



FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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About the Faculty of Public Health Medicine

The Faculty of Public Health Medicine, RCPI, has been an integral part of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland since 1976. Its aim is to advance the science, art and practice of Public Health Medicine in Ireland, and to promote education, study and research in Public Health Medicine.

The Faculty achieves this aim through:

- Acting as an authoritative body for consultation on matters of educational or public interest concerning Public Health Medicine
- Representing the specialty of Public Health Medicine on international, national and regional councils or committees concerned with postgraduate medical education
- Obtaining and maintaining recognition as the body responsible for advising on all matters concerning Public Health Medicine under any scheme for specialist training in Ireland
- Acting in an advisory capacity to key stakeholders such as Government and statutory bodies in all matters pertaining to Public Health Medicine
- Setting and maintaining standards for the Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine examinations.

Supporting Functions

The Faculty is supported by the following administrative functions within RCPI:

- Postgraduate Training and Education: Colm Small, Head
- Professional Affairs: Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head
- International Affairs: John Magner, Head
- Facilities, Finance and ICT: Sheila Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer
- All of the above are under the management of the CEO, Dr Terry McWade

A Message from the Dean

Prof Emer Shelley



Dear Members and Fellows,

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to impact health services as well as many sectors of the economy and of society. While the vaccination campaign in 2021 was successful in reaching over 90% of eligible adults, case numbers in Ireland increased in recent months and remain high. Thankfully, the rate of severe illness, hospitalisation and admission to ICU is lower than in previous waves but remains challenging across the health system. The extension of the vaccine campaign to children, the roll out of an additional vaccine so soon after the initial doses and the recent emergence of the Omicron variant of concern indicate the pandemic response will require 'all hands on deck' for public health for the foreseeable future.

In maintaining a heavy workload, I hope you can continue to remember the important role you and your colleagues play in protecting the health of the population and saving lives. The reform which is now underway is a cause for optimism that the public health service of the future will have 'fit for purpose' governance and structures, and will be appropriately integrated and resourced to deliver a high quality service across all the domains of public health medical practice.



Cartoon with thanks to Dr Eoin Kelleher and Harriet Wheelock, RCPI Archivist

Business Continuity and Supporting the Public Health response to the Pandemic

As outlined below and described in more detail in other sections of this report, the Faculty maintained priority activities as much as possible during the year. Great credit and thanks to all those who supported our activities, including those who continued as trainers and examiners.

- Meetings of the Board and other committees, interviews, assessments, examinations and education activities continued to be provided online.
- July placements and rotations went ahead as planned. Work on the new curriculum which had been paused got back on track.
- Examinations returned to usual schedules, with some adjustments to meet the needs of candidates. The Part I MFPHMI was delivered online with remote invigilation. Parts II and III were delivered using video conferencing software.
- Education events continued as webinars, splitting both the Winter and Summer Scientific Meetings into two parts.
- Several Faculty affiliates responded to media requests for interviews on a range of topics related to the pandemic response.

While it won't be 'business as usual', based on developments during the past two years, it will hopefully be easier to plan for training, examinations and professional events for the year ahead. Engagement with our membership will be a priority, to continue to encourage participation in Faculty activities.

Developments in the RCPI

Dr Anna Clarke is the Faculty Fellow on Council. Prof Joe Barry represented the Faculty on the RCPI Executive Board from January to August 2021. I attended the remaining meetings during the year.

With regard to trainee representation, the Representative for Public Health Training will liaise with the SpR on the Board who in turn will be the Public Health Representative on the Trainee Committee of the College. This means Dr Teresa O'Dowd, the SpR on the Board, will replace Dr David Kelly on the Trainee Committee.

In advance of the lifting of pandemic restrictions in recent months, I contributed to the development of guidance on return to the office by College staff and the procedures to follow for in-person committee meetings or events. Mindful of the reputational damage of an outbreak associated with College, the cautious approach to reopening was warranted in light of the recent large increase in the incidence of COVID-19.

After substantial consultation, College published the RCPI Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024: Training, Education and Global Connection to Improve Patient Health. The President and the CEO will meet the Faculties and Institutes to provide information on the Strategy and work has started to align all College functions with the ten strategic initiatives.

<https://www.rcpi.ie/news/publication/rcpi-strategic-plan-2021-2024/>

Prof Joe Barry and myself attended a workshop on College and Faculty reserves. In the past the reserves were presented in Faculty accounts as though the Faculty ‘owned’ the reserves but they were in fact a portion of the College reserves, offset by the overall College debt. The format of accounts caused Faculty subscriptions for Fellows to remain unchanged over many years. The report on the workshop has not yet been circulated but the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Sheila Gallagher, will attend January’s Board meeting to discuss the implications of the past presentation of reserves and any plans to change how costs are apportioned to Faculties and Institutes.

Dr David Weakliam was involved in planning St Luke’s Week, contributing on the theme of Global Vaccination. Dr Abigail Collins spoke from her expertise on child health during the session on other aspects of COVID-19. I participated in the FRCPI Admission Ceremony during which Drs Colette Bonner and Gerardine Sayers who were unable to participate last year were admitted.

Faculty Governance

The minutes of last year’s AGM were circulated and Standing Orders were amended as agreed.

The minutes of the EGM held in June have also been circulated, including the list of those enrolled as Diplomate Members, Members and Fellows. Six Honorary Fellows were enrolled: Dr Mike Ryan (proposed in 2019), Profs RoseAnne Kenny and Karina Butler (2020) and Profs Colm Bergin, Mary Horgan and Philip Nolan (2021).

Apologies that due to capacity constraints, it was not possible to renew the membership of Faculty committees as promised at last year’s AGM. I am grateful to those who have served as Chairs or members for several years. An expression of interest for membership of the Meetings Committee and the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee was circulated. The Dean Elect, Prof Cecily Kelleher, and I have started to review the membership of all the Faculty Committees.

Apologies also that the review of Faculty Board and Committees’ terms of reference and structures as proposed at last year’s AGM has not got under way. The aim is to align with those of the RCPI and other Faculties, while ensuring they are fit for purpose for the Faculty. This will involve a substantial revision of Faculty documentation, including likely redrafting



Speakers at the St Luke's Symposium from the top: Prof David Weakliam; Dr Abigail Collins; Dr Anthony O'Regan (Chair), Dr Cillian de Gascun, Dr Abigail Collins and Prof Pete Lunn.



of Standing Orders. Drafts were prepared but there wasn't the capacity in the Faculty to pursue this during the year.

Background to Reform of the Public Health Service

In last's year message I summarised the Faculty's advocacy for publication of the Crowe Horwath report. I described the work undertaken at the request of the Department of Health. The Curriculum Review lead by Dr Máirín Boland has been completed. Other work packages were *Settings for Training* (Dr Suzanne Cotter); *Resources for Education and Training in Leadership and Management* (Dr Ian Quintyne); and to *explore the potential for joint training with other medical specialties* (Prof Elizabeth Keane). The Faculty added *To identify the needs of SpRs for Coaching and Advice* (Dr Alan Smith). Due to work pressures, it has not been possible to collate the findings and conclusions of the work undertaken, and to crosscheck for consistency, duplication and gaps. When that is possible it is hoped that the output will contribute to expansion and development of opportunities for specialist training.

The Department of Health also requested the Faculty to contribute to the National Doctor Training and Planning Unit's (NDTP) workforce plan for public health medicine which has implications for our specialist training programme. At the moment, intake numbers for HST are in accordance with Crowe Horwath's conclusion that 'it would not be unreasonable for c. 10 new entrants into public health medicine to be recruited into the system each year for the next five years', with the caveat 'However, this matter needs to be examined in detail as part of the implementation of the various measures recommended in this report'.

Reform of the Public Health Service and Consultant Status for Public Health Physicians

On April 15th 2021 the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly T.D., announced that an agreement had been reached with the Irish Medical Organisation on reform of the public health service.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/38f3d-minister-for-health-announces-implementation-of-fundamentally-reformed-consultant-led-public-health-model-in-ireland/>

Minister Donnelly said: "The government has recognised that major reform of the Public Health function is necessary and through the COVID-19 Path Ahead Plan we have committed to investing in, and resourcing of public health and the delivery of a strengthened and reformed consultant-delivered public health model."

The Press Release continued: 'The enhanced service delivery model radically changes the governance and operating structure within Public Health, introducing a more fit-for-purpose National and Regional management structure across each of the pillars of Public Health – a consultant led 'hub-and-spoke' structure as envisaged by the Crowe Horwath Report.'

‘The parties have agreed that a Consultant-delivered Public Health Model will be implemented by December 2023, with the establishment of 34 consultant posts in the first year and a total of 84 Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts by end December 2023.’

Reformed structures and additional staffing will greatly increase the benefits which public health physicians can bring to the health of the population. After the announcement, Prof Bernadette Herity, Dean from 1987 to 1993, emailed me to welcome the news. She said that consultant level posts were what was envisaged by those who founded the Faculty in 1976. So, persistence by many public health colleagues over four and a half decades finally paid off!

Implementation of Service Reform

Implementation of Reform of the Public Health Service is under the governance of the Chief Clinical Officer, Dr Colm Henry. Recruitment of consultants in public health medicine is being coordinated by the Public Health Consultant Recruitment Working Group, lead by Ms Deirdre McNamara, Director of Strategic Programmes and Dr Laura Murphy, General Manager in the CCO’s Office, with input by HSE HR, Employee Relations and the Public Appointments Service.

I’m a member of the Working Group, mainly advising on draft job specifications. The Faculty has been consulted and signed off on eligibility requirements for posts, mainly whether additional experience is required post-CSCST e.g. for National and Area Director posts. These requirements may change for recruitment after the Reform phases have been completed in December 2023.

Multidisciplinary Public Health

The Crowe Horwath Report which examined the role of public health physicians advised that attention also be paid to other members of the public health workforce. Prof Ivan Perry is chairing a Working Group on Multidisciplinary Public Health and Health Promotion Scientists / Practitioners, under the auspices of the Institute of Public Health, supported by its CEO Ms Suzanne Costello. Crowe (previously Crowe Horwath) is being commissioned to carry out a needs assessment, review international models, core competencies and potential professional training and recognition structures.

Finance

As members of the RCPI Executive Board, the Deans now receive updates on the College’s finances and investments. As described above under developments in the RCPI, the presentation of accounts is changing, to increase transparency on assets and the allocation of income and costs across the Faculties and Institutes.

Dr Peter Wright, Honorary Treasurer, is supported by the Finance and General Purposes Committee which maintains oversight of the Faculty's budget, income and expenditure as described in Dr Wright's report, supplemented by the accounts provided by the College's Finance Department.

Specialist Training

Dr Máirin Boland was National Specialty Director from 2015 and continued in the role until May 2021. Dr Triona McCarthy started as Deputy NSD in March and Dr Anne Sheahan as NSD in September. Their report describes delivery of the HST Programme during the year. Despite the many challenges of the pandemic, training proceeded along the usual timelines, including shortlisting, interviews, placements, induction, rotations and annual assessments.

The Faculty is fortunate to have an excellent cohort of trainees who progressed satisfactorily through training and examinations, and presented at Scientific Meetings. Congratulations to the six doctors who received their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Higher Specialist Training (CSCST) since the last AGM: Drs Kenneth Beatty, Eimear Burke, Christopher Carroll, Laura Heavey, Paul Mullane and Mark O'Loughlin. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to present their certificates during a future ceremony.

The Faculty is aware of the need to enhance training opportunities for SpRs and will make a business case to the HSE NDTP to fund a project to progress this.

Reaccreditation of HST by The Medical Council of Ireland

As reported last year, HST was reaccredited for a five-year period from October 2020. The Faculty was supported by College Staff to prepare an Action and Implementation Plan to set out how the Council's recommendations for ongoing development will be addressed. This report was submitted in April 2021 and the plan was discussed with the Council in June. It will be kept under review by the Specialty Training Committee and the Board, and progress will be reported in the Faculty's annual 'qualitative report' to the Medical Council.

Examinations

The Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee is chaired by Dr Derval Igoe. Dr Paul Kavanagh continued as Convenor for the Part I MFPHMI, Dr Mary Ward is overall Convenor and Convenor of Part II and Dr Lourda Geoghegan as Convenor of the Part III is leading on development of the Oral Examination of Professional Competence. Their report includes information on developments and exam sittings.

Professional Competence

Information on RCPI's Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) is included in the report on Professional Affairs. Of those enrolled on the Public Health Medicine scheme in June 2021,

107 were on the Specialist Division of the Register and 28 on the General Division. Of those, 99 and 24 respectively recorded the required activity during the year. Further information on PCS is included in Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy's report on Professional Affairs.

Education

Dr Emer O'Connell is Chair of the Meetings Committee which organises the Faculty Winter and Summer Scientific Meetings. Information on those in the past year is included in Dr O'Connell's report, along with information on other education events involving the Faculty.

There is information on participation in events from December 2020 to June 2021 in the report on Professional Affairs. College Events staff collate the feedback from participants and suggestions for future events. Overall, feedback was very positive, with great suggestions for future webinars.

EPHA 2021

The meeting of the European Public Health Association which was due to be held in Dublin in November 2021 went ahead as an online event. Prof Anthony Staines was Co-Chair with Dr Regien Biesma who is now based in the Netherlands. The programme included a wide range of topics and opportunities to engage with leading European public health experts.

The Faculty collaborated with the Institute of Public Health on a pre-conference session, chaired by Ms Suzanne Costello, CEO of the Institute of Public Health on the theme of *Public Health in Ireland North and South, Past, Present and Future*. Dr Caroline Mason Mohan provided an introduction on behalf of the Faculty. Three SpRs presented as finalists in the Jacqueline Horgan Prize competition organised by the Section of Epidemiology and Public Health of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland: Dr Andrea Bowe (Children with low cognitive ability), Dr Louise Hendrick (Decision making on travel during the pandemic) and the winner Dr Ciara Kelly (COVID-19 in schoolchildren).

Bursaries and Awards

The Dorothy Stopford Price Medal Competition was incorporated into the session for other College Awards at the National Education Day for Doctors in Training in May 2021. The winner was Dr Colm MacEochagáin for his study of *HPV Vaccination among Seropositive, DNA Negative Cohorts*.

COVID-19 Post-CSCST Fellowship: Dr Anne Dee, HSE MidWest, collaborating with Dr Mairin Ryan of HIQA, was awarded this 12-month post-CSCST Fellowship on *Developing clinical leadership for public health knowledge synthesis and evidence informed decision-making in the health service*. Dr Mark O'Loughlin was successful at interview and started his Fellowship in July 2021.

Dr Kevin Kelleher retired after many years playing a lead role in public health in Ireland. The Board agreed to create the Kevin Kelleher Award for the best oral presentation at the Winter Scientific Meeting. I presented Dr Kelleher with the inaugural medal at a function on November 5th to mark his retirement.

Prize winners are listed in the report of the Meetings Committee.

Policy and Advocacy

The Clinical Programme for Children drafted a paper on the impact of COVID-19 on marginalised and homeless children. The drafting committee included Drs Kevin Kelleher, Margaret Fitzgerald and Lucy Jessop. It was endorsed by the Faculty before it was published in January 2021.

A breastfeeding position paper was published on May 14th 2021 between the Faculties of Paediatrics, Public Health Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Ms Janis Morrissey and Dr Fionnuala Cooney contributed on behalf of the Faculty. The paper advocates for supports to be put in place to address Ireland's low breastfeeding rates. It included a focus on accommodating breastfeeding needs during training, for example – when on rotations and attending courses.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement and gratitude must first go to all colleagues in public health medicine who have continued to work tirelessly to reduce the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the Irish population.

The President, Prof Mary Horgan, has continued to be supportive and inclusive of the Faculty in College activities throughout the year. You will have received a substantial amount of information in the regular ezines about College developments and events.

The CEO, Dr Terry McWade, has been extremely active on a wide range of developments in training, education and examinations, and to improve college governance. Reports from Colm Small, Head of Postgraduate Education and Training, and Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head of Professional Affairs, are included in this report.

Ms Sheila Gallagher, Chief Finance Officer, and her team continue to upgrade financial information systems, while Sheila has been patient and supportive in responding to queries, as have Barry Quinlan and his team who administer and report on Faculty finances.

Other staff in the RCPI have provided support and advice in a friendly and professional manner throughout the year, in relation to training, examinations, events, professional competence, and interactions with the NDTP and the Medical Council. Acknowledgement also to Aisling Smith, of the Education Department who managed completion of the revised HST Curriculum and the associated ePortfolio for the rollout to Year I Trainees in July 2021.

Iain Martel and Marianna Kyjovska provide much valued support for ongoing development and organisation of our examinations.

Siobhan Creaton and the Communications staff compile much of the information disseminated in ezines and reminders, while Guilherme Martins and the Events team are gratefully acknowledged in the report of the Meetings Committee.

Special thanks to Louis Lavelle, Faculty Manager, for his wise advice and contribution to Faculty business in what has been a busy year, supported by Lauren Kerchner, Team Lead for Training across all training programmes. Thank you also to Barbara Conneely who continues to advise as Team Lead for Faculties and Institutes.

Claire Doyle, Faculty Coordinator, since 2019 finished with us in April and was missed for her efficiency in maintaining Faculty and Training activities, while responding to many wide-ranging queries. Claire was succeeded by Ritika Sureka in June. Ritika has been extremely hard working, pleasant and patient, and we are fortunate to have her as Faculty Coordinator.

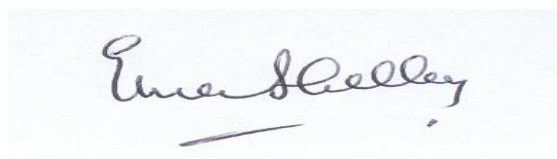
Special thanks are due to Dr Máirín Boland, who finished as National Specialty Director in May. As well as overseeing considerable expansion of HST, Máirín led on the major review of the Curriculum for HST. Drs Anne Sheahan and Triona McCarthy have shown their commitment to supporting and developing the programme since they took up their roles during the year.

Our examinations could not have been held, with standards maintained, without Dr Mary Ward, the Convenor of the MFPHMI Examination. Thanks also to Dr Paul Kavanagh, Convenor of Part I and Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor of Part III and leading on developing the Oral Examination of Professional Competence. We are grateful to Dr Derek Ward who started as the Extern Examiner in the Spring. He has provided valuable feedback which will support continuous quality improvements in guidance and supports for candidates.

I am grateful to the Faculty Officers, Prof Cecily Kelleher (Dean Elect) and Dr Peter Wright (Honorary Treasurer) for their advice and support during the year, and to the other Members of the Board who continued to oversee and advise on a wide range of matters. Special thanks to Peter who is stepping down as Honorary Treasurer and to the other Board members who are demitting: Prof Joe Barry, Dr Philip Crowley, Dr Lorraine Doherty, Dr Caroline Mason Mohan, Dr Ina Kelly and Dr Regina Kiernan. This time last year, Joe and Caroline agreed to support me in my fourth year as Dean and they were true to their word. Thank you!

Credit and thanks to those who chair the subcommittees of the Board, including Dr Derval Igoe who chairs the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee. Sincere thanks are due to the long-standing chairs of other committees. Dr Peter Wright, Dr Emer O'Connell, Dr Fenton Howell, and to all who participate in these committees and give so willingly of their time and expertise.

Finally, I would like to thank all Fellows and Members for their continuing engagement in Faculty activities.



**Prof Emer Shelley, Dean,
Faculty of Public Health Medicine**

Faculty Representation

Expert Group	
RCPI Education Committee	Dr Gerardine Sayers
RCPI Strategy Development	Prof Joe Barry
Working Group for Recognition and Regulation of Multidisciplinary Public Health	Prof Emer Shelley (until November 2021) Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Health and Wellbeing Committee	Dr Heather Burns succeeded Dr Marie Laffoy
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Quality and Patient Safety Committee	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies SpR representative	Dr Treasa Kelleher
Medical Council Consultative Forum on the Regulation of Education and Training	Prof Joe Barry
UCC's Evaluation of the National Obesity Policy	Prof Catherine Hayes
Steering Committee for EPHA 2021 Conference	Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick
National Immunisation Advisory Committee	Dr Mary Ward reappointed
RCPI ePortfolio	Dr Triona McCarthy
RCPI Review of Examinations	Dr Anna Clarke
RCPI Review of Fellowship	Dr Fenton Howell
Shared Island Dialogue (Health) July 2021	Dr Lourda Geoghegan
Faculty in Northern Ireland (FiNI)	Dr Lourda Geoghegan
Education and Faculty Affairs Committee (UK)	Dr Anne Sheahan Dr Triona McCarthy
National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases	Dr Derval Igoe Dr Ruth McDermott
HIQA HTA on newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan

Business of the Honorary Secretary

Prof Emer Shelley

The Board met on five occasions between January and December 2021, on January 13th, March 31st, June 16th, September 15th and November 17th. The names and attendance of the Board members are listed below in the accordance with Standing Order XVII (v).

Prof Joe Barry resigned from the Board in August and the following members will be demitting on completion of their term of office: Dr Philip Crowley, Dr Lorraine Doherty, Dr Ina Kelly, Dr Regina Kiernan, Dr Caroline Mason Mohan and Dr Peter Wright.

During the year Prof Emer Shelley served as Dean and as Honorary Secretary, Prof Cecily Kelleher as Dean Elect and Dr Peter Wright as Honorary Treasurer.

The Faculty's annual admission ceremony did not take place this year. Those due to be admitted were enrolled at an EGM on June 29th.

- 1 doctor was enrolled a Diplomate Member and 13 were enrolled as Members
- 10 were enrolled as Fellows by Election and 2 as Fellows Ad Eundem

Six doctors who had been proposed as Honorary Fellows between 2019 and 2021 were also enrolled: Prof Colm Bergin, Prof Karina Butler, Prof Mary Horgan, Prof RoseAnne Kenny, Prof Philip Nolan and Dr Michael J Ryan.



Prof Mary Horgan (President), Dr Terry McWade (CEO), Prof Karina Butler, Prof David Weakliam and Prof Sinead Murphy at St Luke's Symposium.

Profs Horgan and Butler were enrolled as Honorary Fellows at the Faculty EGM in June.

Six doctors completed Higher Specialist Training since the last AGM.

Currently the Faculty of Public Health Medicine has 41 Honorary Fellows, 142 Fellows, 93 Members and 2 Diplomate Members.

The Board

The Faculty is governed by the Board, the Chair of which is the Dean of the Faculty. Dr Anna Clarke served as the Faculty Representative on the Council of the College. Prof Joe Barry attended meetings of the College Executive Board on behalf of the Faculty until August and the Dean attended after that.

Board membership for 2020/2021 period, and Board attendance, was as follows:

Board member	Position	No. of meetings
Prof Emer Shelley	Dean	5
Prof Cecily Kelleher	Dean Elect	4
Dr Peter Wright	Hon Treasurer	2
Dr Lorraine Doherty	Fellow	4
Dr Máirin Boland	NSD; stepped down May 2021	2 of 2
Dr Mary Ward	Convenor of Exams	1
Vacant	NI Affairs rep	
Dr Philip Crowley	Fellow	3
Dr Caroline Mason Mohan	Fellow	4
Dr Ina Kelly	Fellow	1
Dr Regina Kiernan	Fellow	4
Dr Ruth McDermott	Member	5
Prof Joe Barry	Fellow; resigned August 2021	2 of 3
Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick	Fellow	4
Dr Teresa O'Dowd	SpR	2*
Prof Alan Baird	External member	5
Ms Janis Morrissey	External member	5
Dr Anna Clarke	Faculty rep on Council	4
Dr Lourda Geoghegan	Fellow	5
Dr Anne Sheahan	NSD, started in Sept 2021	2 of 2

*On leave during the year

Honorary Treasurer and Finance and General Purposes Committee - Report for Financial Year 2020 – 2021

Dr Peter Wright, Honorary Treasurer and Chair

Committee: Dr Sarah Doyle, Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, Dr Siobhan Jennings, Dr Annette Rhatigan

Report for Financial Year 2020-2021

The Faculty finances are overseen by the Honorary Treasurer and the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The remit of the Committee is to oversee and manage financial matters on behalf of the Faculty, to provide direction to the Board on the strategic use of Faculty funds and to bring recommendations to the Board on financial matters.

The Profit and Loss Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 and the associated commentary have been prepared by the Finance Department and are presented in the next section of this report.

Summary

There was a surplus of €28,649 at the end of June 2021 compared with a figure of €9,129 the previous year.

Total income for the year was €92,482, which has decreased by €46,448 (34%) on the previous year. Faculty income comes from three sources, subscriptions and faculty admissions, event fees and the HSE grant for the provision of training. Receipts from subscriptions were €23,646, an increase of 8% on the previous year. There was no admission fee income this year as was the case the previous year. Event fee income was zero this year due to Covid-19 related cancellation of scientific meetings. HSE grant income was €68,836 a decrease of €37,920 from the previous year. The overhead recharge by RCPI has been reduced by €40,472.

Investment income at the end of 2021 was €185,566, an increase of €18,832 on the previous year.

Faculty expenditure includes direct costs such as running events, indirect costs including staffing, administration costs, and the College overhead recharge, which includes rent, insurance, light, heat etc. Direct costs were €45,036 (down 13% on the previous year). Indirect costs are represented by the College recharge which was €37,629, this has dropped from €78,101 the previous year. This represents 0.5% of the overall College recharge.

I would like to thank the Faculty Finance and General Purposes Committee and the College Finance staff.

Finance Report

Barry Quinlan

Income and Expenditure for Financial Year ended 30 June 2021 Commentary

General

A surplus of €28,649 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2021. This is an increase of €19,519 (214%) on last year's surplus of €9,129.

Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year end June 2021 was €92,482. This has decreased by €46,668 (34%) on last year and is mainly due to a decrease in Event Registration Fee income and HSE SLA Funding. Income is classed under three broad headings:

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

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €23,646 in 2020/2021 versus €21,934 in 2019/2020, an increase of €1,712 (8%) on last year. No admission income was received in 2020/2021, as in 2019/2020.

In 2020/2021, 70% of Fellows and 67% of Members paid their subscriptions. In 2019/2020, 62% of Fellows and 53% of Members paid their subscriptions.

Event Fee Income

Event fee income for 2020/2021 was zero compared with €10,460 in 2019/2020. This is because of the cancellation of the Summer Scientific and Winter Scientific Meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training.

The amount of €68,836 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover the cost of overheads and administration running costs. This has decreased by €37,920 when compared to 2019/2020. In line with this decrease, the overhead recharge from the College has decreased by €40,472. Historically the loss for the Faculty has been capped at €6,800 and the College absorbed the remainder of the overhead. The overhead absorbed by the College in 2020/2021 was €242,241.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2021 were €8,980,459, of which €185,566 was apportioned to the Faculty. The investments apportioned to the Faculty have increased by €18,832 versus 2020/2021.

Costs

Costs are categorised as follows:

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

Direct Costs

Direct Costs total €45,036 for the year, a decrease of €6,993 (13%) on last year.

- room hire & catering, which decreased by €7,521,
- wages and salaries, which increased by €2,553,
- travel & accommodation, which decreased by €3,718,
- and other direct costs, which increased by €1,693.

The lower spend in 2020/2021 versus 2019/2020 is due to overall reduced activity because of Covid-19, and the cancellation of Faculty events.

Overhead recharge

Overhead recharge of €37,629 has been charged to the Public Health accounts for 2020-21 versus €78,101 in 2019/2020. This constitutes 0.5% of the overall College overhead.

Profit & Loss
Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Financial Year Ending: 30 June 2021



	30/06/2021 Actual	30/06/2021 Budget	Variance	30/06/2020 Prior Year - Actual	Variance to Prior Year
Income					
Fee Income	0	13,500	-13,500	10,460	-10,460
Subscriptions Income	23,646	20,970	2,676	21,934	1,712
Admissions/Conferring Income	0	2,000	-2,000	0	0
HSE Main SLA Funding	68,836	67,420	1,416	106,756	-37,920
	92,482	103,890	-11,408	139,150	-46,668
Direct Costs					
Direct Room Hire	0	0	0	-308	308
Direct Catering	233	-11,850	12,083	-6,979	7,213
Direct Wages & Salaries	-32,785	-32,514	-271	-31,050	-1,735
Direct PRSI	-3,622	-3,593	-29	-3,394	-228
Direct Pension	-1,601	-1,877	276	-1,011	-590
Direct Accommodation	0	-2,575	2,575	-414	414
Direct Travel	0	-4,100	4,100	-2,588	2,588
Direct Subsistence	0	-875	875	-716	716
Direct Telephone	-794	0	-794	0	-794
Direct Stationery	0	-200	200	-457	457
Direct Presentations, Gifts, Medals	-3,700	-17,300	13,600	-385	-3,316
Direct Miscellaneous Costs	-2,768	-3,400	633	-4,728	1,960
	-45,036	-78,284	33,247	-52,029	6,993
Gross Profit	47,446	25,606	21,840	87,121	-39,675
Indirect Costs					
Overhead Recharge	-37,629	-36,236	-1,393	-78,101	40,472
Investments					
Unrealised Gain/Loss on Valuation of Investments	18,832	0	18,832	109	18,723
Net Profit/(Loss)	28,649	-10,630	39,278	9,129	19,519

Statement of Financial Position
Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Financial Year Ending: 30 June 2021



	30/06/2021	30/06/2020
Fixed Assets		
Investments at Cost	185,566	166,735
	185,566	166,735
Current Assets		
Bank & Cash	112,436	112,436
Accrued Income	68,836	106,756
Intercompany - Amounts Owed from College	41,873	0
	223,145	219,192
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	-920	-233
Deferred Income	-1,912	-3,340
Intercompany - Amounts Owed to College	0	-5,122
	-2,832	-8,695
Net Current Assets	220,313	210,496
Net Assets	405,880	377,231
Surplus & Reserves		
Reserves		
Opening Retained Reserves	377,231	368,102
Profit & Loss Account	28,649	9,129
Surplus & Reserves	405,880	377,231

National Specialty Director

Dr Máirín Boland, National Specialty Director, to May 2021

Dr Anne Sheahan, from September 2021

Dr Triona McCarthy, Deputy NSD, from March 2021

Overview

Special acknowledgment and thanks are given to Heads of Departments and Trainers so that the important function of specialist training continued during the year despite the major disruption caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Congratulations and all good wishes for the future to those who obtained their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training since the last AGM: Drs Kenneth Beatty, Eimear Burke, Christopher Carroll, Laura Heavey, Paul Mullane and Mark O'Loughlin.

We welcome the Trainees who started Higher Specialist Training (HST) in July 2021: Drs Margaret Brennan, Catherine Crowe, Maria Deery, Sile Kelly, Therese McGlacken, Fiona McGuire, Aoife O'Connell, James O'Connell and Lucinda Ryan.

Following this intake of nine Trainees, there are 37 Specialist Registrars in Public Health Medicine and one International Clinical Fellow.

Induction

The Faculty and RCPI support staff provided two induction webinars for those starting Year 1. The first session welcomed the SpRs and introduced them to the RCPI staff who provide support to Trainees. Information was provided on the training pathway, the curriculum, examinations and training opportunities for SpRs. The second session provided background information on reform of the public health service, training requirements and recording progress, and balancing the Masters in Public Health with other requirements in the first year of training.

There was a third induction by the HSE in October, provided by Ms Marie Keating, HSE HR Lead for Public Health, and Ms Joan Gallagher, who is covering the Business Manager role in the Office of the National Clinical Director Health Protection.

Topics and speakers for the first induction webinar, 14th July 2021:

Topic	Speaker
Welcome and Introductions	Dr Triona McCarthy Deputy NSD
Meet the RCPI Team for the Faculty	Louis Lavelle, Manager Ritika Sureka, Coordinator
Public Health Medicine Curriculum	Aisling Smith Education Dept., RCPI
Overview of Public Health Membership Examinations	Dr Mary Ward Exam Convenor
The Higher Specialist Training Pathway	Dr Mary O'Mahony SPHM, HSE South
Get involved in your training: opportunities for SPRs	Dr Ciara Kelly, 3 rd year SpR
Q & A and Discussion	

Topics and speakers for the second induction webinar, 19th August 2021:

Topic	Speaker
Welcome and Introduction to Session Two	Dr Triona McCarthy Deputy NSD
Reform of the Public Health Service	Prof Emer Shelley Dean of Faculty
Training Requirements and Recording Progress	Aisling Smith Education Dept., RCPI
Balancing an MPH with Other First Year Commitments	Dr Peter Naughton 2 nd Year SpR
Q&A and Discussion	

Curriculum Review

Sincere thanks to all the Trainers and Trainees who participated in the development of the outcome-based Curriculum for HST and especially to Aisling Smith of the Education Department who provided expert advice and made it actually happen despite the many challenges of the past two years. This in-depth review was led by Dr Máirín Boland, National Specialty Director until May 2021, supported by Dr Niamh Bambury, an SpR now in her Final year of training. The overall task was to consider training goals, the knowledge and skills associated with them and the methods by which competence and achieved outcomes may be demonstrated. Methods involved workshops and several rounds of a Delphi process which involved Trainers, Trainees and academic colleagues; small groups reviewed content and identified detailed learning outcomes; and further workshops and consultations prior to final sign off. The new e-Portfolio was created in time to introduce the curriculum for those entering Year One of HST in July this year.

Study Hours

Due to the uncertainties of planning during the pandemic it was not possible to organise Study Days. As an alternative and in view of the heavy commitment of many SpRs to the pandemic response, Trainers agreed to protected time for training on Thursday afternoons. Thank you to the speakers who presented at Study Hours during those afternoons and to the Trainee Lead, Dr Kenneth Beatty, and the Faculty Coordinator for organising them.

Thanks to Dr Declan McKeown of the Health Intelligence Unit and to Dr Louise Marron, the new Lead SpR for Training. Louise surveyed the SpRs to identify the main topics of interest for Study Hours. Declan has lead on providing detailed content for many of the Study Hours, as well as facilitating other contributions.

It is hoped to restart the usual format of Study Days in the New Year.

Unfortunately, the North South SpR prize event did not take place again this year but we hope to organise it again whenever that's possible.

Progress in Training

End of year Evaluations with trainees and trainers took place over a two-day period in May this year, with all assessments successfully completed, and no outstanding interim assessments. We thank the Extern assessor Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Northern Ireland and special thanks to RCPI support staff and all trainees who weathered the assessments only days into the HSE cyber security attack.

Training Sites

Specialist registrars in HST are in training posts in regional Departments of Public Health and in specialty placements in the Department of Health, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, National Cancer Control Programme, the Health Intelligence Unit and Child Health. Thanks to Prof David Weakliam who facilitated liaison with a Division in WHO Geneva to agree a two year training programme, for four six month placements, to work on Quality Systems and Resilience. The first SpR in this sequence was based in Ireland in July 2021 but it's planned that the next SpR will be based in Geneva from January 2022. The National Cancer Screening Services started as a site in July 2021.

Training Site Inspections and Accreditation

In the past we undertook a site inspection process to determine its suitability to deliver HST according to the requirements set out in the training curriculum. The inspection panel (NSD, RCPI Chair) carried out a detailed interview with trainers, trainees and management representatives, and an inspection of the facilities.

Site inspections have been paused since the onset of the pandemic. RCPI has commenced a process of self-reporting on the required standards for training sites, followed by review with the Training Body. It is intended to start this process for PHM in 2023.

Trainer Development Project

RCPI has reviewed and expanded support materials for Trainers. These are relevant to Trainers in all Faculties and Institutes. The project is nearing completion after which the materials will be disseminated to ensure new and existing Trainers develop and maintain competence to support their Trainees.

Specialty Training Committee

The Specialty Training Committee (STC) met three times in 2021. Two SpRs attend this as well as trainers. They report on key points arising from the Trainer Trainee Sub-committee.

Trainers have continued to be engaged and will be provided with additional training on the 2021 Curriculum. Convenors of Examinations are providing information to trainees, including feedback from the Extern. Having increased the number of training places, further work is required to expand training opportunities and to support trainees as much as possible to balance training requirements with personal responsibilities.

Acknowledgments

We wish to extend thanks to all our colleagues who contribute as Training Leads in their departments, as well as to Trainers who have supported and evaluated the progress of SpRs through these very demanding times. We have several new Trainers who are very welcome. Trainer courses run by RCPI are valuable in upskilling and learning of the latest developments in providing training and supporting trainees.

Examinations

Dr Derval Igoe, Chair PHM Examinations Committee

Dr Mary Ward, Convenor of Examinations and Convenor Part II

Dr Paul Kavanagh, Convenor Part I

Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor Part III

Committee: Dr Máirin Boland, Dr Anna Clarke, Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Prof Catherine Hayes, Dr Julie Heslin, Prof Elizabeth Keane, Dr Ina Kelly, Dr Regina Kiernan, Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan, Dr Mary Scully, Prof Emer Shelley, Dr Peter Wright

The Extern Examiner

Dr Derek Ward started as Extern Examiner for the MFPHMI Examination in the Spring of 2021. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Research in the University of Birmingham and has an honorary contract with Public Health England. He is also Chair of Examiners for the UK Faculty of Public Health Diploma Examination (equivalent to Part I MFPHMI).

The role of the Extern Examiner is to provide quality assurance and to advise whether the standards required and achieved are appropriate for the stage in training at which candidates take the exam. The Extern supports the maintenance of standards between candidates and over time.

Appointment of Examiners

Examiners are appointed by the Dean of the Faculty for a three year term which is renewable. Criteria for appointment of Internal Examiners for the MFPHMI were reviewed. After the call for expression of interest was circulated in October, on receipt of a query, it was agreed that the requirement to be in a consultant (or equivalent) post for at least two years would be waived for the Part I. There was a good response to the call to become examiners, sufficient to meet the need for each of the three parts of the exam. Those who applied have been informed of their appointment from 2022 to 2024 inclusive.

Acceptance of the MFPHMI by the GMC

The General Medical Council in London confirmed it has approved the MFPHMI for the purpose of full registration with a licence to practice for the MFPHMI awarded after 12/04/2021. When the UK was a member of the EU, it was possible for graduates of HST to obtain specialist registration in the UK. With the move to online examinations, overseas candidates for the MFPHMI will be facilitated. As these candidates may wish to pursue specialist training or work in the UK, it will be of benefit to them that the MFPHMI examination is recognised by the GMC.

Online and Virtual Examinations

In April 2021 the MFPHMI Part I was successfully delivered online using remote invigilation which means that candidates sat the same examination (structure, format and length), in a quiet, secure place of their choosing on a platform provided by TestReach. The Examinations Department are using this company for other College examinations and procedures will be modified if necessary, based on experience across the suite of examinations.

The MFPHMI Part II - Public Health Reports (PHRs) and related oral examination - and the Part III, General Oral, have been held virtually (via Zoom) since 2020. The current plan, which is subject to the COVID-19 situation at the time, is for the Part III Oral Examination of Professional Competence (OEPC) to be held in person.

Guidance and a Checklist on formatting a PHR

Changes to the Guidance on preparing a PHR include the need to incorporate public health implications of the results into the body of the report (not in an appendix), and guidance on how to present an outbreak in a PHR.

A checklist on formatting a PHR, which will apply to all candidates for the MFPHMI Part II from January 2022, has been published on the RCPI website.

The Regulations have been updated accordingly, with links to the Guidance and the Checklist.

Part III Oral Examination

The Part III is taken closer to the end of HST and the OEPC will be designed to test whether the candidate can apply knowledge across the range of public health domains and can communicate about public health scenarios as expected of a public health physician capable of practising independently. The candidate will be examined for approximately 50 minutes, (twice as long as the current General Oral) and the number of scenarios will be increased.

The Val Barry Award

In view of changes to the format of the Membership exam, the Board agreed to PHMEC's proposal to revise criteria for the Award. In future the award will be for a candidate who presents two PHRs of the highest standard on first submission, and who has also performed to the highest standard on the Part III Oral Examination of Professional Competence. When such a candidate is identified, the Convenor of Examinations will recommend to the Board that the award would be made.

Examination Sittings

Part I: The move to online delivery with remote invigilation for the April 2021 sitting was an important advance to improve access to this written exam and was associated with an increase in the number of candidates. Many candidates have attended a Masters in Public Health which covers much of the syllabus. Of the 15 candidates who sat the exam in 2021, 14 (93%) passed.

	Applications	Candidates	Pass
September 2020	9	7	5
April 2021	20	15	14

Part II: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, Part II MFPHMI sittings were held virtually via Zoom in April and October 2021. Of the 23 Public Health Reports (PHRs) examined, 18 (78%) passed. Some of these were resubmissions and all reports which did not achieve a pass grade were considered suitable for resubmission. All candidates receive written feedback which is especially detailed for those who do not pass.

	Applications	Candidates	PHRs - Pass	PHRs - Fail
April 2021	10	10 (4 x 2 PHRs) (6 x 1 PHR)	11	3
October 2021	8	8 (1 x 2 PHRs) (7 x 1 PHR)	7	2

Part III General Oral: Due to the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, development of the Part III examination was paused until 2022. There were two sittings of the existing form of General Oral during 2021. The last sitting of the General Oral will be held in December 2021.

	Applications	Candidates	Pass
January 2021	4	4	4
June 2021	8	8	8

Examination Sittings in 2022 – Candidates should check all dates on the RCPI website

Part I: The next sitting is likely to be the 26th and 27th of April 2022 using remote invigilation.

Part II: The next sitting will be held on 12th April 2022. It is hoped that this examination will be held in person but will be dependent on COVID guidance nationally.

Part III: The current plan is for the Part III to be an Oral Examination of Public Health Competence (OEPC), to be held in the first or second week of June 2022.

Meetings Committee

Dr Emer O'Connell, Chair

Committee: Dr Eibhlín Connolly, Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Dr Howard Johnson, Dr Regina Kiernan, Dr. Caroline Mason Mohan, Dr Triona McCarthy, Dr Áine McNamara, Dr Máire O'Connor, Dr Mary T O'Mahony and Dr Annette Rhatigan

Overview

The Committee was supported by Mr Guilherme Martins, Ms Kerry McArdle and Mr Shane Walshe. Shane and Kerry are no longer with RCPI. We wish them well in their careers and thank them for their expertise and guidance.

The meetings over the last year had high participation rates, showing the relevance and importance of these to our Faculty members during a pandemic. The two-part Winter Scientific 2020 - 2021 had a total of 218 attendances and the Summer Scientific, also in two parts, had 261. All meetings had keynote speakers and a range of oral presentations with access to poster presentations.

I am very grateful to the RCPI Faculty Coordinator and Events Team, our Dean Prof Emer Shelley and the members of the Meetings Committee for their ongoing support to these meetings.

2020 Winter Scientific Meeting

This consisted of two webinars. On 9th December, the keynote lecture was by Prof Martin McKee who spoke on ***Preparing for the Pandemic: Health Systems Fit for the Future***. Prof McKee is the Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Research Director of the European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies, and his talk was very timely and well received.

The second webinar was on 24th March 2021. Dr Niall Conroy, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Director of Public Health at Wide Bay Public Health Unit, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland, was our Keynote Speaker and he shared his Pandemic experiences and excellently updated us on ***The public health response to SARS-CoV-2 in Australia***.

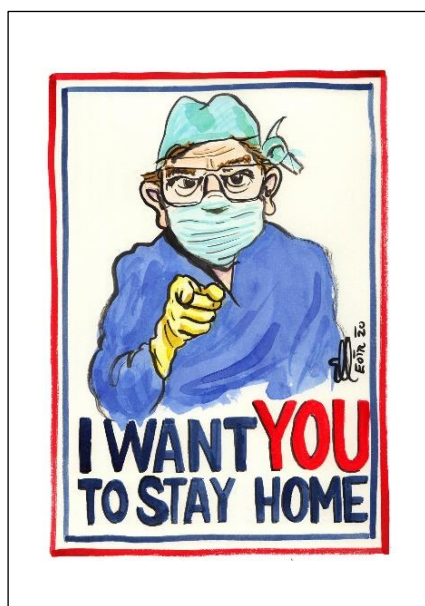
Dr Caroline Mason Mohan, Director of Public Health at the National Screening Service, HSE, gave us an excellent overview of ***Screening and Public Health***.

2021 Summer Scientific Meeting

This consisted of two webinars. On 28th May, Dr Cathal Berry TD was our Keynote speaker

who addressed the theme **Leadership in Times of Crisis**. This was an inspiring talk which was highly praised by attendees. Dr Berry had spent 23 years in the Irish Defence Forces and was Deputy Commander of its tri-service, High Performance Unit. He completed multiple tours of duty overseas with the EU, NATO and the UN, working in the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. Graduating as a doctor from RCSI in 2014, he subsequently transferred to the Army Medical Corps. He is currently an independent TD for the Kildare South constituency.

On 29th May, Dr Lucy Jessop, the Director of Public Health, HSE National Immunisation Office expertly presented an **Update on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**. Dr Jessop then addressed many queries from the participants.



Much of the research presented at the Scientific Meetings was on aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cartoon with thanks to Dr Eoin Kelleher and Harriet Wheelock, RCPI Archivist

2021 Winter Scientific Meeting

Abstracts have been requested and received for this meeting. As the meeting will be in a webinar format, there will be a limited number of medium length oral abstract presentations. The WSM 2021 will take place on 8th December, with the second session on 1st February 2021. There will also be posters for viewing.

Prize Winners Winter Scientific Meeting December 2020 and March 2021

Oral Abstract Presentations

First Place: Dr Andrea Bowe: E-cigarettes and Emerging Behaviour in Nicotine Product Use Among Adolescents in the West of Ireland

Second Place: Dr Laura Heavey: The Study to Investigate COVID-19 Infection in People Living in Ireland (SCOPI): A National Seroprevalence Study

Third Place: Dr Paul Mullane: A Large Outbreak of COVID-19 in a Primary Meat Processing Plant in the East of Ireland

Poster Prizes

First Prize: Dr Zaza Abidin: Controlling Covid- 19 wildfire in high-intensity food processing facility

Runner up: Dr Kenneth Beatty: Not all are equal: Characteristics associated with adverse outcomes in hospitalised COVID-19 patients

Second runner up: Dr Cale Lawlor: COVID-19 on construction sites in central Dublin

Prize Winners Summer Scientific Meeting May 2021

Oral Abstract Presentations

First Place and winner of the Zachary Johnson Medal: Dr Louise Marron: The Public Health Implications of Changes in the Utilisation of Acute Hospital Care in Ireland During the First Wave of COVID-19

Second Place: Dr Lisa Domegan and Dr Carina Brehony: CPE OXA-48 hospital ward outbreak in Ireland 2018-2019 - investigation of transmission patterns using social network analysis and genomics

Third Place: Dr Andrea Bowe: Health Atlas Finder COVID-19 - The Product of Collaboration in Public Health.

'Three Minute Magic'

First Place: Dr Lucinda Ryan: Community engagement to achieve rapid targeted community COVID-19 testing in response to VOC

Second Place: Dr Andrea Bowe: An Evaluation of a Multi-Component Tobacco Control Intervention in an Irish Prison Setting

Third Place: Dr Ciara Kelly: The evidence regarding SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the school setting: a rapid literature review

Poster Prizes

First place: Dr Caitriona Kelly: BreastCheck detected Ductal Carcinoma in Situ, 2008-2020

Second place: M. Isabela Troya: From evidence to implementation and evaluation: Developing the Self-Harm Assessment and Management for General Hospitals (SAMAGH) Training Programme

Third place: Rini Bhatnagar: COVID-19 pandemic impact on employment and mental health of a high risk group – People with Cystic Fibrosis

The Fellowship Committee

Dr Fenton Howell, Chair

Committee: Dr Anna Clarke, Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Dr Orlaith O'Reilly, Dr Margaret O'Sullivan, Dr Lelia Thornton

The Fellowship Committee convened on 18th Feb 2021 to consider applications for Membership/Fellowship and reviewed the Faculty's Membership list as per Standing Orders in order to make recommendations to the Board.

Membership Ad Eundem

There were no applications for Membership Ad Eundem.

Fellowship by Election

The Fellowship Committee considered all Members who were Members for not less than four years (as per Standing Orders) and those who were properly nominated, and recommended the following doctors to the Board for approval, subject to verification of participation in a CPD scheme:

Dr Claire Buckley, Dr Abigail Collins, Dr Lois O'Connor, Dr Eve Robinson.

Fellowship Ad Eundem

There were two applications for Fellowship Ad Eundem:

Professor Noel McCarthy: newly appointed Professor of Population Health Trinity College Dublin, nominated by Profs Shelley, Hayes and Barry

Dr Geoffrey Carroll: retired senior Public Health Physician in Wales and other parts of the UK, nominated by Profs Shelley and Barry.

On examination of a detailed CV from each applicant, the Fellowship Committee recommended them for Fellowship Ad Eundem.

Postgraduate Training and Education

Colm Small, Head of Function

Purpose

The Postgraduate Training and Education Function works with the RCPI's Postgraduate Training Bodies to deliver training, examinations, accreditation and quality assurance / quality improvement, as well as providing other supports to the Faculties and Institutes. Health and Wellbeing is also part of PTE's remit, in addition to continuous assessment and programme development.

The College and the PTE Function prides itself in being responsive and innovative. We are continuing to rise to the considerable challenges posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Faculties and Training

The purpose of the office is to support the key activities of the RCPI Training Bodies and to provide administrative services to the RCPI Council, Executive, Boards and Committees of the six Faculties and Institutes.

The office is responsible for the delivery of the RCPI postgraduate training programmes. The purpose of the department 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 Public Health Medicine and the other five Faculties and Institutes: Institute of Medicine, Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Faculty of Pathology and the Faculty of Paediatrics.

The office supports approximately 1,750 trainees and 1,300 trainers in the administration of our 29 training programmes. In terms of Public Health Medicine this is a four or four and a half-year HST programme.

For the academic training year 2020-21, given that Covid-19 presented many ongoing challenges, we were confident that trainees receiving a CSCST in summer 2021 had met their curricular requirements.

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. The department also develops and maintains the highest

professional standards of examinations which are relevant to excellence in medical care and are held at an appropriate time in a candidate's training.

Apart from leading in the development of virtual platforms and classrooms for education and assessment, the RCPI was the first training body in these islands to introduce written examinations by remote invigilation. Others are following our lead such as the Royal Colleges in the U.K.

Remote invigilation is where a candidate sits the same examination (structure, format and length) online, but in a quiet, secure place of the candidates choosing. Instead of travelling to an examination centre and sitting the computer-based examination with other candidates, a candidate does the same test as originally planned, but at their own computer, e.g. at home or at work. Candidates are supervised remotely by invigilators throughout the examination. It is used now in many high-stakes examinations throughout the world.

We have continued to successfully run our examinations by remote invigilation over the last year, ramping up to pre-pandemic examination candidate numbers from June 2020 onwards. We are offering the same number of examination diets as in previous years and we continue to support our BST and HST trainees in their career progression while at the same time looking after all our international and other examination candidates.

Clinical examinations are more complex to deliver, given the elements involved and the logistics. We have clinical / OSCE / OSPE examinations across a number of Faculties and Institutes and we also have overseas offerings in some Membership Examinations. These examinations were postponed in the spring and summer of 2020 but successfully recommenced late in 2020 and we have successfully delivered other diets in 2021.

Assessment and Programme Development

The Assessment and Programme Development department has responsibility for the educational development of the College's postgraduate training programmes and the College's membership examinations as well as supporting their delivery. The work of the department includes the design and development of an extensive range of postgraduate education programmes for doctors in training and for fully qualified specialists; the development of specialist training curricula and assessment methods and the on-going evaluation of all programmes and curricula.

Accreditation and Quality Improvement Office

As part of an overall approach to improving quality in postgraduate medical education and training, the RCPI and its constituent training bodies are committed to a programme of continuous quality improvement initiatives. One such project is the Trainer Programme

where we are rolling out a number of supports within an overall framework to better support all Trainers across the College. The project started in the Spring of 2021, with the appointment of a Clinical Lead.

These 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.

These initiatives, along with the recommendations from the Imrie Report commissioned by the RCPI, continue to form part of the overall strategic plan for postgraduate medical education and training. A key priority for this office is the establishment of a system of overall Hospital Accreditation. The first in this new model of Hospital Accreditation was successfully completed in June of 2021 and we will continue to roll this out across all of the College's training sites.

This office also supports the Medical Council accreditation of postgraduate training bodies and programmes as well as the assessment of applications to the Specialist Division of the Register.

Health and Wellbeing Department

Our health and wellbeing service is key for our trainees and the College takes this area very seriously. This department has a Director and a Manager. Apart from supporting individual doctors, this office is very proactive with various initiatives and projects ongoing at any one time.

Professional Affairs

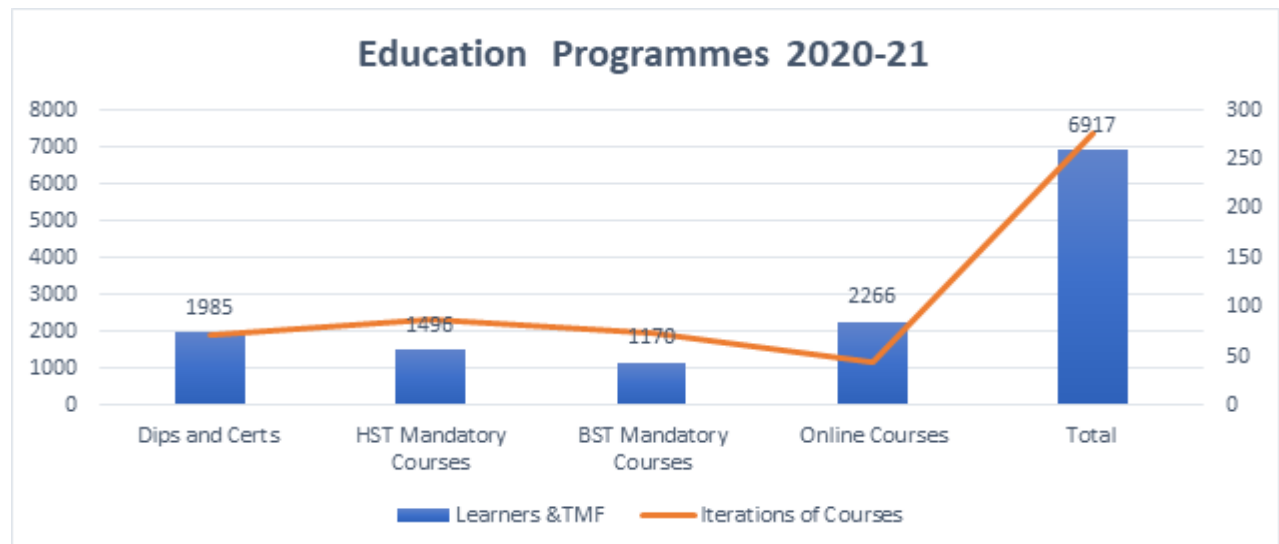
Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head of Professional Affairs

The most significant achievement for Professional Affairs during the Academic year was a successful application to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). RCPI's quality assurance procedures were approved by the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee to provide higher education healthcare awards up to and including Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications, delivered through face-to-face and blended learning modes.

As part of this application an Academic Board was established to oversee education programme developments. The Board meets quarterly, chaired by Dr Sinead Murphy. The first programme has been submitted for validation and it is hoped to submit further programmes at regular intervals throughout the next academic year.

Education Programmes and Events

Our Quality Improvement programmes continue to be well attended and we added a new SAFE collaborative for adults. A new online Certificate in Cancer Genetics was launched during the year aimed at doctors who are working in cancer care and have an interest in cancer genetics.

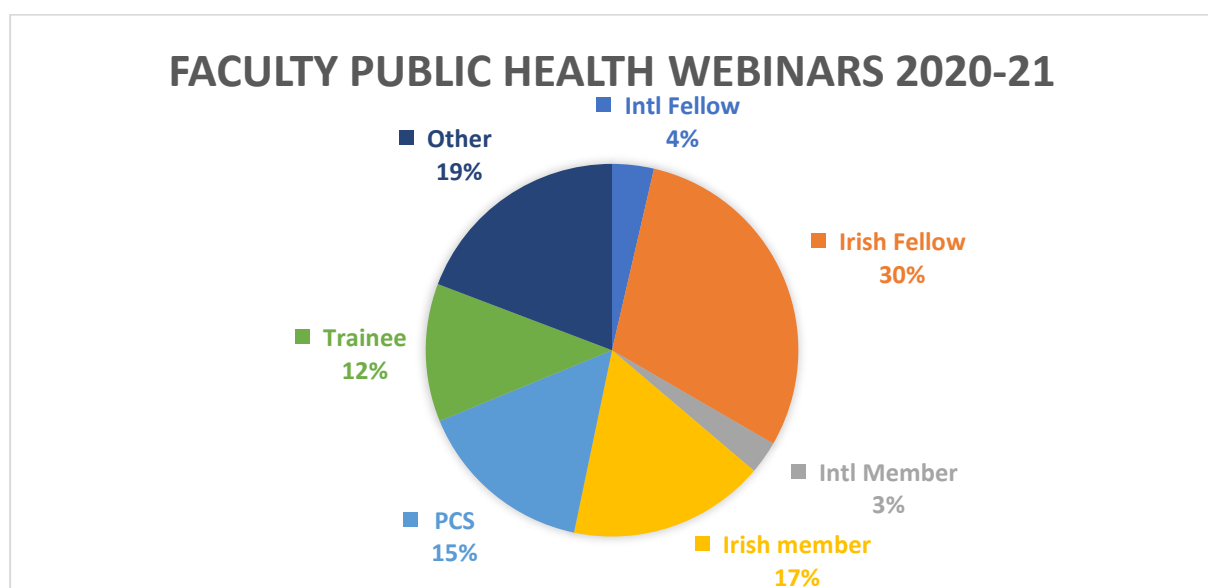
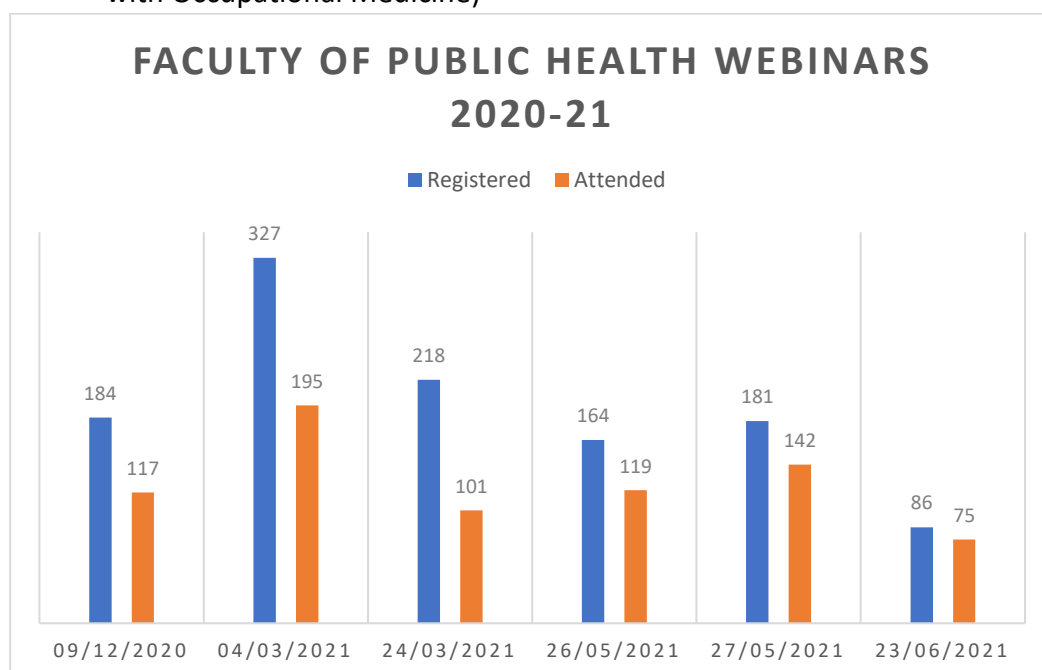


*TMF = Trainees, Members and Fellows

A total of 276 iterations of workshops and tutorials were executed throughout the year.

There were no in person conferences during the year to the end of June, but a large number of webinars were held. Webinars specific to Public Health included:

1. 9 December 2020. Faculty of Public Health Winter Scientific Part 1. Preparing for the Pandemic: Health Systems Fit for the Future + 9 abstracts
2. 4 March 2021: COVID 19: Where are We Now? (Jointly hosted with Occupational Medicine)
3. 24 March 2021. Faculty of Public Health Winter Scientific Part 2. Sars-CoV 2 in Australia + 5 abstracts
4. 26 May 2021- Faculty of Public Health Summer Scientific Part 1. Responding to Public Health Challenges
5. 27 May 2021- Faculty of Public Health Summer Scientific Part 2. The Public Health response to Covid 19
6. 23 June 2021-Issues of Concern: COVID, non-COVID and IT security. (Jointly hosted with Occupational Medicine)



- A total of 1,160 registrations were made for the six webinars, with a total of 749 attending. The average number of attendees was 135. Both the Winter and Summer Scientific were split over two days. The Winter Scientific had 218 attendances in total and the Summer had 261 in total. The most attended was the joint webinar with Occupational Medicine with 327 registrations and 195 attendees. The least attended was Issues of Concern: COVID, non COVID and IT security on June 23rd with 86 registrations and 75 attendees. This may have been due to the time of year and that IOM was hosting a webinar at the same time.
- Fellows made up 34% of total attendees, Irish members and fellows made up 47% and Internationals were 7%.
- In 2019 the Winter Scientific had 108 in person attendees vs. 218 attendances over two parts when hosted online in 2020.

A further webinar was held on November 2nd, titled Health Service Improvement and Self Care in a Time of Change for which 77 doctors registered and 48 participated. Lower attendance likely reflects COVID-19 related workload and holding the event on a Tuesday morning, clashing with workplace meetings.



Cartoon with thanks to Dr Eoin Kelleher and Harriet Wheelock, RCPI Archivist

Mandatory Training Courses

The Public Health mandatory courses delivered during 2020-2021 include the following:

- Ethics Foundation
- Ethics for Public Health
- Project Management

- Media Training
- HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- HST Mastering Communications
- Wellness Matters.

Other courses open to Trainees, Members or Fellows in Public Health during 2020-2021 were:

- QI in Action
- Introduction to data analysis using SPSS
- Physicians as Trainers – Essential Skills for Trainers
- Physicians as Trainers – Supervision and Performance Management
- Physicians as Trainers – Identifying and Managing Distressed Trainee
- Masterclass Series.

There are also a large number of stand alone online courses available.

Professional Competence

Compliance with Scheme Requirements

The overall percentage of participants across RCPI's 11 Professional Competence Schemes who met the PCS requirements for the 2020 – 21 PCS year was 87%, which is a significant improvement on previous years 2019 -20 and 2018-19 where the compliance rate was 38% and 77% respectively. The individual scheme compliance rates for the 2020-21 year ranged from 82% to 96%. The percentage of participants in the Faculty of Public Health Medicine who met the PCS requirements for the 2020 – 21 PCS year was 93% in the Specialist Division and 86% in the General Division.

The low compliance rates in the 2019-2020 PCS year reflect the COVID-19 pandemic. The Medical Council was aware of the enormous and unprecedented demands on doctors relating to patient care, resulting in limited time to participate in formal learning, travel restrictions and reduced time to record activities. The Council reduced requirements for that year and advised that Annual Statements would be annotated with 'COVID-19' to indicate that there were extenuating circumstances which prevented doctors from engaging in and recording the required CPD and Audit activities.

Submission of PCS Annual Reports to the Medical Council – 30 June 2021

The following 17 Annual PCS Reports were submitted to the Medical Council on behalf of our six training bodies on 30 June 2021:

- Qualitative Reports x 11 (1 per Scheme)
- Quantitative Reports x 6 (1 per training body)

Annual Verification Process (AVP)

The Annual Verification Process was undertaken for the 2018 - 2019 PCS year between September 2019 and March 2021. The extended period was due to pressures of the COVID-19 crisis that made it impossible for a number of Clinician Reviewers to complete this element of the process, so it was decided that it would be deferred until the initial crisis had passed. Clinician Reviews were finally completed in November 2020 and Review results were circulated to doctors in December 2020 giving doctors with corrective actions a deadline of 1 March 2021 to update their ePortfolio.

At the conclusion of the process, 144 (76%) of the initial group of 189 participants remain enrolled in a Professional Competence Scheme. Of these 144 participants, 67 (47%) have been verified with no further action required and 77 (53%) were verified with corrective action required.

As agreed with the Medical Council, Training Bodies will not carry out a Verification Process for the 2019 – 2020 PCS year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The Annual Verification of the 2020 - 2021 year has commenced. 12 doctors from the Faculty's General Division Scheme and 14 from the Specialist Division Scheme have been selected. Selected doctors were notified in July 2021 and were given until 27 August 2021 to make any edits to that year before a snapshot of the data in their ePortfolio would be taken for review. Reviews are currently in progress.

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 October 2020 to 30 September 2021:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	18	179
Non RCPI	314	1259
TOTAL	332	1438

Evaluation of Approved CPD Activities Provided by Other Individuals/Bodies

The RCPI facilitates a process of reviewing and approving external activities provided by other individuals or bodies for the purpose of awarding CPD credits. During the period 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021 RCPI approved a total of 295 such activities (1154 hours).

In line with the recommendations from the Healthcare Informed (HCI) Review of PCS, in March 2021 a new process was introduced to evaluate educational activities that have been submitted to RCPI for approval for CPD credits. When an application has been approved, a “Post Event Report” survey is circulated to Organisers and they are required to complete the survey within 3 weeks from the date their event took place. The survey allows comparison of the responses to the initial application. A quarterly report is submitted to the Education and Quality Committee.

Strengthened Model for Maintenance of Professional Competence

The Medical Council has undertaken a review to strengthen the Maintenance of Professional Competence Model (MPC Model). Dr Terry McWade and Prof Hilary Hoey, RCPI’s CEO and Director of Professional Competence respectively, RCPI represent the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies on the Working Group established by the Medical Council in 2020. The Working Group was asked to consider the MPC Model Framework, the Continuing Professional Development requirements, the inclusion of the Domains of Good Professional Practice and the monitoring and management of MPC compliance. In addition, they were requested to provide relevant examples of CPD activities contained in the skeletal MPC Model Framework.

The review resulted in modifications to the model established in 2011. The strengthened Framework is entering the final stages of completion. It will require ongoing discussions regarding implementation and the development of new clear and comprehensive guidance, along with support relevant to enrolled doctors in each RCPI Faculty and Institute. It will also require investment in information technology and ePortfolio development to facilitate the recording, monitoring and the verification process. The new MPC Model will be implemented during the 2023 – 24 PCS year.

Medical Council and AACME Review of CPD in Ireland

The Medical Council is currently collaborating with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACME) to develop CPD accreditation standards that align with national and international developments, to assure the quality and validity of CPD for medical practitioners.

The project entails a consultation process with key stakeholders to gain insights into existing guidance and systems that deliver and recognise CPD in Ireland. The information will be used to inform the development of standardised CPD accreditation criteria. The consultation

included a survey, followed by an interview with Dr Graham Mc Mahon, President and CEO of AACME. The survey provided an opportunity to promote RCPI's strong commitment to lifelong learning and CPD. We submitted one survey response on behalf of RCPI's six training bodies in July 2021.

The interview with Graham McMahon took place in August 2021. The RCPI was represented by the President, CEO, Director of Professional Competence, Director of Academic Programmes and the Head of Education and Professional Competence. AACME provided ten questions ahead of the interview which we addressed by way of a presentation. On completion of the consultation process, AACME will submit a final report and recommendations to the Medical Council.

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

The RCPI manages three National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes in Histopathology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Radiology. The goal of these programmes, which are funded by the HSE National Quality Improvement Team, is to optimise patient care through facilitating and supporting the use of evidence-based quality improvement in diagnosis and reporting. The data gathered by these programmes is accessed and reported on locally, and is aggregated in annual national data reports which are used to drive quality improvement in participating public and private hospitals. Each programme launches the national data report at an annual webinar with national and international speakers invited to discuss progress in the area of quality improvement in healthcare and to share experiences of best practice.

The Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer Services

The National QI Programmes in GI Endoscopy, Histopathology and Radiology QI participated in a collaboration, led by the Faculty of Pathology, with the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and Prof Mark Lawler, Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of Digital Health, Queens University Belfast, and Scientific Director DATA-CAN (Health Data Research, UK) to investigate the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on cancer services in Ireland. An initial report entitled "Deploying Data-Driven Intelligence to measure the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care and cancer patients", was published by the College in December 2020, to be followed by a report with additional data in the Autumn of 2021. This comprehensive study led by RCPI highlighted the value of the SQI Programmes' information systems in assessing the major impact on cancer services.

Endoscopy QI Report Published with Hospital Identifiable Information

The National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement Programme reached an important milestone in December 2020 by publishing its 5th National Data Report (NDR) at its first national QI webinar. This was the first NDR to publish hospital identifiable information. This step towards more transparent reporting was taken after consultation with all participating hospitals and as a result benefited from widespread support for this process. The

report analysed data from 34 public hospitals and 10 private hospitals, accounting for 225,069 procedures across the country and showed continued improvement during 2019 in each of the seven primary Key Quality Indicators.

Radiology QI Programme National Data Report to Receive Circulation in Irish Public Hospitals

In December 2020, the National Radiology Quality Improvement (QI) Programme published its first National Data Report which presented anonymised national quality improvement data. The QI data for predefined Key Quality Indicators presented in the report were collected from 45 participating public hospitals in 2019.

Funding for a new National Bronchoscopy QI Programme

Respiratory clinicians have successfully proposed setting up the first National Bronchoscopy QI Programme, to ensure the highest standards of patient care are both measured and achieved, with the intention of standardising and improving patient safety and outcomes. The HSE approved funding for this programme in March 2020. This programme will assist cancer centres in reaching the recently established Key Performance Indicators for lung cancer regarding patient access to procedures and completion of lung cancer staging and care plans. This programme will bring a further group of specialists into the QI sphere in healthcare in Ireland, managed by the College.

National Office for Traffic Medicine

The National Office for Traffic Medicine consolidated its position as a leader and innovator in the development and delivery of medical fitness to drive policy and practice.

The Office supported the development of the Government Road Safety Strategy (2021 – 2030) to be published in October 2021 which includes increased interventions to promote and support driver fitness. The NOTM will also play a role in actions to reduce alcohol-related road risk, including addressing recidivism using therapeutic/rehabilitative approaches.

The NOTM Director, Prof Des O'Neill and the Programme Manager, Dr Margaret Ryan represent the Road Safety Authority (RSA) on the pan-European International Commission of Driver Testing (CIECA) expert group on fitness to drive. This group published two seminal reports between 2020 and 2021 setting out standards for the evaluation of medical fitness to drive and disabled driver assessment. Prof O'Neill met with members of the EU Commission (DG MOVE) to outline recommendations for the revision of the EU Driver Licensing Directive.

The Office collaborated with the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) in developing a think-piece titled "Are medical fitness to drive procedures fit for purpose?". At a subsequent

webinar, Prof Des O'Neill presented an overview of the Irish National Medical Fitness to Drive programme as an example of best practice.

Members of the NOTM Working Group on Traffic Medicine attended bi-annual meetings of the UK Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical Advisory panels. These engagements promote the exchange of expertise between the two jurisdictions and support the alignment of policy around medical fitness to drive for licensing purposes.

The NOTM delivered two certificate courses (60 students) and online events including a Clinical Update (110 attendees), a Research Webinar (121 attendees), and the Mary Ward essay competition and related symposia (50+attendees) all of which were accessible to an international audience.

Research

The Hospital Doctor Retention and Motivation (HDRM) Project, funded by the HRB, is led by Dr Niamh Humphries in collaboration with Dr John-Paul Byrne and Dr Jennifer Creese, RCPI Research. Online interviews were held with 48 hospital doctors about the experience of working through the COVID-19 pandemic (wave 1). We shared our findings; published as three journal articles [1-3]; two opinion pieces [4, 5] and one cartoon (image 2). Findings were also shared with key policy makers to inform Ireland's pandemic response.

Images by Dr Eoin Kelleher @EoinKr



Figure 1: Cartoon depicting the HDRM Research Process 2020.



Figure 2: Cartoon (by @EoinKr) depicting initial research findings from HDRM 2020.

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RCPI International Affairs

Mr John Magner

Growth in International Medical Graduate Training Initiative

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 within these programmes are fully sponsored by their governments for the duration of their training.

RCPI offers two streams of training under this Initiative, Clinical Fellowship and Residency training, and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.



Dr Ziyad Himdy, Dr Abrar Ali and Dr Asmaa Milyani, Trainees on the International Clinical Fellowship Programme and the International Residency Training Programme

International Clinical Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training at a senior level for doctors who are post-Residency and who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen specialty or sub-specialty. These programmes are now

available in 35 specialty areas, including Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Respiratory Medicine, Rheumatology, Medical Oncology, General Paediatrics, Paediatrics Rheumatology, Paediatric subspecialties, Pathology, Public Health Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Palliative Medicine, Immunology and Occupational Medicine. In addition to offering Fellowship training in the general specialties, a new Special Interest Fellowship Programme has been launched, providing access to training at a sub-specialty level. Now in its seventh year of full operation, 95 Trainees have graduated from the Clinical Fellowship programmes and have returned home to embed their newly acquired knowledge and skills in health services in their own countries. This year, there are 56 trainees on this programme across all specialties.

The first trainee on the Clinical Fellowship Programme in Public Health Medicine completed the Masters in Public Health with University College Dublin in September 2021, before commencing clinical training with the HSE, Public Health East.

Once again, there was substantial interest in the next intake onto the Clinical Fellowship Programme in Public Health Medicine, with a total of 12 applications received for September 2022. These applications are under review by the National Specialty Directors and interviews will be held in December 2021.

International Residency Training Programme

The International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is offered to doctors upon completion of their Internship. This programme enables doctors to complete Residency training in Ireland before returning to their home country with a Saudi/Arab Board equivalent qualification and MRCPI. It is currently offered in Internal Medicine and Paediatrics.

Increasing Contribution to Global Health Efforts: the EQUALS Initiative

The EQUALS Initiative is a joint venture between RCPI and the HSE that supporting training and equipment needs in low-middle income countries.

In July 2020 and June 2021, four additional shipments of decommissioned medical equipment were sent from hospitals in Ireland to Lusaka, Zambia. The equipment was tested pre and post shipment by clinical engineers of the EQUALS Initiative, before it was distributed across the country to larger teaching hospitals and smaller health clinics.

To provide ongoing support of the new Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS), the EQUALS Initiative worked together with RCPI to develop a tailored Train the Trainer course, which was delivered to the ZACOMS Faculty in October 2019. RCPI and ZACOMS are now working on a further Train the Trainer course, for those senior Faculty members in Zambia who will deliver training to the wider Trainer cohort going forward.

Administration and contact details

Key personnel in RCPI who conduct work on behalf of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine include:

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Information on other departments is available on the RCPI website <https://www.rcpi.ie>