months.

HSE and RCPI renew commitment to address global inequalities in health

Bernard Gloster, CEO of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Professor Mary Horgan, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, on 6 September, extending their partnership to implement the EQUALS initiative for a further three years.

The EQUALS initiative seeks to improve healthcare in low-income countries by working in partnership with local health services to address the huge inequalities that exist in health globally, through the provision of medical equipment and training. EQUALS began in Zambia and has been extended to other countries including Togo, Uganda, and Kenya. The programme has evolved over the past ten years to support equipment and training needs at a national level in Zambia, including supporting the establishment of the Zambian College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS).

Mr Bernard Gloster, CEO of the HSE, said the extension of this valuable partnership with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is part of the HSE's ongoing response to addressing inequalities in health and healthcare globally.

"The EQUALS initiative is a great example of our collective responsiveness to global citizenship and the global effort of sharing knowledge and strengthening partnership between health systems," he said.

Since its establishment in 2013, EQUALS has shipped 17 containers of medical equipment and supported the Zambian College of Medicine and Surgery to develop specialist training programmes.

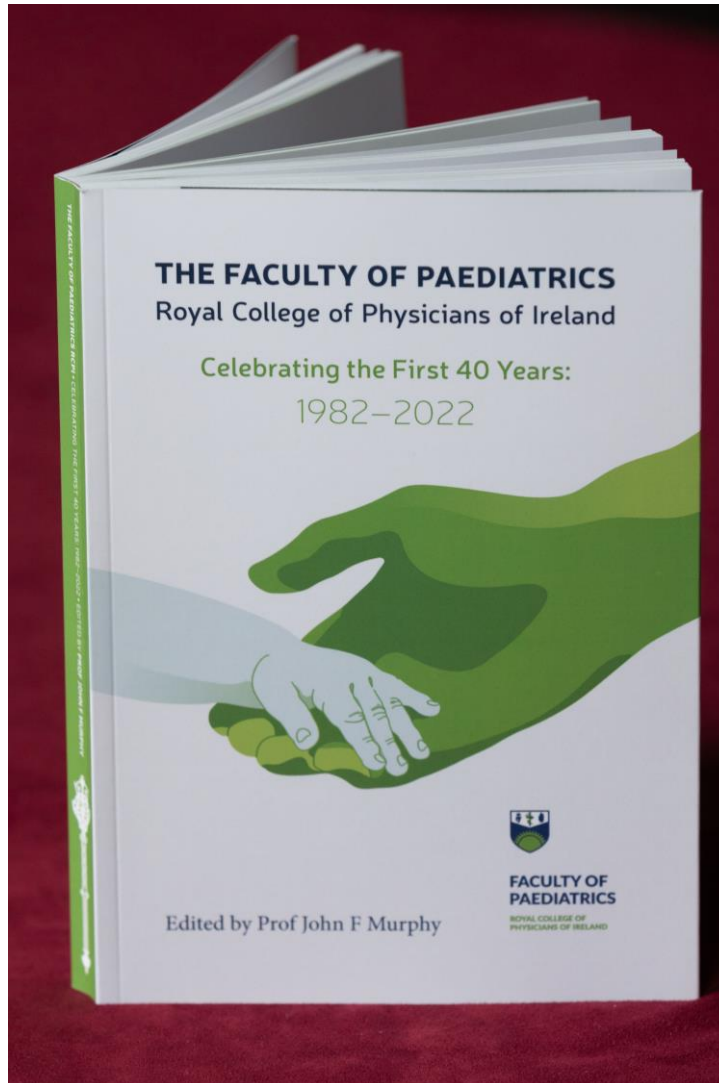
KEY CONTACT DETAILS

Key administrators in RCPI who conduct work on behalf of the Faculty of Paediatrics include:

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Webinar - Nov/Jan
- IPA meeting - 7/8th Dec 2023 Galway



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