



**FACULTY OF  
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

# 2020-21 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 253 Fellows, 19 Honorary Fellows, 29 Collegiate Members and 91 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 MRCP qualifications since 1879.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

‘Ar scáth a chéile, a mhaireann na daoine’/ ‘Ní heart go cur le chéile’ reminds us all that we have strength in unity and the Faculty members and paediatric trainees, over the past 12-18 months have shown solidarity, resilience, compassion, and adaptability despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent very challenging HSE ransomware attack.

Many disruptions occurred to our family lives, work, education, teaching and research schedules and we have had to learn to be flexible and embrace change. However, with advances in medicine and the vaccine roll out, we look forward now with greater optimism, determination, and hope for the future.

Capturing the mood, we have heard Seamus Heaney been quoted, many times this year, *“If we can winter this one out we can summer anywhere”*.

I would like to highlight the significant number of developments that have occurred over the past year with a special thanks to all who continue to support and guide the Faculty of Paediatrics in ensuring the highest standards in ensuring training, education and child health. The progress would not have been possible without significant input from paediatricians, trainees, college staff and our invaluable Faculty team lead, Barbara Conneely.

I will now outline these developments further.

### **Faculty of Paediatrics Board/ roles and responsibility changes**

A special thank you to all on Faculty who are demitting from the Board or changing their roles, for all your work/ insight/ progression of Faculty duties.

Thanks especially to Prof Ellen Crushell, past Dean, for her support/ advice/ guidance and kindness to me in my first year as Dean. Prof Crushell continues her role as Clinical Lead in Paediatrics for the Clinical Programme. Additionally, she succeeded Dr Michael Barrett as Faculty Representative on the NOCA Governance Board.

- I am very grateful to Dr Judith Meehan, who is demitting as Honorary Secretary but will stay as Convenor of Meetings, for all her common sense, attention to detail and support this year. Dr Sinéad Murphy will succeed Dr Judith Meehan as Honorary Secretary, this year.
- Dr Pamela O'Connor has been appointed as Vice-Dean.
- In Oct 2020 we welcomed two lay members, to join the Faculty Board - Ms Sinéad Callinan and Mr James Doorley, who have contributed significantly to our meetings.
- Drs Juliette Lucey, Ikechukwu Okafor and Prof Michael O'Grady are newly elected Fellow Representatives on the Faculty Board, with 3-year tenures commencing in October 2021.
- Demitting from Fellow Representative roles are Drs Joanne Balfe, Colin McMahon and Ethel Ryan.
- In June 2021 Dr Carol Blackburn and Dr Jean Donnelly succeeded Prof Patrick Gavin and Prof Michael O'Grady as National Specialty Directors in HST General Paediatrics.
- Dr Edina Moylett succeeds Prof Michael O'Neill as Faculty Representative on the RCPI Research and Ethics Committee.
- Drs Anne Doolan and Michael Boyle have been succeeded in their roles as Neonatal Clinical Advisory Group (NCAG) Co-Chairs by Drs Mathew Thomas and Ann Hickey.

Welcome to all members with new Faculty responsibilities.

On behalf of us all, I would like to take this opportunity in acknowledging Prof Karina Butler's stellar leadership in chairing the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and guiding all of us along the COVID-19 vaccination journey.

## Advocacy

The Faculty had a busy year advocating for matters pertaining to acute hospital forensic medical services, palliative care services, ambulance care directives, national children's standards using health and social care services, children in Afghanistan, a national nursing strategy and mental health services.

We wholly and/or jointly released papers on breastfeeding, the health and education of children during the pandemic, and strategies to address the impact of the pandemic on children experiencing marginalisation and homelessness. We welcomed the government's paper on replacing direct provision over the next 4 years and highlighted the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on children's lives.

We endorsed endeavours to have paediatric emergency services recognised as a sub-specialty, plus endeavours to have paediatric intensive care medicine established as a dual CSCST which is under review by the College at present.

Liaison psychiatry: The Faculty collaborated with the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland to ensure a paediatric perspective with regard to physician input into a Model of Care for liaison psychiatry.

Age of consent to interventions: The HSE National Consent Policy Advisory Group undertook a review of the existing HSE National Consent Policy 2019 and sought the Faculty's input.

Palliative Care: The Board endorsed the document titled "*Priorities for Children's, Adolescents and Young Adults (CAYA) Palliative Care services within the clinical programme during 2021*", published by the National Cancer Control Programme, and supported the NCCP CAYA Palliative Care Subgroup in seeking prioritisation of AYA palliative care services within the clinical programme in 2021.

Forensic medical service: The Faculty highlighted a continued national deficit in the availability of an out-of-hours forensic medical service to meet the needs of acute forensic medical examinations for children <14 years in Ireland, plus the lack of a paediatric representative on the National Agency Steering Committee (NASC). A reply was received from Minister O'Gorman stating that an interdepartmental, inter-agency steering group is being formed to address the deficit. I joined the working group as Faculty representative to progress a national forensic service.

The Nursing Strategy: Faculty was invited to participate in the consultation process on the future direction of children's nursing in Ireland. The Faculty Board identified some themes important to child health: hospital care, care in the home, in the community, and key supports.

Faculty Board endorsed the submission document.

Impact of the pandemic: In January the Clinical Programme and the Clinical Advisory Programmes issued two documents:

- Briefing statement on the health and education of children during the pandemic.
- Strategies to address the impact of the pandemic on children experiencing marginalisation and homelessness. The new fulltime HSE role of Director of Public Health for children arose following this submission. Dr Abigail Collins was the successful applicant who will have oversight of the childhood screening programmes, the Healthy Childhood programme, with a focus on homeless and marginalised children.

A breastfeeding position paper was published on 14 May 2021 between the Faculties of Paediatrics, Public Health Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It 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.

The Irish Paediatric Transport Service (IPATS) extended service: IPATS provides an invaluable excellent service for the transport of sick children, currently on a 9-5, 6 days a week basis. The Board supported the proposal to expand IPATS to a 24/7 service and acknowledged that a reliable, sustainable workforce is a key factor in this full service roll out. A staffing model will draw from medical, nursing and paramedical for clinical operations. The principle is that the team will match patient complexity and will have a tiered structure. The Clinical Advisory Group strongly recommends a 24/7 service as it is an essential service for the management, and transport of, critically sick children between units. A lack of a 7-day service is very challenging for paediatric units. During Covid-19 the 7-day service was established for a period and welcomed.

Patient feedback mechanism: Faculty has written to the National Patient Experience Steering Committee in support of the development, at national level, of a mechanism to capture feedback from children, young people and their families on their experience of the paediatric health services.

### **Training and education**

The paediatric training programme continues to grow and develop due to the enthusiasm, hard work and positive attitude of our NSDs and staff at RCPI.

We continue to use online formats for activities such as study days, evaluations, examinations, workshops, recruitment interviews and inductions. Application numbers remain positive despite the on-going pandemic. Attendance at online educational events is very good, with higher numbers than previous in-person events. This will likely support a hybrid/ blended model for future educational events.

The HST Paediatric Cardiology programme graduated its first trainee July 2021. Moreover, it has evolved into an All Ireland programme, with the first candidate from Northern Ireland commenced training in July 2021. To our knowledge this is the first all-island training programme.

Four new Aspire post-CSCST Fellowships were recently advertised for 2022. There were Covid post-CSCST funded fellowships, four were awarded in Paediatrics for 2021. Congratulations to the infectious diseases/ palliative care/ inclusion medicine and allergy teams who were successful. These fellows are now in post.

Development of clinical guidelines: Faculty is working with the CHI Clinical Guideline Committee and Clinical Leads for children and neonatology, Prof Ellen Crushell and Prof John Murphy, to establish a system to develop national paediatric clinical practice frameworks/ guidelines for paediatricians across the country on a range of paediatric practice topics, for example - Perinatal Management of Extreme Preterm Infants at the Threshold of Viability. These will be very useful and practical for all paediatricians.

Paediatric Pocket Tutorials: this is a new development, led by Dr John Fitzsimons, encompassing bite-sized educational videos accessible online on paediatric topics which will be regularly updated. The Paediatric Pocket Tutorials will provide a wonderful learning opportunity for trainees and fellows of the RCPI, giving a good foundational knowledge in the art of paediatrics. Its potential flexibility is of undeniable benefit, whether used on-call or reflected on. The online accessibility allows for easier access and general applicability. This may have benefits globally for international trainees trying to gain access to educational resources which the college can support.

A paediatric pilot initiative with a steering group was launched by the Faculty and supported by the National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP), to progress policy development on paediatric trainees returning from leave (including maternity, pregnancy loss, and parental leave) and created pilot guidelines and a support system for trainees returning to the workplace. A 'strategies to implement' operations plan with feasible changes has been drafted. The paediatric trainees have been enthusiastic

- their engagement on this and in many other initiatives is wonderful. Maria Golden, our Faculty Manager who oversees Faculty activities, has led on this project and in particular has been instrumental in many aspects of our training programme development particularly working with NDTP/ Medical Council and other college faculties.

Development of International Clinical Fellowships in discussions (sponsored doctors): new fellowship curricula for international fellows have been developed in community paediatrics/ neurodisability with mental health and also in adolescent care/ mental health. Thanks to the clinical leads, programme director and trainers for facilitating and supporting the international trainees/ doctors.

Development Funding was awarded from NDTP for the development of a paediatric ECG interpretation and e-learning model by paediatric teams at CHI Crumlin.

IMC consultative forum: The Faculty is participating in a fundamental review of the principles of regulation in medical education and training, involving all postgraduate specialist training bodies.

Continuous professional development: The Medical Council is working in collaboration with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to develop CPD accreditation standards that aligns with national and international developments, thus ensuring the quality and scientific validity of CPD for medical practitioners. The questionnaire was completed by the college which provided an important opportunity for the College to promote its strong commitment to lifelong learning and CPD along with its professionalism and excellence in the provision of world class training and educational activities. Prof Hilary Hoey, RCPI Director of Professional Competence and her team submitted a response on behalf of RCPI's six training bodies.

The Faculty responded to the HSE's call to training bodies to establish supports for Non-Training Scheme Doctors (NTSDs). The goal was to establish learning needs and develop a programme of CPD-approved courses, to include assessment, offering generic and specialty-specific learning outcomes. We welcome Minister Donnelly's announcement allowing fair access to postgraduate training places and hopefully retaining more doctors in Ireland by providing equal training.

Other Faculty work included inputting into the development of RCPI's 3-year strategic plan to 2024 and into the National training strategy of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies. The joint All-Ireland Paediatric Committee (AIPC) met and shared island initiatives being explored. The committee will meet next on 25 February 2022.

### **Clinical Advisory Groups**

The Clinical Advisory Groups (Paediatric and Neonatology) are a subcommittee of the Faculty with 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. A significant number of documents have been developed on Covid-19 and child health policies.

Ms Helen Shortt (Assistant National Director, Specialist Acute Services-Acute Strategy and Planning) has been tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Model of Care. Ms Shortt presented to the CAG in March 2021 outlining the strategy and plans. Challenges faced in regard to emergency paediatric surgery, ambulatory paediatrics, mental health services and access to specialist care were discussed.

Documents listed in the annual report were reviewed with changes/ recommendations made in the Obesity Model of Care to be delivered. The working group in paediatric diabetes has developed a significant repository of National Paediatric Diabetes Guidelines.

New roles welcomed: A New Clinical Lead in Child Health Public Health started - Dr Abigail Collins who has joined the group. A National Clinical and Advisory Group Lead (NCAGL) for children and young people is welcomed with hopefully a closer focus on children and young adults.

Faculty have been kindly kept up to date on the developments of the New Children's Hospital by Dr Emma Curtis with exciting developments and progress welcomed. The New Urgent Care Centre at Tallaght planned will likely open in November/ December 2021.

## **Examinations**

As of 2021 the MRCPI examination is recognised by the GMC which is a welcome development.

Hoping to return to normal examination schedule 2021, thanks to the patience and perseverance of the Examination Committee under the leadership of Dr Ciara McDonnell, the Associate Dean of Paediatric Examinations. Presently the format for exams is:

MRCPI part 1: 100 question Single Best Answer (SBA) MCQ – Jan & April

MRCPI part 2: 80 question SBA MCQ/+20 Short Answer Questions- March & Aug

MRCPI part 2 clinical – May & November

Clinical examinations continued with support from excellent staff and facilities at the CHI urgent care centre at Connolly Hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Development of a new support structure for the delivery of the paediatric membership examinations is planned. The Associate Dean is to be supported by 2 new roles to be advertised shortly from within their committees - a chair for the SBA Committee and a Chair for the SAQ/ clinical exam. Each with responsibilities for respective exam papers/ committee meetings/ question blitzes/ clinical exams. The Associate Dean will provide overall oversight across the examination process/ feedback to trainees/ further audit and future planning/ review of examinations.

The Faculty plans to establish an examination award. A written proposal for a medal for the best performance in the clinical component of the MRCPI in Paediatrics and Child Health will be submitted to the Faculty Board for review.

Exploring bringing the MRCPI clinical paediatrics exams to Malaysia 2023: We have always had a small uptake of candidates taking written exams in Malaysia over the years and they would have travelled to Ireland to take the clinical exam. We received an email from Prof Husain Ismail, who has recently joined RUMC Penang, Malaysia's Head of Paediatrics. He has also acted as Head Examiner for RCPCHUK in Malaysia. Faculty agreed to explore opportunity/ plan for clinical exam 2023.

## **Governance**

The College has been implementing recommended governance changes following a review by Ernst & Young in recent years. As a result, Faculty has now established a governance working group, chaired By Dr Norma Goggin, to review Faculty and Faculty subgroups terms of reference. Further update next year on progress from this group.

## **Retired Paediatricians Group**

We remain grateful for the ongoing advice, wisdom and support for the Faculty from our retired colleagues. Excellent topics over zoom listed in this report and lovely to hear such collegiality. A highlight to look forward to, for all future retirees.



## Events/ awards

The **Faculty's Autumn Conference, online, on 09 October 2020**, included the awarding of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kathleen Lynn Medal to Dr Desmond Duff, retired paediatric cardiologist/ paediatrician with a citation by Prof Colin McMahon on Dr Duff's wonderful career and how he supported/ educated colleagues and trainees, and treated families with patience, kindness and professionalism.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Ralph Counahan Lecture was delivered by Dr Adrian Plunkett, Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care at Birmingham Children's Hospital. The title of his talk was *Learning for excellence*.

The inaugural Sir Henry Marsh trainee medal for best clinical publication was awarded to Dr Aisling Smith for *"Disclosing the Diagnosis of Down Syndrome: the experience of 50 Irish patients"* at the Autumn conference 2020. The day included the Faculty's AGM, where 2 Associate Members, 1 Collegiate Member and 13 Fellows were enrolled, with a virtual ceremony broadcast in December.

**Faculty Spring Conference, online, on 14 May 2021** had a theme of 'Paediatrics and the Pandemic'. Speakers included Profs Karina Butler, Elizabeth Barrett, Patrick Gavin and Dr Órla Walsh. Guest speaker was Dr Allan Goldman who has a new role as CMO at Children's Health Ireland. His talk was *"Risky Business, learning from other high risk industries"*

**Faculty of Paediatric webinars** 12 January 2021 from the Galway paediatric department on *Paediatric diabetes for the paediatrician*, and on 09 March 2021 from Waterford on *Updates from the Déise* had wonderful feedback and interest. Thank you to the paediatric teams for organising and delivering the informative educational webinars. Further webinars planned from the paediatric departments in Limerick and Cork on 11 January and 10 May 2022.

We plan to establish the Victoria Coffey Medal - an annual award to the lead author of the best paper by a paediatric trainee arising from work produced as part of a higher degree published in the preceding year or current year. The competition will be open to all paediatric trainees registered on RCPI training programme (BST, HST, CPSP, SMSP, International Residency Programme etc), for presentation at our Autumn Conference 2022.

Development of annual national awards, in recognition of excellence in clinical teaching, as directed/ voted upon by trainees, with presentation of the inaugural certificates planned for this Autumn Conference 2021. Four categories at present: Paediatrician/ Developmental Paediatrician (Dublin/ Regional units and outside Dublin), neonatologist and paediatric subspecialist.

We are starting to plan for the Faculty's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in October 2022, with support from Ms Harriet Wheelock, Keeper of Collections at RCPI. We are grateful to Dr Terry Bate and his team of retired paediatricians in their help with this celebration. If others would like to get involved, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank President Prof Mary Horgan, CEO Dr Terry McWade and our excellent college administrative staff, especially Barbara Conneely, Maria Golden, and Melana Martel for their ongoing support in ensuring the smooth running of our Faculty. Please do make contact if you have any suggestions or you would like information on developments in the Faculty.

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

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Faculty Board

The Board convened 6 times: 20 November 2020, 22 January, 26 March, 23 April, 25 June, 10 September 2021.  
Board Members were as follows:

Dr	Louise	KYNE	Faculty Dean, 2020 - 2023
Dr	Judith	MEEHAN	Hon Sec 2018 – 2021, Convenor - 2022
Dr	David	MULLANE	Hon Treasurer, 2018 - 2022
Dr	Joanne	BALFE	Fellow Rep, 2018 - 2021
Dr	Michael	BOYLE	NCAG Co-Chair; NSD (HST), Ex-Officio
Ms	Sinéad	CALLINAN	Lay Person, co-opted
Dr	Emma	CURTIS	Fellow Rep, 2020 - 2023
Dr	Ellen	CRUSHELL	Immediate Past Dean, demitting 2021; Clinical Programme Lead
Dr	Anne	DOOLAN	NCAG Co-Chair
Mr	James	DOORLEY	Lay Person, co-opted
Dr	John	FITZSIMONS	NSD (CPSP), Ex-Officio
Dr	Conor	HENSEY	NSD (BST), Ex-Officio
Prof	Hilary	HOEY	RCPI Director of Professional Competence, Co-opted
Dr	John Gabriel	JOYCE	Trainee Rep, Co-opted
Dr	Ciara	McDONNELL	Associate Dean of Examinations, Ex-Officio
Prof	Colin	McMAHON	Fellow Rep, 2018 - 2021
Dr	Anne Marie	MURPHY	NSD (HST), Ex-Officio
Dr	Sinéad	MURPHY	Fellow Rep 2020-2023; RCPI Director of Education; incoming Hon Sec
Prof	Susan	O'CONNELL	Fellow Rep, 2019 - 2022
Dr	Pamela	O'CONNOR	Fellow Rep, 2019 – 2022, incoming Vice-Dean
Dr	Angela	O'LEARY	Associate Member Rep, 2019 - 2022
Dr	Michaela	PENTONY	Trainee Rep, Co-opted
Dr	Ethel	RYAN	Fellow Rep, 2018 - 2021
Dr	Roy Gavin	STONE	Collegiate Member Rep, 2020 - 2023

### Faculty Representation

#### RCPI

RCPI Council: Dr Pamela O'Connor  
RCPI Credentials Committee: Prof Thomas Clarke  
RCPI Education Committee: Dr Anne-Marie Murphy  
RCPI Examinations Committee: Dr Ciara McDonnell  
RCPI Executive Board: Dr Louise Kyne  
RCPI Fellowship Steering Group: Dr Michael Boyle  
RCPI Group on Recruitment & Retention: Dr Paul Gallagher  
RCPI Policy Group on Alcohol: Dr Turlough Bolger  
RCPI Policy Group on Obesity, Prof Hilary Hoey  
RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco: Dr Des Cox  
RCPI Postgraduate Education Advisory Group: Dr Raymond Barry  
RCPI Professional Policy Group on GDPR: Dr Ellen Crushell  
RCPI Research & Ethics Committee: Dr Bernadine (Edina) Howard Moylett succeeded Prof Michael O'Neill  
RCPI Research Group: Prof Eleanor Molloy  
RCPI Steering Group for National QI Programme: Dr John Fitzsimons  
RCPI Steering Group for St Luke's Symposium 2021: Dr Sarah Geoghegan  
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

## External Agencies

All Ireland Paediatric Committee: Dr Raymond Barry, Dr Louise Kyne, Dr Emma Curtis, Dr John Gabriel Joyce, Dr Michaela Pentony & Dr Terry McWade  
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 Ellen Crushell & Prof Martin White  
European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology: Prof Hilary Hoey  
EURYP: 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 (previously called Quality & Risk): Dr John Fitzsimons  
Joint Forum/ NDTP Protected Training Time Working Group: Dr Anne-Marie Murphy  
HIQA Expert Advisory Group: Dr Ellen Crushell & Dr John Murphy  
HIQA focus group on Overarching National Standards for the Care and Support of Children using Health and Social Care 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 succeeded Dr Michael Barrett  
National Office for Clinical Audit Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon  
National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB): Dr Ellen Crushell  
NOCA Governance Board: Dr Ellen Crushell  
NOCA Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon  
Obesity Task force: Prof Edna Roche  
Royal College of Paediatrics in Child Health (RCPCH): Prof Hilary Hoey  
RCPCH Regional Advisors Committee: Dr Hilary Greaney  
TPN Expert Clinical Governance Group: Dr Paul MacMahon

## Changes to Faculty Committees:

Prof Nick Van Der Spek has succeeded Dr Joanne Balfe as chair of the Faculty's Community Child Health (CCH)/ Neurodisability Group.

The Child Protection Peer Review Group is chaired by Dr Louise Kyne.

## Board Composition:

3 Fellow Representative are elected onto the Faculty Board, from October 2021 to October 2024. The Board welcomes Dr Ikechukwu Anthony Okafor, Dr Juliette Lucey and Dr Michael Joseph O'Grady, and thanks Drs Joanne Balfe, Colin McMahon & Ethel Ryan who are demitting their elected roles, and furthermore thanks Dr Ellen Crushell who is demitting as Immediate Past Dean.

Board member Dr Pamela O'Connor is congratulated on being appointed the incoming Vice-Dean. This appointment is for 1 year.

I am demitting as Honorary Secretary and I wish the incoming Honorary Secretary, Dr Sinéad Murphy, every success in her 3-year role. I will continue as Convenor of Meetings until 2022.

**Dr Judith Meehan MD MA MB Bch BAO DCH FRCPI**  
**Honorary Secretary**

# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

## Faculty Income & Expenditure for Year End 30 June 2020 Commentary

### General

A surplus of €34,698 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2021. This is €2,398 (7%) higher than last year's surplus of €32,300.

### Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year end June 2021 was €119,057, a decrease of 25% 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 €41,095 in 2020/2021 versus €37,880 in 2019/2020, an increase of €3,215 (8%) on last year. Faculty admissions totalled €4,135 in 2020/2021 versus €7,620 in 2019/2020.

In 2020/2021, 67% of Associate Members, 83% of Collegiate Members and 92% of Fellows paid their subscriptions. In 2019/2020, 75% of Associate Members, 58% of Collegiate Members and 80% of Fellows paid their subscriptions.

#### Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

No physical events took place in 2020/2021; event fee income for 2019/2020 was €5,475. Sponsorship income of €5,000 was received CHI Crumlin. This has been deferred to the Balance Sheet and will be released to match expenditure when that occurs.

#### HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training.

The amount of €73,827 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover cost of overheads and administration running costs. This has decreased by €35,291 when compared to 2019/2020. In line with this decrease, the College overhead has decreased by €40,168 and wages

and salaries have increased by €4,877. 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 €93,759.

#### Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2021 were €8,980,460 of which €28,766 were apportioned to the Faculty - an increase of €2,919 when compared to 2019/2020.

### 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 €49,827 for the year, in line with 2019/2020. Included under direct costs are wages and salaries which increased by €4,877, no event costs compared to €7,189 in 2019/2020 due to Covid, administration costs and miscellaneous costs increased by €2,164

Overhead recharge of €37,629 has been charged to the Paediatrics accounts for 2020/2021 (€77,797 in 2020/2019). This constitutes 0.5% of the overall College overhead.

## NATIONAL SPECIALTY DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### **HST General Paediatrics**

151 trainees are registered on the HST scheme in General Paediatrics in Ireland for the 2021-22 academic year. 31 candidates were interviewed over a two-day period 09-10 March 2021. 31 appointments were made with all 31 first-year trainees taking up their positions in July 2021.

End of year evaluations were held on 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 21 May, and penultimate evaluations were held on 17 and 24 May. A total of 126 trainees were assessed. Interim assessments will be held again in November/December 2020.

CSCSTs were awarded to 16 trainees in July 2021 and a further 4 trainees are scheduled complete the programme on or before 09 January 2022.

In 2021 the programme bid farewell to outgoing NSDs Patrick Gavin and Michael O'Grady, who were succeeded by Carol Blackburn and Jean Donnelly following interview. The new NSDs commenced their posts in July 2021. The recruitment process for July 2022 will open on 01 October 2021.

- Dr Anne-Marie Murphy, National Specialty Director

### **HST Neonatology**

14 trainees are registered on the HST scheme in Neonatology in Ireland for the 2021-22 academic year.

End of year assessments were held on 25 May 2021 for 12 trainees. Due to leave and other circumstances, there were no graduates from the programme in July 2021.

Interviews were held on 18 February 2021 and 2 new trainees were appointed to the scheme.

The recruitment process for the July 2022 intake will open shortly with interviews due to be held in February/March 2021.

- Prof Martin White, National Specialty Director

### **HST Paediatric Cardiology**

5 trainees are registered on the HST scheme in Paediatric Cardiology in Ireland for the 2020-21 academic year.

Interviews were held on 19 February 2021. 3 candidates were interviewed and 2 were appointed.

The programme has become an All-Ireland programme in July 2021, and the first candidate from Northern Ireland commenced training in July 2021.

End of year assessments were held on 18 June 2021 for 4 trainees.

The programme graduated its first trainee, Colm Breatnach on 11 July 2021.

- Dr Kevin Walsh, National Specialty Director

## **BST**

There are currently 103 trainees enrolled in the BST scheme with 47 in year 1, 54 in year 2, and 2 entering a third year as a result of leave or flexible training.

Prof Michael O'Neill, Prof John Murphy, and Dr Conor Hensey continue as NSDs; Ms Melana Martel is the RCPI Medical Training Coordinator in Paediatrics, and Ms Maria Golden continues as Training Manager.

Interviews took place via video conference in February 2021 with excellent facilitation from the college. There is strong interest in BST in General Paediatrics, and we continue to have a high calibre of applicants to the scheme. 131 candidates were interviewed, and 46 trainees were appointed to the BST program. Each successful candidate was assigned a 2-year rotation with posts in neonatology, general paediatrics, and specialty paediatrics. The Faculty and NSDs continue to engage with the NDTP to advocate for further training posts in paediatrics.

All seven BST study days in the 2020/2021 academic year were delivered virtually and the feedback from trainees was broadly positive. We also offered online examination preparation sessions. We hope over the next year to have both virtual and in person study days should an initial test of a hybrid study day in September prove successful. We feel it is important that trainees have the opportunity to meet to develop with their peers and be able to support each other as a network.

Annual trainee assessment took place virtually in June, inclusive of feedback from trainers, review of logbook and training progress. The trainees highlighted the support of their local trainers and continued teaching and training even with altered working environments due to Covid-19 restrictions. A small proportion of trainees had difficulties in completing their membership, but the majority were successful in examinations earlier this summer. Approximately 70% of 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 appreciate the support all trainers and colleagues have provided to the BST programme and to the trainees over the past year, and we welcome any feedback.

Dr Conor Hensey, Prof Michael O'Neill, and Prof John Murphy  
National Specialty Directors

**SDR applications numbers from July 2020 to July 2021:**

New Applications Received: 8 in total (all General Paediatrics)

Written Reviews/Re-Apps Received: 8 in total

Recommendations made during this period

Initial Assessments (New applications):

- Recommended – 4
- Not Recommended - 4

Written Reviews:

- Recommended - 3
- Not Recommended - 2

Re-Applications:

- Recommended: 2
- Not Recommended: 1

Ms Siobhán Kearns, RCPI SDR Administrator

## EXAMINATIONS

Thanks to the continual incredible and voluntary contributions of the Examinations Committees we were able to return to the normal Examination Schedule in 2021. Challenges due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic were overcome with the aid of remote invigilation for the Single Best Answer (SBA) MCQ and Short Answer Question (SAQ) papers across the year. Clinical examinations maintained the high standard of previous years with the support of the excellent staff and facilities at the CHI Urgent Care Centre at Connolly Hospital. This enabled us to minimise risk to the children and parents who attended to support the examination process and without whom we would have not been able to proceed.

### **Audit and feedback cycle:**

Now that the new examination structure has been bedded in, we are working at providing a more supportive examination environment for candidates. Individual, directed feedback is given to all candidates unsuccessful in the clinical examinations. All candidates who fail a written paper on two or more occasions are offered a session to explore their approach to examinations, review their technique and support any further attempts. Once the clinical examinations are completed at year end the outcomes will be audited for the first two years to ascertain whether any aspects of the examination merit further review. An update on this will be provided in 2022.

### **Examination sittings in this calendar year:**

#### *Part I Written Examination (SBA 100 Questions)*

21 January 2021

63 sat the exam in total

46 sat the exam in Ireland of which 37 passed

17 sat the exam internationally of which 11 passed

This resulted in an 80% pass rate in Ireland, 65% overseas and an 76% pass rate overall.

Trainees: A total of 28 BST trainees sat the exam with 25 passing [BST pass rate 89%].

#### *Part I Written Examination (SBA 100 Questions)*

28 April 2021

55 candidates sat the exam in total

37 sat the exam in Ireland of which 20 passed

18 sat the exam internationally of which 7 passed

This resulted in an 54% pass rate in Ireland, 39% pass rate overseas and an 49% pass rate overall.

Trainees: A total of 9 BST trainees sat the exam with 6 passing [BST pass rate 67%].

#### *Part II Written Examination (SBA 80 Questions, SAQ 20 Questions)*

25 March 2021

93 sat the exam in Ireland of which 54 passed

29 sat the exam internationally of which 14 passed

This resulted in an 58% pass rate in Ireland, 48% pass rate overseas and an 56% pass rate overall.

Trainees: A total of 56 trainees sat the examination with 41 passing [BST pass rate 73%]

#### *Part II Written Examination*

26 August 2021 (SBA 80 Questions, SAQ 20 Questions)

72 candidates sat the exam in total

51 sat the exam in Ireland

21 sat the exam internationally

Trainees: A total of 29 trainees sat the examination

The results were not finalised at the time this article was submitted for publication in September 2021.

#### *Part II Clinical Examination*

Clinical Exams were only open to Irish based candidates between 2020 and 2021 due to travel restrictions and the changing requirements for isolation and quarantine. It is hoped that international candidates will be able to travel and participate in clinical examinations from May 2022.

27 November 2020

28 candidates sat in Dublin of which 24 passed, this resulted in an 86% pass rate.

Trainees: A total of 25 BST trainees took the examination with 23 passing [BST pass rate 92%].



5 March 2021

14 candidates sat in Dublin of which 13 passed, this resulted in an 93% pass rate.

Trainees: A total of 8 BST trainees took the examination with all 8 passing [BST pass rate 100%].

11 & 18 June 2021

40 candidates sat in Dublin of which 33 passed, this resulted in an 82% pass rate.

Trainees: A total of 32 BST trainees took the examination with 26 passing [BST pass rate 81%].

Our aim is to continue to encourage trainees to prepare for the examinations while we work to achieve a safe environment for all exam contributors/ candidates. While we have availed of remote invigilation this will be the only change to our examination format. We have engaged in online tutorials in advance of examinations and will continue to improve on examination preparation supports in conjunction with the Education Department.

#### **Conclusions:**

I continue to be grateful to all the members of both Paediatric Examination committees who have continued to provide endless input to ensure the examinations continued on schedule. We are always keen to welcome new colleagues to support our efforts.

SBA Committee: Dr Michael Riordan, Dr Turlough Bolger, Dr Taha Hassan, Dr Clodagh Sweeney, Dr Joanne Beamish, Dr Ciara Martin and welcome to Dr Eoin O'Curraín and Dr Sheena Durnin.

SAQ & Clinical Examination Committee: Dr Stan Koe, Dr Cathy Gibbons, Dr Niamh Lynch, Dr Muhammad Azam, Dr Louise Kyne and welcome to Prof Naomi McCallion and Dr Ngozi Osuafor.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Aisling Smith from the Education Department and to Sinead, Louise, Rachel, Virginia and Sirpa from the Examinations Department who provided solutions for every issue that arose this year. It has not been easy to manage and prepare examinations virtually in makeshift remote home offices, increased family commitments and non-stop emails and calls from both trainees and committee members alike. Yet they have done so with patience and understanding, and I would be lost without their tolerance and support.

On behalf of everyone involved in the running of the Paediatric examination set-up, I wish to acknowledge the importance of continued input from Paediatric departments around the country in the examinations. We look forward to the participation of both general and specialist Paediatricians in future examiner training days and question bank compilation events.

We continue to encourage consultant colleagues and senior trainees to submit questions for peer review.

**Dr Ciara McDonnell**

**Associate Dean for Examinations, Faculty of Paediatrics**

# NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR PAEDIATRICS AND NEONATOLOGY

## Model of Care for Paediatrics

The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology (NCCPN) developed a Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare services in Ireland. The National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services was approved by HSE Leadership in June 2016. The Programme has been liaising with the MoC Implementation Planning Team (HSE Acute Strategy & Planning).

## Clinical Lead and team

Dr Ellen Crushell was appointed to the role of Clinical Lead for Children in May 2020. Dr John Murphy is the Clinical Lead for Neonatology and Prof Nuala Murphy is the Clinical Lead for Paediatric Diabetes. Ms Jacqueline de Lacy is the Programme Manager.

The NCP for Paediatrics and Neonatology is under the remit of Dr David Hanlon, NCAGL for Primary and Community Care and Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, Integrated Care Lead. A new senior leadership role of National Clinical and Advisory Group Lead (NCAGL) for Children and Young People has been approved by the Chief Clinical Officer Dr Colm Henry and recruitment is underway. The NCP for Paediatrics and Neonatology will be under the remit of the new NCAGL for Children and Young People once appointed.

## Membership of the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) for Paediatrics

The CAG is co-chaired by Faculty Dean Dr Louise Kyne and Dr Paula Cahill, Paediatrician, Portlincula University Hospital. The Co-Chairs have invited representation from ICGP, Public Health and Paediatric Surgery to join the Paediatric CAG. The current CAG membership is as follows:

Aideen Byrne	Edna Roche	Louise Kyne	Davina Healy	John Murphy
Anne Doolan	Elizabeth Barrett	Martin White	Raymond Barry	David Mullane
Brendan O'Hare	Mary Devins	Ethel Ryan	Paul McNally	Niamh McSweeney
Ciara Martin	Hilary Hoey	Michael Boyle	John Twomey	Muhammad Azam
Clodagh O'Gorman	Jacqueline McBrien	Alan Mortell	Karl McKeever	

## Programme Work streams June 2020-June 2021

### Implementation Planning for the Model of Care (MOC) for Paediatric Health Care Services

The Clinical Programme has had regular meetings with Acute Strategy and Planning, supported by Price Waterhouse Cooper, to establish the future state of delivery of paediatric services within the regional and local units and to develop service specifications for paediatric care delivery in regional and local units as outlined in the MoC. The Implementation Planning Team and the Clinical Programme has engaged with the regional units to create awareness, receive feedback and to map the current and future configuration of paediatric healthcare delivery aligned with MoC recommendations.

### HIQA COVID EAG

Dr Crushell and Dr Murphy are members of HIQA's Expert Advisory Group providing advice and guidance to NPHE on matters relating to Covid-19. To date there have been 15 publications.

### Model of Care Status Update

The NCCPN are in the process of commencing site visits to each of the 19 units to identify what, where and how services are currently provided for children and young people, to assess what improvements since the publication of the MoC for Paediatric Healthcare Services and to take account of additional resources required to ensure that Regional and Local sites are positioned to provide services as per MOC and support the new Children's hospital.

### Children's Health Ireland (CHI)

Working closely with CHI Clinical Guidelines Committee (CGC) to develop National Paediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines. An approval process is being developed.

### Marginalised and Homeless Children

The NCCPN developed an implementation plan to support key recommendations set out in the report 'Actions to address the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Children experiencing marginalisation and homelessness'

### Healthy Childhood Programme

Working with the Healthy Childhood Programme to deliver a series of Webinars relating to Newborn Clinical Exam.

### **Waterford Paediatric Initiative**

- 8 consultant paediatricians are now in post
- 1 Consultant appointed-awaiting completion of paperwork and confirmation of start date

### **Obesity Policy and Action Plan Implementation Group**

The NCPPN collaborated with the Obesity Programme during the development of the recently published Obesity Model of Care and have been invited to join the Healthcare subgroup of the Obesity Policy and Action Plan Implementation Subgroup, DOH.

### **Integrating Care for Children and young people with disability**

Close collaboration with NCP for Disabilities to progress integrated paediatric care to children and young people aligned to the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDSCYP) policy, Paediatric Model of Care and Sláintecare.

### **Paediatric Diabetes**

The paediatric diabetes working group is chaired by Clinical Lead for Paediatric Diabetes, Prof Nuala Murphy. The working group has developed a significant repository of National Paediatric Diabetes Guidelines to support clinicians in the care of children living with diabetes, alongside a Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Resource Pack developed to support children and their parents.

Work streams June 2020-June 2021:

- Framework supporting Management of Diabetes in schools. (Approved)
- Annual Review and Co-Morbidity Screening in Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes (Approved)
- Management of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Young People with Diabetes (Approved)
- Transition Guidance form Paediatric Diabetes Services to Adult Diabetes Service- working group established.
- Collaboration with HSE Procurement, Aids and Appliances, Primary Care and NCP Diabetes (Adult) to advocate for roll out of improved technology and newer insulins

A key objective of the Paediatric diabetes working group is to establish a National Paediatric Diabetes Audit to drive service improvements nationally. The Clinical Programme has engaged with the National Office for Clinical Audit (NOCA) and is delighted that NOCA have approved the proposal for a national paediatric diabetes audit. A Steering Group with representation from all key stakeholders has been established.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic work streams**

As with all programmes Covid-19 has had significant impact on the progression of Programme work. NCPPN has worked in collaboration with HPSC, Primary Care, NIO, NPHET and the Faculty to develop supporting guidance documents for children and young people. A number of documents have been developed by the Programme in response to the pandemic as follows:

- 1 National Clinical Review on the Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on Children and Guidance on Reopening of Schools and the Normalisation of Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland
- 2 Review of the Impact of Covid-19 on services due to Covid-19
- 3 Actions to address the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Children experiencing marginalisation and homelessness- Published January 2021
- 4 Review of the Impact of Covid-19 on services due to Covid-19 submitted to Acute Operations to support resumption of services planning
- 5 Covid-19 Assessment and Planning Pathways for Children
- 6 Covid-19 Contact Tracing in School setting
- 7 Position Paper for NIAC re: prioritisation: Medically vulnerable children and vaccination for Covid-19 (coronavirus)
- 8 Interim Guidance: Paediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome temporally associated with SARS-CoV-2

**Dr Ellen Crushell National Clinical Lead for Children**

**Dr John Murphy National Clinical Lead for Neonatology**

**Dr Nuala Murphy National Clinical Lead for Paediatric Diabetes**

# CLINICAL ADVISORY GROUPS

## CAG in Paediatrics

**Remit:** 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 members of the 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, was nominated to the CAG in March 2021.

Clinical framework documents discussed with feedback:

- Anorexia Nervosa: The Acute Management of the Paediatric Patient
- Emergency Care Form
- Paediatric Sepsis National Implementation Plan draft
- Paediatric Diabetes Guideline updates (x 5)
- Model of Care for Obesity CYP Document
- National Clinical Review on the Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on Children and Guidance on Reopening of Schools and the Normalisation of Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland
- Actions to address the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children experiencing marginalisation
- Annual review and co-morbidity screening in Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes
- Managing Children with Type 1 Diabetes who use Continuous Glucose Monitoring or Flash Glucose Monitoring

Neonatal advisory group have finalised paper on Perinatal Management of Extreme Preterm infants at the Threshold of Viability.

CAG received updates from:

- Paediatric model of care Implementation planning: Ms Helen Shortt (Assistant National Director, Specialist Acute Services-Acute Strategy and Planning) has been tasked with overseeing the implementation of the model of Care. Ms Shortt presented to the CAG in March 2021 outlining the strategy and plans. Challenges faced in regard to emergency paediatric surgery, ambulatory paediatrics, mental health services and access to specialist care. Lots of discussion around subspecialties in regional centres, paediatric surgical service/ anaesthesia in addition to urgent care/ ambulatory units.
- Neonatal CAG: Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Mathew Thomas, Co-Chairs.
- “No More Silos” presentation from Dr G.J. Karl McKeever on ambulatory paediatric services in Northern Ireland. Dr McKeever outlined how the Dept of Health in N.I. is restructuring services to improve the interface between primary and secondary care. Lots of information that would be useful for Sláintecare.

New roles welcomed: a New Child Health lead in Public Health, and a National Clinical and Advisory Group Lead (NCAGL) for Children and Young People.

Date of CAG Meetings: 20 November 2020, 12 March 2021, 24 Sept 2021.

**Dr Paula Cahill and Dr Louise Kyne, Co-Chairs**

## Neonatal CAG

**Date of meetings:** 07 July 2020 and 20 October 2021

### Membership:

Co-chaired by Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Mathew Thomas, who succeeded Dr Anne Doolan and Dr Michael Boyle (3-year tenures complete). The Neonatology CAG Members are as follows:

Adrienne Foran	Eleanor Molloy	Matthew Thomas
Afif Faisal El-Khuffash	Emma Gordon	Naomi McCallion
Anna Curley	Ethel Ryan	Pamela O'Connor
Brian Sweeney	Gene Dempsey	Peter Filan
Brian Walsh	Hilary Hoey	Raymond Barry
Colm O'Donnell	Jan Franta	Regina Cooke
David Corcoran	Jan Miletin	Rizwan Kahn
Davina Healy	John Kelleher	Sean Denyer
Deirdre Sweetman	Lisa McCarthy	Shahid Saleemi
Elaine Neary	Martin White	Aisling Smith

### Programme Work streams June 2020 - June 2021:

- Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia in Ireland Report published April 2021
- Perinatal Management of Extreme Preterm Birth at the threshold of Fetal Viability Document published November 2020
- Discussions with the Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection regarding a change in the definition of a stillbirth from 24 weeks gestation to 23 weeks gestation. This will require a change in the civil legislation which can be brought to Government in Q3, 2021
- HIPE data on newborn care -Following discussions with the HPO it has been agreed that routine newborn care will be captured as separate item on the HIPE coding system commencing January 2022
- The appointment of Ms Julie McGinley as Neonatal Coordinator to NWIHP (October 2020).
- The appointment of Ms Margo Dunworth as the National Neonatal Resuscitation Co-Ordinator (November 2020).
- The appointment of 4 SLTs to the 4 tertiary neonatal units (2020/2021).
- The appointment of 3 clinical psychologists to Cork, Limerick, and Galway (2020/2021).
- The development of the retro-transfer neonatal programme-to launch November/December 2021.
- The interstate SLA between Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland for maternal and neonatal transfers.
- Development of a Standard Operating Procedure- Testing infants for congenital CMV following 'no clear response' on universal new-born hearing screening
- Implementation of DDH ultrasound screening programme is on-going with the focus for 2021/2022 to agree appropriate governance, audit and quality assurance for the DDH Screening Programme
- Biliary atresia algorithm developed and published
- Neonatal Heart Valve Donation guidance document developed and published
- Funding secured to appoint a Project Co-Ordinator to develop a suite of national neonatal algorithms, and framework for practice documents.
- Advisory document for the Management of an Infant under 3 months with a fever over 38C (November 2020).
- Funding for development of the Neonatal Parenteral Nutrition Programme (25, 000 euro)
- Responses to PQs including:

Neonatal tongue tie service	The Groningen protocol
Fetal alcohol syndrome	The number of live births following TOP
In-utero diagnosis of cleft lip and palate, and talipes	Preterm birth rates over the past 10 years.
Bereavement care during COVID	

Prof John Murphy, National Clinical Lead for Neonatology  
Dr Ann Hickey, Co-Chair Neonatology CAG  
Dr Mathew Thomas, Co-Chair Neonatology CAG

## RETIRED PAEDIATRICIANS GROUP

The Retired Paediatricians Group (RPG) met on Zoom on two occasions over the past year. We were grateful to be able to use the RCPI technical facilities and support as well as those from the Faculty. Although the length of time for presentation and discussion at these meetings was restricted both were informative and enjoyable. We are very grateful to the speakers who all managed excellently to navigate the technology in order to deliver their memorable contributions.

At the 30 October 2020 meeting Prof Joe Mc Menamin talked about *"Transnational Medical Education in Bahrain"*, Dr Desmond Duff took us through *"Developments in Paediatric Cardiology over 30 years"* and Prof Anthony Ryan stimulated our minds with his talk entitled *"Developing thought through visual strategies"*.

The second Zoom meeting was held on 15 April 2021, during the period when we were receiving our Covid-19 immunisations. Our three speakers appropriately and generously offered to speak to us about the effects of various epidemics past and present and how they were dealt with. Prof Philip Mayne talked about *"The Cholera Epidemic 1839-1835"* in which one of his relatives, Dr Robert Mayne, was involved. Dr Michael Mahoney related the history of *"The Cork 1956 Polio Epidemic"* from which he emerged unscathed, and Prof Karina Butler kept us up to date when she delivered an address entitled *"The RCPI National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) versus Covid-19"*. Each of the topics presented warranted a longer allocation of time and we are grateful to the speakers who managed to deliver very stimulating contributions despite the constraints of time and the technology.

We have arranged to hold our next meeting in person on 22 October 2021 provided the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions are not reintroduced. That meeting will be preceded by lunch.

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 Education Function is to pursue excellence in all that we do. Key parts include the delivery and supports for training, examinations, accreditation, and quality assurance/ quality improvement supports for RCPI's Faculties and Institutes, health and wellbeing as well as 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 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 RCPI Council, Executive, Boards and Committees of the six Faculties and Institutes.

The 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: Institute of Medicine, Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Faculty of Pathology.

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

### HST Completing Trainees

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.

### BST Completing Trainees

Similarly, second year BST trainees met their curricular requirements for awarding of BST certification. End of year assessments were undertaken on time during May and June 2021 to allow for career progression.

### **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 have relevant excellence in medical care and are held at an appropriate time in a candidate's training.

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 written examination by remote invigilation. Others are following our lead such as the Royal Colleges in the UK. 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 we would normally have, 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.

Remote invigilation is where a candidate sits the same examination (structure, format and length) online, but in a quiet, secure place of the candidate's 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.

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. These examinations were postponed in the spring and summer of 2020 but successfully recommenced in Ireland in November 2020 for Paediatrics 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 medical educational 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, 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 supports in an overall framework to better support all Trainers across the College. The project formally started in the spring of 2021 and has 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, 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

### Overview

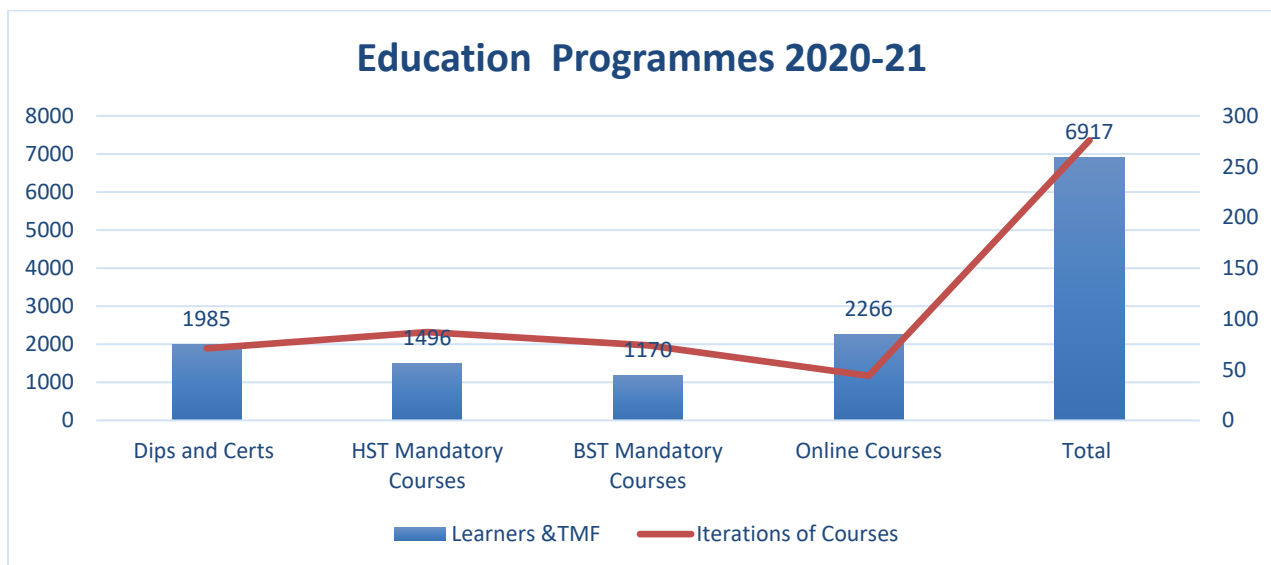
The most significant achievement for Professional Affairs during the Academic year was a successful application to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). RCPI's QA procedures were approved by the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee (ARC) for the scope of provision of all higher education award types up to and including Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications in the area of Healthcare delivered through face-to-face and blended learning modes. As part of this application RCPI had to implement a number of new governance structures including an Academic Board to oversee all education programme developments. The Academic Board has been established, meets quarterly and is chaired by Dr Sinead Murphy. Following approval, RCPI has submitted its first programme for validation and hopes to submit further programmes at regular intervals throughout the next academic year.

### Educational Programmes and Events

A total of 276 iterations of workshops and tutorials were delivered in academic year 20/21. A number of Diplomas and Certificates were delivered including the Diploma in Community Paediatrics and the Diploma in Paediatrics in partnership with iheed. The iheed diploma partnership continues to be a huge success and a total of 668 learners participated in the programme during 20/21. This was split between 242 Irish participants and 426 international participants.

Paediatric Pocket Tutorials are being developed by RCPI in collaboration with the Faculty of Paediatrics. This project was led by John Fitzsimons who is working with colleagues from many paediatric specialties around Ireland. Endorsed by the Faculty of Paediatrics, these bitesize, bespoke video contributions will be available for free from our online learning environment for all Paediatric Trainees, Members and Fellows of RCPI. Additional resources, algorithms, courses and key information sources will be signposted in each section. The initial section launched is in Paediatric Neurology but further topics will include cardiology/ allergy/ dermatology/ metabolic medicine/ neonatology/ endocrinology/ child protection/ respiratory and others. New sections will be released as they are complete.

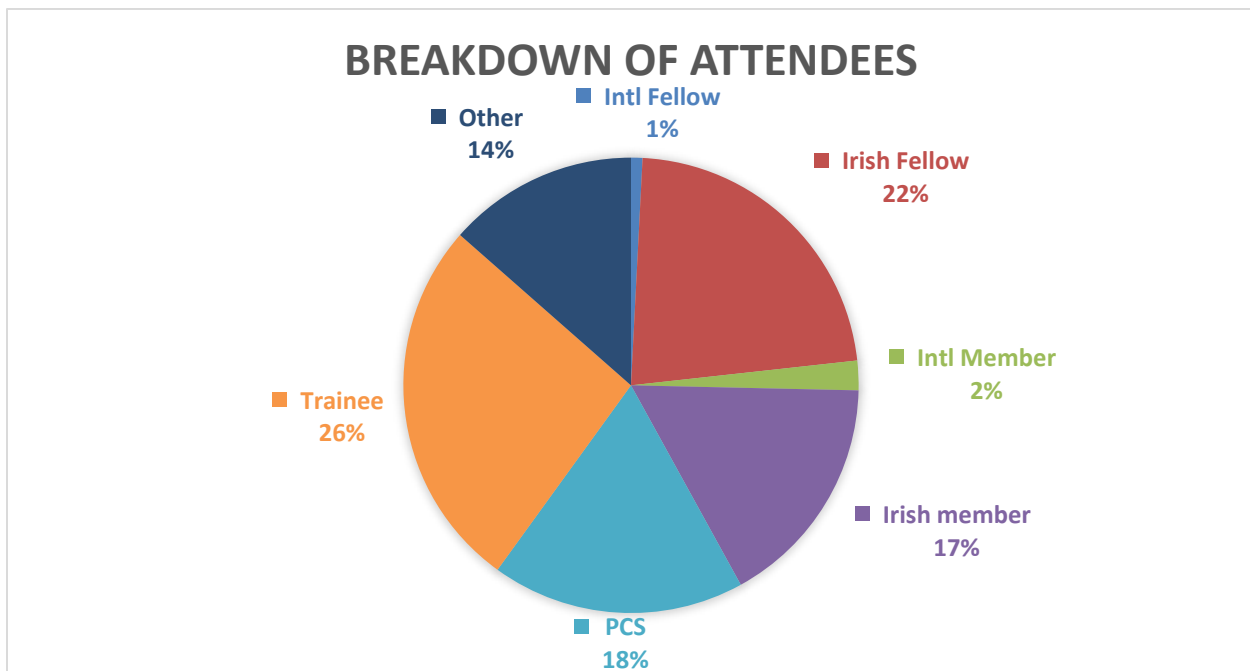
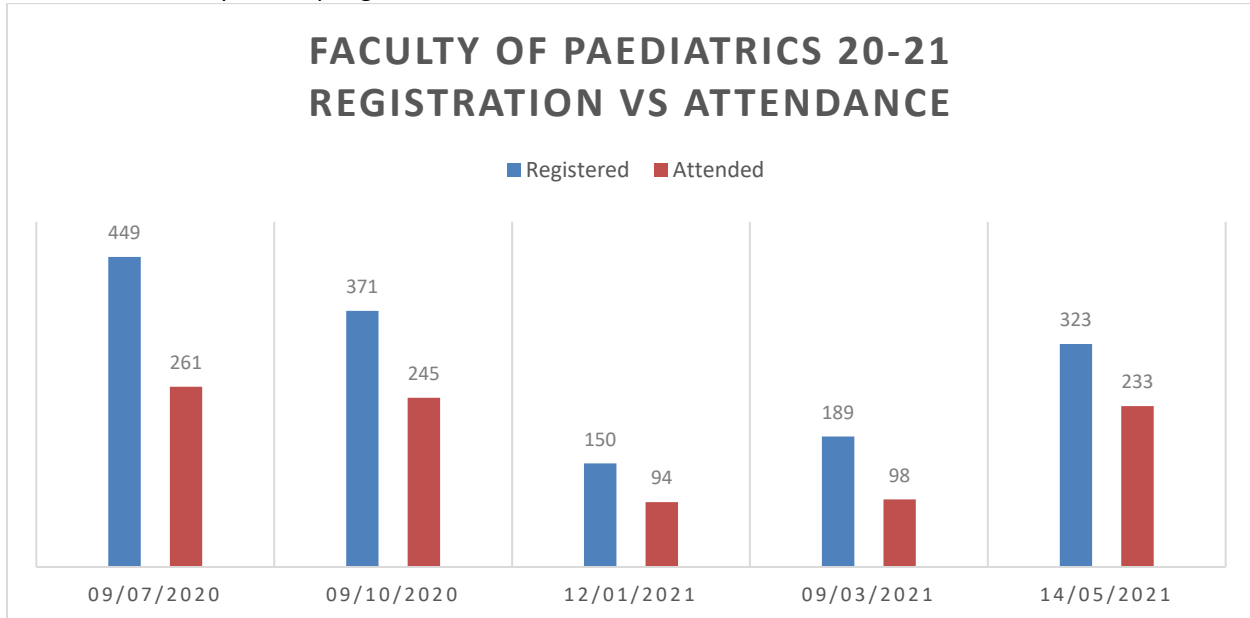
Our Quality Improvement programmes continue to be well attended and we added a new SAFE collaborative for adults. A new online Certificate in Cancer Genetics was launched during the year. This 6-month programme is aimed at doctors who are working in cancer care and have an interest in cancer genetics. The key learning outcomes of this Certificate was to ensure medics have the appropriate skillset to champion the mainstreaming of genetic testing in practice with patients in routine oncology clinics. It will improve the understanding and application of targeted cancer treatment with multi-disciplinary input, informed screening recommendations of higher risk individuals, and provide awareness of limitations and utilities of new genetic technologies to improve patient care.



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

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

- July 2020: What's New in Acute Paediatrics?
- October 2020: Autumn Conference: 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Ralph Counahan Memorial Lecture
- January 2021: Diabetes in Children
- 9 March 2021: Updates from the Déise - Diagnostic challenges, Iron intake and Simulation in Paediatric Medicine
- 14 May 2021: Spring Conference: Paediatrics and the Pandemic



There were a total of 1,479 registrations across the five webinars, with a total of 931 attending. The average number of registrations was 186. The most attended the 'What's New in Paediatrics' webinar in July with 449 registrations and 261 attendees. The least attended was the December webinar with 150 registrations and 94 attendees. Fellows made up 23% of total attendees, Irish members and fellows made up 39% and Internationals were 3%. Trainees were the largest group at 26%.

#### CPD-SS

A total of 502 doctors signed up to RCPI's CPD-SS scheme which is the highest number since the scheme began. Over 200 doctors attended these courses in 2020-21 which was also the highest level of engagement and attendance on courses vs previous years. Based on feedback from participants, we now offer the mandatory HST training courses as part of the CPD-SS programme.

## **Mandatory Training Courses**

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

- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Principles of Antibiotic Use for Paediatricians
- Safe Prescribing for Paediatricians
- Child Protection
- Paediatric Procedural Skills
- Childhood Development Disorders
- Ethics Foundation
- Ethics, Safe Prescribing Skills and Blood Transfusion for Paediatrics
- Ethics for Paediatrics
- An introduction to Health and Research methods
- HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Mastering Communications
- Performing Audit
- Child Development Disorders

Other courses open to Trainees, Members or Fellows in Paediatrics in 2020-2021 were:

- QI in Action
- Wellness Matters
- 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 including the Advanced Masterclass during St Luke's week

There are also a large number of standalone online courses available.

## **Professional Competence**

### **Summary of Key Activities in 2020 - 2021**

#### **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 Paediatrics who met the PCS requirements for the 2020-21 PCS year was 89% in the Specialist division and 70% in the General Division.

The low compliance rates in the 2019-2020 PCS year reflect the Covid-19 pandemic, which had a major influence on the PCS requirements that year. 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 Medical 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**

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 of this process was a result of pressures of the COVID-19 crisis that made it impossible for a number of Clinician Reviewers to complete that 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 to update their ePortfolio by 1 March 2021.

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 their data in ePortfolio is 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 September 2020 to 31 August 2021:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	23	194
Non RCPI	317	1288
TOTAL	340	1482

### **Evaluation of Approved CPD Activities Provided by Other Individuals/Bodies**

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 activities (1154 hours) provided by other individuals or bodies. In line with the recommendations from the Healthcare Informed (HCI) Review of PCS, in March 2021 a new process was implemented to evaluate educational activities that have been submitted to RCPI for approval for CPD credits. When an application has been approved for CPD credit, 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 includes questions that will allow us to compare the results to the initial application. An audit of survey results is carried out on a quarterly basis and the findings are reported 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, CEO RCPI and Prof Hilary Hoey, Director of Professional Competence, RCPI are the Forum representatives on the Working Group established by the Medical Council in 2020 to review and strengthen the Maintenance of Professional Competence Model (MPC Model). This review has resulted in modifications to the model established in 2011. The Working Group were 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 new strengthened skeletal Framework is entering the final stages of completion. It will require ongoing discussions regarding the implementation, 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 relating to provision of new comprehensive guidance, 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 working in collaboration with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACME) to develop CPD accreditation standards that aligns with national and international developments, thus ensuring the quality and scientific validity of CPD for medical practitioners.

The project entails a detailed consultation process with key stakeholders to gain greater insight into existing

guidance and systems that deliver and recognise CPD in Ireland. The information gathered this during process will be used to inform the development of a set of standardised CPD accreditation criteria.

The consultation process consisted of a survey, followed by an interview with Dr Graham Mc Mahon, President & CEO of AACME. The survey provided us with an important opportunity to promote RCPI's strong commitment to lifelong learning and CPD along with its professionalism and excellence in the provision of world class training and educational activities. On 30 July we submitted one survey response on behalf of RCPI's six training bodies.

The interview with Graham McMahon took place on 12 August 2021 and the RCPI representatives were the President, CEO, Director of Professional Competence, Director of Academic Programmes, Head of Education and Professional Competence Manager. AACME provided us with 10 questions ahead of the interview which we addressed by way of a presentation. On completion of the consultation process with all stakeholders, AACME will submit a final report and recommendations to the Medical Council.

### **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.

As a senior road safety stakeholder here in Ireland the Office supported the development of the forthcoming Government Road Safety Strategy (2021 – 2030) which will be published in September. This includes increased activities to support and promote driver fitness. We will play a prominent role in activities designed 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. Subsequently, Prof O'Neill met with members of the EU Commission (DG MOVE) to outline policy recommendations for the revision of the current EU Driver Licensing Directive.

The Office also collaborated with the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) in developing a think-piece on medical fitness to drive entitled "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.

Closer to home, six 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 knowledge and expertise between the two jurisdictions and support the alignment of policy around medical fitness to drive for licensing purposes.

We also 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.

### **National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes**

RCPI currently 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 via these programmes is also 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 between the Faculty of Pathology (RCPI), the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and Prof Mark Lawler, Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of Digital Health, Queens University Belfast; 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 led by the College in December 2020, a report with additional data will be published in September 2021. This is a comprehensive study led by RCPI and one that has identified the value of the SQI programmes data collection and analysis in assessing the significant impact on diagnoses in cancer services.

### **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 using quality improvement. 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 decision plan. This programme will bring a further group of specialists into the QI sphere in healthcare in Ireland, managed by the College.

#### **First 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 on a national level. This step towards more transparent reporting was taken after consultation with all participating hospitals and as a result benefited from widespread support for the de-anonymisation 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 in each of the seven primary Key Quality Indicators during 2019.

#### **First 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. This was the first Radiology National Data report to receive circulation within the Irish health care service.

#### **Research**

The Hospital Doctor Retention and Motivation (HDRM) Project is a HRB-funded research project led by Dr Niamh Humphries and involving Dr John-Paul Byrne and Dr Jennifer Creese, RCPI Research. In 2020, HDRM interviewed 48 hospital doctors about the experience of working through the Covid-19 pandemic (wave 1). In line with government restrictions, interviews were conducted via Zoom. We have shared our research findings nationally and internationally; published as three journal articles [1-3]; two opinion pieces [4, 5] and one cartoon (see image 2). Findings were also shared with key policy makers to inform Ireland's pandemic response.

Images (by Eoin Kelleher @EoinKr)



Figure 1: Cartoon (by @EoinKr) depicting the HDRM Research Process 2020.



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

## References

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## International Affairs

### 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, Fellowship and Residency and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.



### International Residency Training Programme

Our 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 Membership of RCPI. It is currently offered in Internal Medicine and Paediatrics.

Within the IRTP in Paediatrics, there is currently 1 doctor in training in Ireland and an additional 10 in the Gulf countries working to meet the requirements to begin in post in Ireland. We are also planning to open for Recruitment in October 2021.

### International Clinical Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training at a senior level for doctors 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 sixth year of full operation, 97 Trainees have graduated from our programmes and have returned home to embed their newly acquired knowledge and skills in health services in their own countries. This year, we have 58 trainees on this programme across all specialties.





#### International Trainee figures for Paediatrics for the 2020 - 2021 training year

The Clinical Fellowship Programme has been very successful in the Paediatrics Programmes with a large number of graduates across the relevant Specialties. Particular gratitude goes to the National Specialty Directors, Clinical Leads, Programme Director and Trainers for facilitating and supporting the International Trainees. Feedback from trainees has been excellent and all have praised the quality of the services, training opportunities and the overall teaching. In total, 14 trainees have graduated from our Paediatric Fellowship Programmes.

Presently, we have 18 trainees participating in the Programme across a number of specialties as detailed in the table below.

#### Current Trainees

Specialty	Programme	Current Trainees
Paediatric	Residency	1
General Pediatrics	Fellowship	3
Paediatric Cardiology	Fellowship	1
Paediatric Interventional Cardiology	Fellowship	1
Paediatric Hematology/Oncology	Fellowship	1
Paediatric Respiratory	Fellowship	2
Paediatric Rheumatology	Fellowship	2
Paediatric Emergency Medicine	Fellowship	2
Paediatric Allergy and Immunology	Fellowship	2
Paediatric Infectious Diseases	Fellowship	1
Paediatric Endocrinology	Fellowship	1
Paediatric Neurology	Fellowship	1
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>

#### RCPI IMG HSE Scholarship Programme Intake

The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan's (CPSP's) working relationship with the HSE and the Forum of the Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, continues to provide a Postgraduate Scholarship Programme in Ireland

for doctors from Pakistan. This allows doctors who are enrolled with the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan to complete two years of their training in Ireland.

The Sudan Medical Specialisation Board (SMSB) has joined the CPSP in offering the programme in 2018 and their first cohort of trainees from Sudan completed their programme in 2020.

There are 70 doctors from the CPSP and SMSB currently in training in various medical and surgical specialties.

Currently in Paediatrics, we have 6 trainees in year 1, 4 trainees in year 2 and 8 doctors graduated in July 2021.

### **Increasing Contribution to Global Health Efforts under the EQUALS Initiative**

The EQUALS Initiative is a joint venture between RCPI and the HSE that supporting training and equipment needs in less developed 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.

Further to 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 that will deliver training to the wider Trainer cohort going forward.

### **Site Quality Improvement (QI) Model, previously known as Training Site Accreditation**

In December 2019, the RCPI Executive committed to a continuous data-driven, quality improvement model of site visits from the historical model of episodic visits. Site visits would still be undertaken in the event of voiced or written concerns about site suitability for training.

Recognising the challenges and risk to the transition process the Executive requested that a risk-based approach to the scheduling of the overdue inspections be introduced in 2020.

Each Paediatric training site that was due/overdue (10 in total) were contacted and asked to complete the following documentation:

- Training Site Activities form (to be submitted by the Medical Manpower)
- Specialty Accreditation form (to be submitted by the Lead/nominated trainer within the department)
- Trainee form (to be submitted by the current trainee in post)

All documentation was reviewed by the relevant NSD and no issues or priority inspections were scheduled as a result.

The Site QI Model commenced in June 2021 with the first site, Galway University Hospital. All 21 specialties on site were reviewed over a 5-day period including BST and HST Paediatrics. An extern, Dr Oliver Corrado, reviewed all generic documentation received from the site and attended each specialty session to ensure independence and fairness to the process.

<b>FPAED Total Trainer Number</b>	177
<b>FPAED Historically Approved Trainers</b>	90
<b>FPAED Trainers completed course</b>	69
<b>FPAED Trainers Approved awaiting course</b>	18

## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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

<b>Faculty Coordinator:</b>	Barbara Conneely	01 8639 728 <a href="mailto:paediatrics@rcpi.ie">paediatrics@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Training Coordinator:</b>	Melana Martel	01 8639 616 <a href="mailto:MelanaMartel@rcpi.ie">MelanaMartel@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Examinations Administrator:</b>	Louise Treacy	01 8639 614 <a href="mailto:LouiseTreacy@rcpi.ie">LouiseTreacy@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Medical Training Manager</b>	Maria Golden	01 8639 711 <a href="mailto:MariaGolden@rcpi.ie">MariaGolden@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Professional Competence Scheme Administrator:</b>	Deirdre Donegan	01 8639 703 <a href="mailto:DeirdreDonegan@rcpi.ie">DeirdreDonegan@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Specialist Division of the Register</b>	Siobhán Kearns	01 863 9720 <a href="mailto:SiobhanKearns@rcpi.ie">SiobhanKearns@rcpi.ie</a>
<b>Training Site Accreditation</b>	Georgina Farr	01 8639 695 <a href="mailto:GeorginaFarr@rcpi.ie">GeorginaFarr@rcpi.ie</a>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 11 Jan 2022 Webinar from Limerick paediatric dept
- 10 May 2022 Webinar from Cork paediatric dept
- 13 May 2022 Faculty Spring Conference
- 21 Oct 2022 Faculty Autumn Conference & AGM



## **FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

19 South Frederick Street, Dublin D02 X266, Ireland

Email: [paediatrics@rcpi.ie](mailto:paediatrics@rcpi.ie)

Tel: +353 (0)1 8639 728

Social Media links:

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