



FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Cover image: *Faculty of Public Health Medicine Admission Ceremony, RCPI, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin, May 2022.*

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About the Faculty of Public Health Medicine

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

The Faculty achieves this aim through:

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

Supporting Functions

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

- Postgraduate Training and Examinations: Mr Colm Small, Head
- Education: Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head
- Healthcare Leadership: Dr Trevor Duffy, Head
- CTO & Digital: Mr Michael Hughes, Chief Technology Officer
- Development: Ms Sinead Lucey, Head of Business Development
- Corporate Services: Ms Sheila Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer
- Communications: Ms Siobhan Creaton, Head

All of the above are under the management of the CEO, Dr Terry McWade

A Message from the Dean

Prof Cecily Kelleher



Dear Members and Fellows,

This year's annual report marks another eventful period for public health in Ireland and across the globe. We continue to contend with SARS-CoV-2 incidence infections across the country, though the success of the vaccination programme, including the booster campaigns, has played a vital role in keeping down the rates of severe illness, hospitalisations and ICU admissions. Over the last year we have seen restoration of many aspects of everyday life in our community

and our Faculty members continue to play an instrumental role in protecting the public health. This year has seen the emergence of Mpox in Ireland also and the cases in this country are part of an ongoing outbreak of the disease in Europe, the Americas and other regions worldwide.

Our training and education programmes go from strength to strength, as this report shows, and I would like to thank all those making a contribution to the work of our Faculty. The standard of applicants for the Higher Specialist Training programme in Public Health Medicine is extremely high; eleven Specialist Registrars commenced training in July. Dr Niamh Bambury, now a Public Health Medicine Aspire Fellow, is leading on the evaluation of the Outcome Based Education (OBE) curriculum. This year saw the introduction of the new Part III examination.

The implementation of the public health reforms in the HSE has seen the phased introduction of the consultant in public health medicine posts, the establishment of new regional departments of public health and expansion of inter-disciplinary teams. Congratulations to all those appointed to date and every success into the future at a time of such importance for public health.

The scientific meeting programmes and webinar series continue to provide top-class content of both invited and submitted presentations. The awards this year included the inaugural Kevin Kelleher award, made to Public Health Medicine Specialist Registrar Dr Phillipa White at the Winter Scientific Meeting part II on 1st February.

In May, we again had an excellent programme featuring presentations on the war in Ukraine and consequent refugee crisis, on air pollution and climate change. Joint Webinars were also held with the Faculty of Occupational Medicine at RCPI and also with the ISSPHM (Irish Society of Specialists in Public Health Medicine).

Highlights included:

- The first in-person admissions ceremony, since the onset of the pandemic, which included 5 honorary conferrals, was held on 24th May followed by a Gala dinner.
- The Summer Scientific Meeting was held in a hybrid format and received excellent feedback from attendees. This year's Winter Scientific Meeting promises to be as noteworthy.
- Board and committee meetings were held throughout the year (further details in the reports below).
- We oversaw 7 doctors graduate and welcomed 11 new trainees onto the Programme.
- Sittings of the MFPHMI Part II and Part III were held in person this year. These were the first in-person sittings of either examination since 2020.
- An RCPI-wide review of Fellowships which will be considered at this year's AGM.

On behalf of the Faculty, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the work of the Faculty throughout the year.

And finally, a word of special thanks and recognition to my predecessor as Dean, Prof Emer Shelley, who demits from the Board this year. Emer provided outstanding leadership and support to the Faculty's work throughout the pandemic period and Board members were unanimous in their appreciation at the November meeting. She has been to the vanguard of every aspect of education and training over the years at the Faculty, and this contribution has had a truly lasting impact on public health practice in Ireland. We wish her well into the future.



Prof Cecily Kelleher

Dean, Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Faculty Representation

Expert Group	
RCPI Training Committee	Dr Anne Sheahan
RCPI Research Committee	Dr Howard Johnson
RCPI Collegiate Membership and Engagement Steering Group	Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick
Working Group for Recognition and Regulation of Multidisciplinary Public Health	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Health and Wellbeing Committee	Dr Mary Ward succeeded Dr Heather Burns Dr Celia O'Hare succeeded Dr Treasa Kelleher
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Quality and Patient Safety Committee	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
RCPI Trainees' Committee's Public Health Forum Representative	Dr Lucinda Ryan succeeded Dr David Kelly
The Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group of the Department of Health	Prof Cecily Kelleher
National Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme - Clinical Advisory Group Membership	Dr Fiona Cianci
Medical Council Consultative Forum on the Regulation of Education and Training	Prof Cecily Kelleher
National Immunisation Advisory Committee	Dr Mary Ward
Faculty in Northern Ireland (FINI)	Dr Lourda Geoghegan
Education and Faculty Affairs Committee (UK)	Dr Triona McCarthy
National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases	Dr Derval Igoe Dr Ruth McDermott
HIQA HTA on newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan

Business of the Honorary Secretary

Prof Cecily Kelleher

The Board met on 6 occasions (inclusive of one interim Board meeting) between January and December 2022, on 12th January, 30th March, 15th June, 14th September, 19th October and 9th November. The names and attendance of the Board members are listed below in the accordance with Standing Order XVII (v).

The following members will be demitting from the Board upon completion of their term of office: Prof Emer Shelley, Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Dr Ruth McDermott and Dr Teresa O'Dowd. Their advice and support have been much appreciated throughout the year.

Prof Cecily Kelleher served as both Dean and Honorary Secretary during the past year. Prof Emer Shelley served as Past Dean on the Board and Dr Kevin Kelleher was appointed as Honorary Treasurer. Dr Anna Clarke was re-elected as Faculty Fellow on Council and took up the role of the Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Dr Paul Kavanagh will take up the role of Honorary Secretary in 2023.

Dr Anne Sheahan serves on the Board as an ex-officio member in her capacity as National Specialty Director (NSD). Great credit and thanks are due to Dr Sheahan and Dr Triona McCarthy, Deputy NSD, for their unflagging commitment in supporting the Higher Specialist Training Programme.

The Dean established a Policy and Advocacy Group within the Faculty Board, for a period of a year, for review of policy documents received by the Faculty. Thanks to Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Dr Kevin Kelleher, Dr Anne Dee and Ms Janis Morrissey, who are part of this group.

The Faculty admission ceremony took place in person at No. 6 Kildare Street on the evening of 24th May as part of the two-day Summer Scientific Meeting.

RCPI President Professor Mary Horgan, Professor Colm Bergin, Professor Karina Butler, Professor Rose-Anne Kenny and Professor Philip Nolan were made Honorary Fellows of the Faculty for their significant contribution to medicine and public health. During the ceremony, 12 Fellows, 11 Members, three Diplomate Members and one CSCST were also conferred in person. It was an evening of celebration for all conferees. Seven doctors completed Higher Specialist Training since the last AGM.

Currently the Faculty of Public Health Medicine has 41 Honorary Fellows, 147 Fellows, 95 Members and 5 Diplomate Members.



Prof Karina Butler, Prof Michael Keane, Prof Mary Horgan, Prof Philip Nolan, Prof Cecily Kelleher, Prof Colm Bergin and Prof Rose-Anne Kenny at the Faculty Admission Ceremony.

The Board

The Faculty is governed by the Board, the Chair of which is the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean attended meetings of the College Executive Board on behalf of the Faculty.

Board membership for the 2021/2022 period, and Board attendance, was as follows:

Board member	Position	No. of meetings
Prof Cecily Kelleher	Dean	6
Prof Emer Shelley	Past Dean	5
Dr Mary Ward	Convenor of Exams	6
Vacancy	NI Affairs Rep	
Dr Ruth McDermott	Member	4
Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick	Fellow	4
Dr Teresa O'Dowd	SpR	4
Prof Alan Baird	External member	6
Ms Janis Morrissey	External member	4
Dr Anna Clarke	Faculty rep on Council	4
Dr Lourda Geoghegan	Fellow	4
Dr Anne Sheahan	NSD	6
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Honorary Treasurer	5
Prof David Weakliam	Fellow	4
Dr Anne Dee	Fellow	4
Dr Geraldine McDarby	Member	4
Dr Douglas Hamilton	Member	4
Dr Fiona Cianci	Member	5
Dr Paul Kavanagh	Member	5

I am grateful to Faculty Officer, Dr Kevin Kelleher, for his support with finances during the year, and also to other Board Members for their invaluable input into the Faculty's work.

Sincere thanks also to the chairs of the Faculty's subcommittees, including Dr Anna Clarke, Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Dr Derval Igoe, Chair of the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee, Dr Emer O'Connell, Chair of the Meetings Committee, for their tremendous contributions in the past year, and also to all those who participate in these committees, your dedicated time and expertise have been appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr Paul Kavanagh, Convenor Part I, Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor Part III, and especially Dr Mary Ward, Convenor of Examinations and Convenor Part II, who have done an excellent job in holding examinations with such high standards.

I would also like to thank Professor Mary Horgan, Dr Terry McWade, and Ms Sheila Gallagher for their support and counsel. Acknowledgement and gratitude also to college administration staff, Mr Colm Small, Mr Louis Lavelle, Ms Barbara Conneely and most especially to Ms Ritika Sureka for their hard work and organisation. Thanks also to Ms Kate Healy, Marketing and Membership Manager, Mr Barry Quinlan, Finance Manager, Ms Hadas Levy, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Mr Guilherme Martins and Ms Mary Hernandez in the events team, Ms Niamh O'Sullivan, Communications Manager, and all RCPI colleagues for their ongoing support.

Honorary Treasurer and Finance Report

*Dr Kevin Kelleher, Honorary Treasurer,
Mr Barry Quinlan, RCPI Finance Manager,*

Income and Expenditure for Financial Year ended 30 June 2022 Commentary

General

A surplus of €10,291 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2022. This is a decrease of €18,358 (64%) on last year's surplus of €28,649.

Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year-end June 2022 was €120,462. This has increased by €27,980 (30%) on last year and is mainly due to an increase in Event Fee income and Admission income.

Income is classed under three broad headings:

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

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €23,347 in 2021-22 versus €23,646 in 2020-21, a decrease of €299 (1%) on last year. Admission income was €9,680 in 2021-22 versus €0 in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, 87% of Fellows, 78% of Members, and 22% of Diplomats (new affiliation) paid their subscriptions.

In 2020-21, 70% of Fellows and 67% of Members paid their subscriptions.

Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

Event fee income for 2021-22 was €19,437 compared with €0 in 2020-21. This is due to the recommencement of the FPHM Winter Scientific and Summer Scientific meetings following the Covid-19 pandemic.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training.

The amount of €67,997 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover cost of overheads and administrative running costs. This has decreased by €839 when compared to 2020-21. The overhead recharge from the College is €48,143, an increase of €10,514 from 2020-21.

Historically, the loss for the Faculty has been capped at €6,800 and the College absorbed the remainder of the overhead. The charging of overheads is being reviewed by an external consultant as part of the Faculties and Institutes reserves.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2022 were €8,623,753, of which €178,195 was apportioned to the Faculty. The investments apportioned to the Faculty have decreased by €7,371 in 2021-22, compared with an increase of €18,832 in 2020-21.

Costs

Costs are categorised as follows:

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

Direct Costs


Direct Costs total €54,657 for the year, an increase of €9,621 (21%) on last year.

- catering, which increased by €12,820,
- wages and salaries, which decreased by €4,789,
- travel & accommodation, which increased by €478,
- and other direct costs, which increased by €1,112.

The higher spend in 2021-22, versus 2020-21, is due to overall increased activity following Covid-19, and the recommencement of the FPHM Winter Scientific and Summer Scientific meetings.

Overhead recharge

Overhead recharge of €48,143 has been charged to the Faculty of Public Health accounts for 2021-22, compared with €37,629 in 2020-21. This constitutes 0.7% of the overall College overhead.

Statement of Profit & Loss Faculty of Public Health Medicine		 FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE <small>ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND</small>			
	30/06/2022 Actual	30/06/2022 Budget	Variance	30/06/2021 Prior Yr Actual	Variance to Prior Yr
Income					
Fee Income	19,437	17,500	1,937	-	19,437
Subscriptions Income	23,347	17,300	6,047	23,646	-299
Admissions/Conferring Income	9,680	2,000	7,680	-	9,680
HSE Main SLA Funding	67,997	67,200	797	68,836	-839
	120,462	104,000	16,462	92,482	27,980
Direct Costs					
Direct Catering	-10,607	-14,250	3,643	-	-10,607
Direct Beverages	-1,980	-	-1,980	-	-1,980
Direct Wages & Salaries	-28,542	-32,923	4,381	-32,785	4,243
Direct PRSI	-3,149	-3,638	489	-3,622	473
Direct Pension	-1,345	-1,709	364	-1,601	256
Direct Employee Benefits	-183	-	-183	-	-183
Direct Office Catering	-	-	-	233	-233
Direct Accommodation	-478	-4,000	3,522	-	-478
Direct Travel - Other	-	-7,300	7,300	-	-
Direct Subsistence	-	-1,500	1,500	-	-
Direct Telephone	-	-	-	-794	794
Direct Stationery	-	-320	320	-	-
Direct Photography	-800	-	-800	-	-800
Direct Presentations, Gifts, Medals	-1,745	-900	-845	-3,700	1,955
Direct Meeting Costs	-2,761	-	-2,761	-	-2,761
Direct IT Operations: IT Managed Service	-1,668	-	-1,668	-	-1,668
Direct Subscriptions	-1,400	-1,400	-	-	-1,400
Direct Bursaries	-	-10,000	10,000	-	-
Direct Miscellaneous Costs	-	-8,900	8,900	-2,768	2,768
	-54,657	-86,840	32,183	-45,036	-9,621
Gross Profit	65,805	17,160	48,645	47,446	18,359
Indirect Costs					
Overhead Allocation	-48,143	-	-48,143	-37,629	-10,514
Investments					
Unrealised Gain/Loss on Valuation of Investments	-7,371	-	-7,371	18,832	-26,203
NET INCOME(LOSS)	10,291	17,160	-6,868	28,649	-18,358

Statement of Financial Position
Faculty of Public Health Medicine


	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
Fixed Assets		
Investments at Cost	178,195	185,566
	178,195	185,566
Current Assets		
Bank & Cash	134,527	112,436
Accrued Income	64,556	68,836
Intercompany - Amounts Owed from College	40,352	41,873
	239,435	223,145
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	-800	-
Creditors Control Account - Reverse Charge Supply	-	-500
Accruals	-660	-420
Deferred Income	-	-1,912
	-1,460	-2,832
Net Current Assets	237,976	220,313
Net Assets	416,171	405,880
Surplus & Reserves		
Reserves		
Opening Retained Reserves	405,880	377,231
Profit & Loss Account	10,291	28,649
Equities and Reserves	416,171	405,880

As the College finances are generally being reviewed, particularly the reserves, the Faculty only has a relatively small figure available for discretionary spending mainly as a consequence of fees.

The College and Faculties/Institutes reserves have been reviewed by an external consultant. Corrections have been made to the reserves of each Faculty/Institute to take account of the charities regulator reserves and the under allocation of College overheads for support costs such as Finance, Facilities, IT, HR, etc. from 2013 to 2022. This resulted in development reserves for the Faculty/Institute (subject to approval limits etc.). For year end 30 June 2023 income and costs have been allocated across the College and Faculties/Institutes. The plan is that the Faculties/Institutes will commit to a balanced budget.

National Specialty Director

Dr Anne Sheahan, NSD

Dr Triona McCarthy, Deputy NSD

Overview

Special acknowledgment and thanks are given to Heads of Departments and Trainers for the continuation of the important function of specialist training as we continued to deal with the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and as Crowe Horwath Reform implementation began. This included a restructuring of the 10 Departments of Public Health into six Areas.

Congratulations and all good wishes for the future to those who obtained their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training since the last AGM: Dr Geraldine Casey, Dr Louise Hendrick, Dr Eimear Burke, Dr Mary Neville, Dr Treasa Kelleher, Dr Niamh Bambury and Dr Louise Marron.

We welcome the trainees who started Higher Specialist Training (HST) in July 2022: Prof Patricia Kearney, Dr Nicola Murphy, Dr Michael Hanrahan, Dr Ciara Carroll, Dr Thomas Roux, Dr Muireann de Paor, Dr Ann Marie Murray, Dr Emma Kearney, Dr Fionn Donnelly, Dr Orla Cotter and Dr Cian Dowling-Cullen. With these 11 trainees starting the Programme, there are 40 Specialist Registrars in Public Health Medicine and one International Clinical Fellow.

Induction

The Faculty and RCPI support staff provided an in-person induction day on 12th July for incoming 1st year SpRs. The attendees were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Cecily Kelleher, who commented on the depth and wealth of experience brought to the Programme by these new trainees. Presentations on the day outlined experiences of current SpRs, the role of a trainer, and an overview of the training programme and SpR teaching sessions. The new trainees were given background information on the reform of the public health service, the curriculum, training requirements, how to record progress and balancing the master's in public health course with other requirements in the first year of training. The latter part of the day focused on the business and HR processes associated with training, with presentations given by Edel Martin, HR Officer, and Kristin Concannon, Business Manager in the Office of the National Clinical Director Health Protection.

The topics and speakers for this induction are outlined below:

Time	Schedule	Speaker
10.30	Introductions	Prof Cecily Kelleher Dean
10.40	Training Pathway For Public Health SpRs	Dr Anne Sheahan NSD
11.00	Overview of RCPI and FPHM	Dr Triona McCarthy Deputy NSD
11.15	Role of a Trainer	Dr Keith Ian Quinyne Dept PH, North-East
11.25	SpR Teaching Sessions	Dr Declan McKeown NHIU
11.45	Coffee	
12.00	HSE HR Induction	Ms Edel Martin HR Officer, Public Health Dr Kristin Concannon Business Manager, Office of the National Clinical Director for Health Protection
13.00	Lunch	
13.30	SpR Experience and Getting Involved in Your Training	Dr Philippa White 3 rd year SpR
13.50	Q&A and Discussion	

A second induction session was provided virtually on 25th July by Mariangela Esposito from the RCPI Education Department. The session covered information on the ePortfolio and also included a Q&A session. We are very grateful to all those who contributed to the sessions.

Curriculum Review

The new outcome-based Curriculum for Higher Specialist Training has been in place for one year and the incoming trainees are also using this. A training session for trainers and trainees was provided by Aisling Smith from the RCPI Education Department who continues to support this work. She has received feedback on the user experience and has incorporated changes into the ePortfolio.

The Board agreed that it was timely to undertake a review of the new curriculum and Dr Niamh Bambury agreed to lead this review. Dr Bambury, who has completed training and is now undertaking an ASPIRE Fellowship in Cancer Intelligence, had previously supported the development of the curriculum. A subgroup has been convened and this work is underway. Membership includes 1st and 2nd year trainees, trainers who have used the new curriculum and members of the RCPI Education Department.

Study Hours

Thursday afternoons continue to be used as protected time for SpRs. A schedule of study session topics and training days have been organised. Thanks to the speakers who have presented on a wide variety of topics at these study hours. A special thanks also to Dr Louise Marron, former lead NCHD, and to the incoming lead Dr Philippa White for organising the sessions. A particular thank you to Dr Declan McKeown of the Health Intelligence Unit who has provided detailed sessions for many of the study sessions and has also facilitated other contributions. The North South SpR prize event did not take place again this year, but plans are in place to deliver this in early 2023. Discussions are ongoing with Denise O'Hagan from Northern Ireland.

Progress in Training

End of Year Evaluations with trainees and trainers took place in May and June this year. A small number of mid-year assessments must be completed. We thank the Extern assessor Dr Lourda Geoghegan, and special thanks also to RCPI support staff and to all trainees. The assessments were undertaken virtually.

Training Sites

Specialist Registrars in Higher Specialist Training are in training posts in regional Departments of Public Health and in specialty placements in the Department of Health, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, the National Immunisation Office, the National Cancer Control Programme, the National Screening Service, the Health Intelligence Unit and the Office of the National Clinical Director for Health Protection. Thanks to Prof David Weakliam who facilitated liaison with a division in WHO Geneva to agree to a two-year training programme, for four six-month placements, to work on Quality Systems and Resilience. A third trainee is now on this placement, but this remains virtual. We are working towards increasing the number of specialty placement sites for the Programme. The Institute of Public Health and the National Social Inclusion Office are currently undergoing accreditation and an approval process for commencement in July 2023.

Training Site Inspections and Accreditation

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

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

Trainer Development Project

The RCPI Trainer Engagement Project continues. A Refresher Course for all trainers approved pre-2019 was designed and launched this year with a deadline of 31st October 2022. This course is available on Brightspace. A repository of resources was created in The Trainer Hub, and also on Brightspace. The RCPI Inaugural Trainer Conference will take place on Friday December 9th, 2022. The project will proceed into 2023 to continue its aim of improving resource and supports for our trainers across all Training Bodies in RCPI.

Specialty Training Committee

The Specialty Training Committee (STC) meet on a quarterly basis. It is chaired by the NSD, with trainee representatives and trainers in attendance. The trainee representatives report on key points arising from the Trainer-Trainee Subcommittee which is co-chaired by the Deputy NSD and an trainee representative. Thanks to outgoing trainee representative Dr Ciara Kelly for her contribution to this Committee and also to the incoming trainee representative Dr Teresa O'Dowd.

Trainers have continued to be engaged with the Programme and will be provided with additional training on the new Curriculum. The Convenors of Examinations have been providing information to trainees, including sharing feedback from the Extern. They have provided sessions for both trainees and trainers on the format and the requirements for all three parts of the MFPHMI exams. Thanks to Dr Derval Igoe, Dr Mary Ward, Dr Paul Kavanagh, and Dr Lourda Geoghegan for their work. Having increased the number of training places, further work is required to expand training opportunities and to support trainees as much as possible to balance training requirements with personal responsibilities.

Acknowledgments

We wish to extend thanks to all our colleagues who contribute as trainers, Training Leads in their departments, as well as to trainers who have supported and evaluated the progress of trainees, including supporting them during exam preparation. We have several new trainers who are very welcome. Trainer courses run by RCPI are valuable for upskilling and for learning about the latest developments to provide training and support trainees.

Examinations

Dr Derval Igoe, Chair Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee

Dr Mary Ward, Convenor of Examinations and Convenor Part II

Dr Paul Kavanagh, Convenor Part I

Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor Part III

Committee: Anne Dee, Anne Sheahan, Derval Igoe, Eibhlin Connolly, Fiona Cianci, Keith Ian Quintyne, Lois O'Connor, Lourda Geoghegan, Mary Ward, Peter Barrett, Regina Kiernan, Patricia Fitzpatrick, Paul Kavanagh, Sarah O'Brien, Zubair Kabir

The Extern Examiner

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

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

Online and Virtual Examinations

In April 2022, the MFPHMI Part I was successfully delivered online using remote invigilation which means that candidates sat the same examination (structure, format and length), in a quiet, secure place of their choosing on a platform provided by TestReach. The Examinations Department are using this company for other College examinations and procedures will be modified if necessary, based on experience across the suite of examinations.

The MFPHMI Part II and Part III – both sittings of the Public Health Reports (PHRs) examination were held in person this year (April and October). The first sitting of the Part III Oral Examination of Professional Competence (OEPC) was also held in person in June this year. These were the first in-person sittings of either examination since 2020.

Checklist on formatting and re-submitting PHRs

A checklist on formatting a Public Health Report (PHR), which applies to all candidates for the MFPHMI Part II from January 2022, has been published on the RCPI website. The regulations have been updated accordingly, with links to the checklist.

For candidates who have been unsuccessful in the examination and who re-submit a PHR, a form for resubmission of PHRs (for those who have previously failed) has been developed. This form must be completed for re-submitted PHRs and has been published on the RCPI website.

Part III Oral Examination

The first sitting of the Part III oral examination of professional competence (OEPC) was held in June 2022. This OEPC was designed to test whether the candidate can apply knowledge across the range of public health domains and can communicate about public health scenarios as expected of a public health physician capable of practising independently. The next sitting of this examination is planned for December 2022.

Examination Sittings

MFPHMI Part I				
Date	Candidates*	Pass	Fail	Pass rate
26 & 27 April 2022	15	13	2**	86.60%

*8 trainees / 7 non-trainees

**one candidate can bank Papers 1+2

MFPHMI Part II				
Date	Candidates	Reports	Pass	Pass rate for reports
12 April 2022 *	3	4	4	100%
25 October 2022	8	11	10	90%

*first in-person sitting after COVID-19

MFPHMI Part III				
Date	Candidates	Pass	Fail	Pass rate
9 June 2022*	2	2	n/a	100%
6 December 2022	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

*first in-person sitting after COVID-19

Meetings Committee

Dr Emer O’Connell, Chair

Committee: Dr Mary T O’Mahony, Dr Howard Johnson, Dr Caroline Mason Mohan, Dr Declan McKeown, Dr Helen McAvoy, Dr Kenneth Beatty, Dr Laura Heavey, Dr Heidi Pelly, Dr Peter Barrett, Dr Ciara Kelly

Overview

The Committee was supported by Mr Guilherme Martins, RCPI Events Coordinator. Mr Martins is no longer with RCPI. We wish him well in his career and thank him for his expertise and guidance. Mary Hernandez is now assisting us.

I am very grateful to the RCPI Events Team, our Dean Prof Cecily Kelleher, Ms. Ritika Sureka, Training and Faculty Coordinator, and the members of the Meetings Committee for their ongoing support to these meetings.

Many thanks to former members who completed their terms on the Meetings Committee, having given generously their time and support— Dr Eibhlín Connolly, Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Dr Regina Kiernan, Dr Triona McCarthy, Dr Áine McNamara, Dr Máire O’Connor, and Dr Annette Rhatigan.

2021 Winter Scientific Meeting

This consisted of two webinars with the following expert speakers:

- Dr Helen McAvoy addressed ***Dying young from respiratory disease – are we making progress on reducing inequalities?***
- Dr Cillian De Gascun, Consultant Virologist and Laboratory Director, and Member of National Immunisation Advisory Committee, covered ***The Molecular Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2: sequencing, surveillance, and SGTF.***
- Prof Eamonn Gormley, Professor of Veterinary Immunology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, UCD, discussed ***Surfing the COVID-19 waves of infection to re-infection.***

2022 Summer Scientific Meeting

This was a hybrid model. We had the following inspirational and expert speakers:

- Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, HSE Public Health Lead for Social Inclusion/ Vulnerable Groups, presented on ***Public Health action for Humanitarian crisis and movement of people.***

- Dr Jurgita Ovadnevaite, School of Physics, NUI Galway, covered ***Air Pollution- A presentation regarding air pollution sources in Ireland (including solid fuel); the tension between reducing air pollution and climate change.***
- Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCD School of Medicine, addressed ***Impacts and management of obesity in pregnancy and the potential post-pregnancy to prevent longer term health impacts.***
- Prof Fidelma Dunne, Professor in Medicine at the National University of Ireland (NUI) and Consultant Endocrinologist, Galway University Hospitals, spoke on ***Gestational Diabetes: implications for future health.***
- Dr Kateryna Kachurets, GP at Glenview Clinic and Director, Medical Help Ukraine, gave us an overview on ***Personal perspectives on the situation in Ukraine and the differences between the Irish and Ukrainian healthcare systems.***
- Carol Baxter, Assistant Secretary General, International Protection, Integration and Equality Division, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, spoke on ***Responding to the Ukraine Refugee Crisis.***

2022 Winter Scientific Meeting

The WSM 2022 will take place on 7th December. We received a very large number of abstracts. There will be extended short oral presentations and a welcome return to an active poster tour led by our Dean. The event promises an insightful and informative programme of speakers covering topics of mortality surveillance and health protection insights including:

- Dr Éamonn O'Moore- Director of National Health Protection
- Professor Gerard McCartney- Professor of Wellbeing Economy at the University of Glasgow Professor of Wellbeing Economy at the University of Glasgow
- Dr Anne Nolan- Associate Research Professor in the Social Research Division of the ESRI
- Associate Professor Mary Codd- Project Scientific Lead, leading an international Steering Group and interacting with the ECDC Technical Team.



Attendees and presenters at the Faculty Summer Scientific Meeting from the top: Dr Anna Clarke, Dr Helena Murray, Dr Fenton Howell and Prof David Weakliam.



Prize Winners 2021 Winter Scientific Meeting

Winners of the best “Full Oral”

First Prize and Winner of the inaugural Kevin Kelleher Award: Dr Philippa White- “Keep Schools Open: an analysis of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools in Ireland during the 2020-2021 school year”

Runner-up: Dr Patricia Garvey- “COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities for older people, Ireland March 2020-August 2021; reduction in outbreak severity following vaccine rollout”

Third place: Dr Ruth Ceannt- “COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Resistance amongst Parents of Children Under 18 Years of Age in Ireland: An Analysis of Data from the Covid-19 Psychological Research Consortium Study”

Winners of the Poster Prize

First Prize: Dr Margaret Brennan- “Sea Level rise and City level climate action”

Second Prize: Dr Ciara Gilmartin- “Examining the development of Ireland’s Public Health (Alcohol) Bill 2017 -2018 through a critical discourse analytical lens”

Winners of the Three Minute Magic Presentations

First Prize: Dr Ciara Gilmartin- “Examining the development of Ireland’s Public Health (Alcohol) Bill, 2017-2018, through a critical discourse analytical lens”

Runner-up: Dr David Kelly- “Evidence synthesis and review of international blood donor policy: residual risk of HIV and HBV transfusion-transmitted infection from MSM donor pool in Ireland”

Prize Winners 2022 Summer Scientific Meeting

Winners of the best “Full Oral”

First Prize and Winner of the Zachary Johnson Medal: Dr Declan McKeown- “COVID-19 incidence and outcomes by affluence/deprivation across three pandemic waves in Ireland”

Runner-up: Dr Ian Darbey- “COVID-19 Impact on Waiting Lists: Using National Health Service Discrete Event Simulation to Inform Scheduled Care Recovery Planning in Ireland”

Winners of the Poster Prize

First Prize: Dr Niamh Bambury- “Preparation for catch up vaccination for Ukrainian People displaced by war: a descriptive piece”

Second Prize: Dr Ger Sayers- “Health Atlas Ireland Finder Module- population profiling”

Winners of the Three Minute Magic Presentations

First Prize: Dr Louise Marron- “Views on COVID-19 vaccination of young children in Ireland, results from a cross-sectional survey of parents”

Runner-up: Dr Caitriona Kelly- “Measuring and improving the real-world effectiveness of stop-smoking care in Ireland: exploiting the potential of “QUITManager” to support a Tobacco-Free Ireland”

Faculty Events Report

RCPI Events Team

Summary Overview

The following report outlines the events activity for the academic year 2021-22.

The events covered were:

1. **8 December 2021:** the Faculty of Public Health Medicine Winter Scientific Meeting Part 1
2. **1 February 2022:** the Faculty of Public Health Medicine Winter Scientific Meeting Part 2
3. **5 April 2022:** Faculty of Public Health & Faculty of Occupational Medicine - ***Post-COVID Care and Health Service Quality Improvement***
4. **24 & 25 May 2022:** Faculty of Public Health Medicine Summer Scientific Meeting
5. **9 November 2022:** Faculty of Public Health Webinar: ***Covid-19 Public Health and the Law***

Evaluations: Summary of findings

1. **8 December 2021** - 99% would recommend.
2. **1 February 2022**- 100% would recommend. Very positive feedback. Always high quality and up to date. Continue webinars.
3. **5 April 2022** - 100% would recommend. Excellent speakers and good length. Again, webinars were valued over in person events.
4. **24 & 25 May 2022** - 98% would recommend. Very interesting talks and well-organised. Continue with COVID-19 updates and webinars.
5. **9 November 2022** - 99% would recommend.

Popular suggestions for the future:

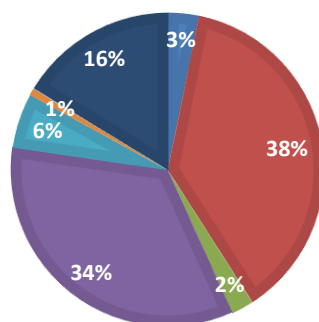
- Mental Health, health service improvement, access to healthcare
- Speakers from other countries (E.g., ECDC, WHO, HPRA). Preparedness for future pandemics.
- A mix of webinars and in-person events, especially Winter and Summer Scientific meetings.

Registration and Attendance

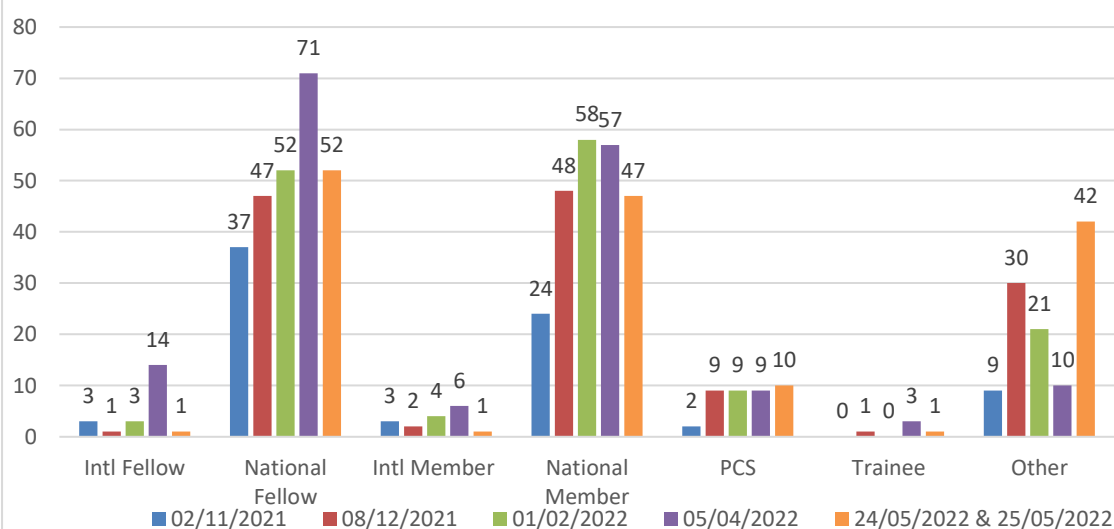
	Intl Fellow	National Fellow	Intl Member	National Member	PCS	Trainee	Other	Total
09/10/2022	3	30	0	24	2	0	8	67
08/12/2021	1	47	2	48	9	1	30	138
01/02/2022	3	52	4	58	9	0	21	147
05/04/2022	14	71	6	57	9	3	10	170
24/05/2022 & 25/05/2022	1	52	1	47	10	1	42	154
	22	259	16	234	39	5	112	687

FPH ATTENDEE OVERVIEW 21-22

Intl Fellow National Fellow Intl Member National Member PCS Trainee Other



FPH ATTENDEE BREAKDOWN PER EVENT 21-22



- A total of 687 registrations were made for the five events, with a total of 728 attending (attendance numbers are higher than registration due to press watching online and links being shared externally). Both the Winter and Summer Scientific were split over two days, with the WSM being online and the SSM being hybrid.
- The most attended event was the joint webinar with Occupational Medicine on 5th April 2022, with 170 registrations.
- Fellows made up 41% of the attendees and Members made up 36% of total attendees.
- Events in 21-22 had a registration reduction of 473 people, or 40.78%, compared to the previous academic calendar (1.160 registrations).

Conclusions – Key Insights

- All conferences received excellent feedback. Everyone valued the topics and the regular COVID-19 updates.
- Faculties have been aligning their conference themes for 2022-2023. Dr Emer O’Connell set up an events committee to look after Scientific Meetings and Mr Guilherme Martin, Event Coordinator in the RCPI Communications department, is coordinating this group.
- Joint webinars with Occupational Medicine were popular.
- The return of in-person events was extremely well-received, it increased the level of engagement within the Faculty.

Fellowship Committee

Dr Anna Clarke, Chair

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

Can I begin by acknowledging the commitment of Dr Fenton Howell who acted as Chair of this Committee for many years until 2021.

The Fellowship Committee convened on 29th March and 21st April to consider applications for Membership/Fellowship and to review the Faculty's Membership list as per Standing Orders in order to make recommendations to the Board.

Membership Ad Eundem

There were no applications for Membership Ad Eundem.

Fellowship by Election

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

Fellowship Ad Eundem

There were two applications for Fellowship Ad Eundem: Dr Mary C O Mahony: retired, previously Executive Director, Health Protection Agency, England; and Dr Niall Conroy: Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Director of Public Health, Wide Bay, Queensland, Australia at time of application.

On examination of detailed CVs from both applicants, the Fellowship Committee recommended them for Fellowship Ad Eundem.

The committee met again on 17th May 2022 to discuss the proposal put forward by the RCPI Fellowship Steering Group regarding a proposed change to how the College recruits Fellows and retains existing Fellows. Their brief also included a review of how honorary fellowship is awarded. A report was provided to the Board. This report was discussed at the Board Meeting

in June and further clarifications were sought. The response was discussed by the Board at its Meeting in September and the proposal has been accepted by the Board.

Finally, can I thank all members of the Committee and Ms Ritika Sureka for their support.

Postgraduate Training and Examinations

Mr Colm Small, Head of Function

Purpose

The overall aim of the Postgraduate Training and Examinations Function is to pursue excellence in all that we do as we support doctors. Key parts to that include the delivery and supports for training, examinations, accreditation, and quality assurance/ quality improvement, health and wellbeing and supports for RCPI's Faculties and Institutes.

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

Training and Faculties Office (TFO)

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

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 Public Health Medicine and the other five Faculties and Institutes: Faculty of Paediatrics, Faculty of Pathology, Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Institute of Medicine and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. The office supports approximately 1,750 trainees and 1,300 trainers in the administration of our 29 training programmes. In terms of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, this is the College's BST programmes and the four-year/four-and-a-half-year Public Health Medicine Higher Specialist Training scheme.

HST Completing Trainees

After another challenging year given the pandemic, for the training year 2021-22, we were confident that trainees receiving a CSCST in Summer 2022 had met their curricular requirements.

BST Completing Trainees

Similarly, all final year BST trainees met their curricular requirements for awarding of BST certification. End of year assessments were undertaken on time during May and June 2022 to allow for career progression. Membership examinations, which are required for BST, were successfully offered to all needing them over the last year – including written and clinical examinations.

Examinations Department

The purpose of the department is to develop, manage, coordinate and deliver the College's Membership and Licentiate examinations both nationally and internationally. The College's Membership and Licentiate 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 high stakes written examination by remote invigilation. Others followed 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 - the written examinations, 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 Public Health Medicine trainees in their career progression while at the same time looking after all our international and other examination candidates.

The Examinations Department would like to sincerely thank all our clinician colleagues involved in the Faculty's examinations. Serious work goes into these – the three parts to the MFPHMI.

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 ongoing evaluation of all programmes and curricula. In a re-structuring in the College in Autumn 2021, this Department moved under the new unified Education Function, and this will enhance all the supports delivered therein and to the Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

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.

A key project with Dr Maeve Doyle as Clinical Lead is the RCPI Trainer Programme. This important project started in 2021 and she Chairs a Working Group. A key deliverable is a Trainer Framework which is on track and has delivered much. Another positive development will be the inaugural RCPI Trainer Conference. This will take place in December 2022. In its current iteration the project has four Parts.

- Part 1: Trainer Refresher Course/ Trainer Hub – explanation of why/ rationale. This has been implemented.
- Part 2: Matrix of Activities (core and optional) in which Trainers should engage e.g. Recruitment & Selection, Participation in MRCPI Exams, Delivery of Local Teaching.
- Part 3: Professional Development for Trainers. Opportunity for Lead Trainer Roles; built in feedback for existing Trainers; Annual Trainer Conference.
- Part 4: Support/ Promote Trainer Role: Suite of rewards; CPD, certificate, awards. Ongoing promotion of Trainer roles within College.

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 (Site QI) Model) was successfully completed in June of 2021 with UHGalway (Saolta Group) and we have successfully rolled this out over the last year. The Site QI model works on a five-year timeline so for example, St. James's and Our Lades Hospital Drogheda successfully went through this process along with Galway in 2021 and they will be visited formally again in 2026 with all the robust QA/QI in between. We did the same process in the autumn of 2022 with the South, South-West Hospital Group and Connolly Hospital in November 2022. The Site QI visit is chaired by an extern from outside Ireland.

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. It is also supporting a number of trainers. We are reviewing the model over the summer / autumn of 2022 as we look to the future to improve this and future proof it.

RCPI Regional Offices

The PTE Function currently manages the College's four Offices – Galway, Cork, Limerick and Dublin/Midlands. This is where we have an onsite presence. We are currently reviewing this model with a view to improvement and expansion is part of that.

Education

Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head of Function

Education Projects:

OBE

Planning for the transition of the HST Paediatrics Programmes to outcome-based learning has taken place and engagement workshops are scheduled with the intended revisions to be completed by end of 2022.

Mandatory Teaching

Dr Diarmuid O'Shea was appointed as the Clinical Lead for a cross college review of mandatory teaching. The first phase was to review the content and alignment of all taught content in the training programmes. In 2021/22, an 'as is' review of the content was completed, benchmarking took place, and a new delivery model was proposed. Engagement on finalising Public Health specific content and implementation of the programme will take place in 23/24.

Simulation Strategy

Prof Dara Byrne has been appointed as the Clinical Lead to develop a Simulation Strategy for RCPI. The project will engage with the Faculties and Institutes on the development of a governance structure for simulation within training programmes. The project team will carry out a number of site visits to look at the future implementation of a hub and spoke model in line with the National Strategy.

Assessment Strategy

A cross-faculty assessment strategy is under development. Principles of best practice have been applied throughout RCPI; the strategy will address standardisation and sustainability in examination, workplace assessments and panel assessments.

Education Programmes - Development and Delivery

AMEE Aspire Award:

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland was awarded an AMEE ASPIRE to Excellence Certificate of Merit in the area of 'Inspirational Approaches.' The ASPIRE award programme was established to identify, recognise, and reward world-class excellence in education. It also aims to highlight, showcase, and exemplify best-practice in healthcare professions education, improving the education process and outcomes of other institutions around the world.

RCPI was recognised for its Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics. The course is aimed at all healthcare professionals/scientists working in cancer care and allows participants to:

- Learn how to use genomic testing to inform treatment decisions and optimise patient outcomes
- Understand how to make more informed screening recommendations for higher risk individuals.
- Gain the skills to correctly interpret genomic test results to inform patient management
- Understand the ethical and legal considerations when using genomic technology

QQI submissions:

The Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare (formerly the Diploma in Leadership and Quality Improvement in Healthcare) has received formal QQI accreditation at Level 9 (30ECTS). The Pg Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Pg Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics have been submitted for accreditation.

iheed- Medical Educators

RCPI in partnership with iheed ran three programmes in 21-22.

- Professional Diploma in Paediatrics
- Professional Diploma in Women's Health
- Professional Diploma in Dermatology

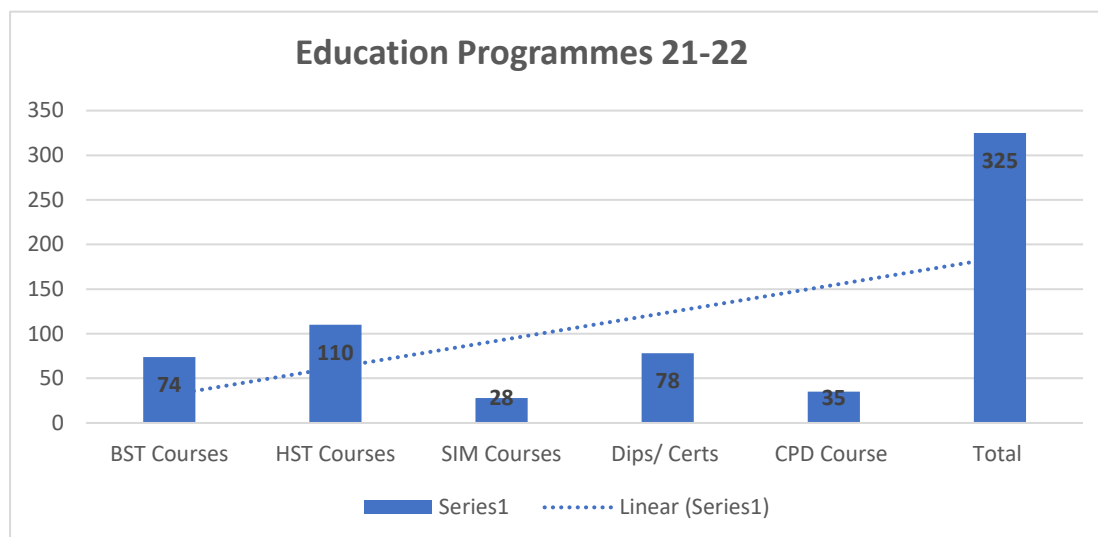
To date a total of 1762 learners have completed or are currently registered on an iheed/RCPI collaborative programme. The Paediatrics programme continues to have the highest number of participants.



The Professional Diploma in Occupational Medicine, Professional Diploma Medicine for the Older Person and Professional Diploma in Infectious diseases are under development. All programmes will be submitted to QQI for accreditation at Pg Certification level (30 ECTS) or above.

RCPI Programmes

A total of 325 iterations of workshops and tutorials were executed throughout the year growing from 276 iterations in 20-21.



Quality Improvement Programmes:

Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare, funded by HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate, has successfully recruited 20 three-person teams for two cohorts of the course to start in September. Teams this year will focus their workplace projects on addressing common causes of harm as described in the HSE publication, Patient Safety Strategy 2019-2024

QI Scholars: Six RCPI QI Scholars completed the programme in 2021-22. The successful participants came from Geriatric and General Internal Medicine, Clinical Microbiology, Endocrinology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Radiology, Paediatric Neurodisability.

Situation Awareness For Everyone: The SAFE collaborative represents a highly successful partnership between RCPI and the Deteriorating Patient Improvement Programme with funding support from the Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services Director. A fourth cohort of 12 frontline healthcare teams graduated from SAFE in February 2022. 48 learners improved or implemented bespoke patient safety huddles in their setting. A fifth cohort recruited 14 teams from all over Ireland to start in September 2022. The teams will work for six months on implementing a bespoke patient safety huddle initiative in their setting.

Quality Improvement in Action: This 4-month online project-based course ran twice in 2021-22, each with 20 learners from multiple specialties and disciplines across Ireland, including in one cohort, 8 staff from Public Health Department Mid-West Region.

Paediatric Pocket Tutorials: More than 50 videos have been recorded for content on the Paediatric Pocket Tutorials which are a free online resource for all trainees, members and fellows of RCPI. Enrolment is automatic for all those linked with paediatrics with the project endorsed by the Faculty of Paediatrics. Cardiology, Respiratory, Neurology, Child Protection and Children's Cancer are currently available. Several additional sections will be due to launch in the coming months to include Allergy, Inclusion Health and Adolescent Health, with others in development.

Mandatory courses

The mandatory courses delivered to Public Health Medicine trainees during 2021-2022 include the following:

- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- BST Communication Skills
- Ethics Foundation
- Ethics for Public Health
- An introduction to Health and Research methods
- HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Mastering Communications
- Performing Audit
- Wellness Matters
- SPSS

Other courses open to Trainees, Members or Fellows in Public Health Medicine in 2021-2022 were:

- QI in Action
- Introduction to data analysis using SPSS
- Certificate in Essential Leadership for New Consultants
- Certificate in Cancer Genetics
- Physicians as Trainers – Essential Skills for Trainers
- Physicians as Trainers – Supervision and Performance Management
- Physicians as Trainers – Identifying and Managing Distressed Trainee

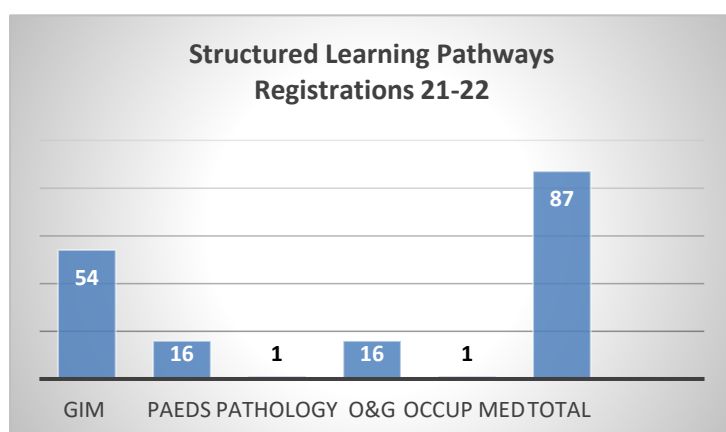
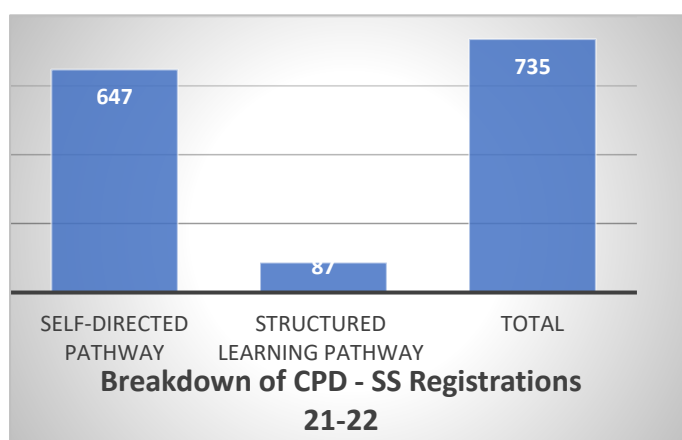
There are also a large number of standalone online courses available.

CPD-SS

The Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD-SS) is an educational programme open to those Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) working in the public health service who have an NCHD contract and are enrolled on a Professional Competence Scheme. Once enrolled on the CPD-SS scheme, doctors get free access to educational activities worth up to 20 External CPD credits. A total of 607 signed up to the programme in September 2021. For the first time, the scheme opened for a second intake in January when an additional 128 NCHDs registered bringing the total number of participants to 735.

In 2021-2022, RCPI revised the CPD– SS offering two pathways that participants could choose between:

- Self-Directed Pathway (SDP) – Offers a choice of courses which participants can enrol on based on their own personal learning goals
- Structured Learning Pathway (SLP) - Provides participants with access to the HST mandatory courses specific to their specialty over three years. SLP is offered in five different specialties – GIM, O&G, Paediatrics, Pathology and Occupational Medicine. A total of 87 participants signed up for the structured pathways:



Research

At the close of 2021, the research team saw significant change. Dr Niamh Humphries secured a prestigious senior lectureship in RCSI's Graduate School of Healthcare Management where the HDRM project has continued in 2022, supported by Dr John-Paul Byrne. Dr Jennifer Creese who worked on the HDRM project for two years was also successful in obtaining a Lecturer position in the University of Leicester (UK). This reflects the PI successfully reaching a key goal of the HRB Emerging Investigator Award that funded the project.

Janet O'Farrell was appointed as the new Research Manager and took up the role in November 2021. A full-time researcher, Ciaran Carr, was appointed to a researcher role, commencing in early March. An additional research fellow, Dr Sophia Kilcullen, was also appointed in a part-time capacity on the 8th June for a two-year period to initially fill a maternity-leave cover position and subsequently fill the full complement of the research team in September 2022. In September 2022 the team was completed by the return of Dr Orla Woods to the team.

HRB (Health Research Board)

In December 2021, the HRB approved RCPI's continued status as an approved Host Institution for a period of five years, up to the 30th November 2026. This continues RCPI's status as approved by the HRB to apply for, receive and administer HRB grant funding, including responsibility for compliance with terms of these awards.

Additionally, in December, the Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety (RCQPS), a collaborative initiative between the Health Research Board, the Health Service Executive National Quality Improvement Team and RCPI, awarded funding to two quality improvement research projects following a highly competitive selection process that took place throughout 2021. In total, 19 projects have now been funded through this initiative. This ended the three-year cycle of funding and brought the project administration by RCPI to an end in April 2022. An evaluation of research undertaken through this initiative is also planned, supported by the research department, focussing on the impact of these research projects, particularly their translation and implementation into clinical practice, sustainability and spread.

Research Strategy

Following engagement across the college, development of a new research strategy commenced in the latter half of December 2021. This was presented to the Executive Board for approval and implementation in February 2022. This involved extensive internal consultation and alignment with college and broader health research standards. It also involved a focus on research governance and forming a research committee to oversee this.

Following approval of the strategy, the first steps of implementation involved a focus on research governance and forming a research committee to oversee this. The associated Research Committee, with oversight of research to be undertaken internally and overseeing implementation of the strategy, had its first meeting in September 2022 and will meet quarterly. At this, the associated terms of reference were agreed upon, chaired by the college Registrar.

Additionally, the research department developed a survey policy, approved by SMT in June 2022 with a view to ensuring that RCPI's institutional surveys are conducted in a manner that minimises survey redundancy and frequency, following guidelines for survey deployment. RCPI surveys will be coordinated through the research department, aiming to minimise overlap and duplication in content, sampling, and scheduling, ensuring consistency in presentation/feel and user experience going forward. It is hoped that this will improve oversight of surveys, providing a more global view of college surveying and improving data quality across the college.

TPE (Training Post Evaluation)

At the meeting of the Training Committee in March, a small working group was proposed and approved to review the TPE survey at the individual item and global survey level before roll-out in June of this year. This comprises of representatives across the faculties and institutes, supported by both the Research and Quality Assurance departments collaboratively. The group met on the 9th May 2022, suggesting basic changes to the survey for this year in areas including gender, additional qualitative questions and expanding on questions regarding working hours with the European Working Time Directive in mind. Following review and testing, the survey was sent to trainees on the 14th June 2022 and remained live for seven weeks in total. Through support of programme co-ordinators and the communications team, a 35% response rate was achieved across BST and HST participants.

The report based on this data is currently in draft, with input from the working group shaping the direction of the content and analysis, The working group will continue to work throughout the year to ensure that the survey in 2023 is fit for purpose, primarily to inform evidence-based training and college activities and initiatives appropriately.

Research Ethics Committee

The Research Ethics Committee, chaired by Dr Una Fallon, met on 24th November 2021, 9th March 2022, 8th June 2022 and 7th September 2022, reviewing six expedited protocols and thirteen additional new applications in total. In January they also met and formed a small working group to review their terms of reference and standard operating procedures, with the needs of the college and roll-out of the National Research Ethics Committees in mind.

At its meeting on 8th June 2022, co-chair, Prof Kathleen Bennett, resigned her post after many years of service to the committee, and was replaced by Dr Fiona Boland, bringing her statistical expertise to the group. The research team is also supporting the working group in review of the TORs and SOP. The research department has also actively surveyed successful REC applicants to provide an update to the committee on their progress in this time and to meet the requirements of their favourable reviews through annual reporting.

Education Delivery

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

Additionally, the research team also carried out two focus groups with thirteen Teaching Faculty members. The discussions held aimed to inform the design and ethos of the new Teaching Faculty Model, in line with the 6TH strategic objective of RCPI's Three-Year Strategy. In the revised model, clinicians will continue to develop the content for Educational Programmes but content will be delivered by clinical tutors and in some cases by non-clinician Teaching Faculty who are subject experts in an area. This new model is envisaged to take time to embed. In the interim, RCPI wishes to improve the quality of experience for existing Teaching Faculty. These focus groups aimed to help with this by gaining a clear picture of faculty needs and challenges as they relate to teaching under the present faculty model in the focus groups. Aspects of teaching that work well and challenge faculty in the current process of teaching at RCPI were explored, along with proposed solutions to the challenges currently experienced.

Healthcare Leadership

Dr Trevor Duffy, Head of Function

Overview

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

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

Since the commencement of Healthcare Leadership, two key projects are underway; firstly, a pilot Mentorship Programme for New Consultants to support new hospital consultants that are learning to navigate the healthcare system as independent practitioners and secondly; an Academy for retired doctors who are interested in connecting with other retirees while using their expertise to get involved in the college in areas like mentoring, examinations, education and training, college representation and volunteer work.

Professional Competence

Summary of Key Activities October 2021 – October 2022

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Substantive Equivalence

In December 2021 we received a certificate from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada informing us that the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's CPD Programme has been deemed substantively equivalent to the Royal College's Maintenance of Competence Program for the next five years (January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026).

Substantive equivalency recognition means that Fellows of the Royal College who are living and practicing in Ireland can use the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's program to maintain their Membership and Fellowship with the Royal College in Canada without having to additionally participate in the Royal College's MOC Program.

Compliance with Scheme Requirements

The overall percentage of participants across RCPI's 11 Professional Competence Schemes who met the PCS requirements for the 2021 – 22 PCS year was 75%, which is lower than last year, where the compliance rate was 87%. The individual Scheme compliance rates for the 2021-22 year ranged from 65% to 92%.

The Annual Statements issued in May 2022 were once again annotated to indicate that there may have been extenuating circumstances which may have prevented doctors from engaging in and recording the required CPD and Audit activities.

Submission of PCS Annual Reports to the Medical Council – 30 June 2022

The following 17 Annual PCS Reports were submitted to the Medical Council on behalf of our six training bodies on 30 June 2022:

- Qualitative Reports x 11 (1 per Scheme)
- Quantitative Reports x 6 (1 per Training Body)

Annual Verification Process (AVP)

The Annual Verification of the 2020 - 2021 PCS Year commenced in July 2021. A total of 233 doctors were selected for review and as the requirements for the 2020-21 year did not include an Audit, reviews of CPD records in ePortfolio were carried out by the Professional Competence Team.

At the conclusion of the process, a total of 153 doctors (66%) were Verified with no corrective actions. Their Annual Statement issued in May 2022 was annotated to reflect that their activities for the 20-21 year had been Verified.

The Annual Verification of the 2021 - 2022 PCS year commenced in July 2022. A total of 273 doctors were selected for review which consisted of 4% random selections from 2021-2022 (160), 4% non-compliant from 2018 - 2019 (51) and automatic reselections from previous years (62).

For this process, due to the small number of uncategorised CPD credits required for 2021 - 2022, we are asking Clinician Reviewers to focus on the Audit/Quality Improvement Projects submitted by the selected participants.

New Maintenance of Professional Competence Framework Model

In October 2022, the Medical Council informed the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies Professional Competence Sub-committee that due to competing urgent priorities in the Medical Council, the Professional Competence and Research Directorate have had to revise timelines for the delivery of the new Maintenance of Professional Competence Framework model due to commence in May 2023.

As the Medical Council is satisfied that the current Framework Model still upholds doctors' duty to maintain their Professional Competence for the time being, this has enabled the Council to move timelines as the risks associated with this are considered to be low. This means that the public consultation on the draft Maintenance of Professional Competence Rules and associated Guidelines will not take place until early 2023. The new Framework model will now be implemented in May 2024, and the 2023-24 PCS year will be seen as an implementation year, to allow further preparation for the new Framework.

IACPDA – Substantive Equivalence

The International Academy for CPD Accreditation (IACPDA) is conducting a 2-year pilot study relating to application for IACPDA Substantive Equivalency.

The IACPDA has developed the Standards for Substantive Equivalency between CPD/CME Accreditation Systems (Standards), a shared set of international standards to:

1. Guide the accreditation of CPD/CME for medical doctors (doctors) and health care teams globally, and
2. be used to determine substantive equivalency between accrediting bodies

The RCPI Professional Competence Department has played a significant role in the development of these standards. Substantive equivalency between accrediting bodies allows stakeholders – national authorities, regulators, credentialing bodies, certifying bodies, and most importantly, doctors and their patients, to know that the accredited education in support of improved patient care and patient safety meets the same level of independence, rigor, content validity, quality of design, and outcome measures. RCPI submitted an application to the IACPDA for substantive equivalency for RCPI's CPD programme in February 2022 and our application will be reviewed within the two-year pilot process.

CPD Event Approval

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

Outlined below is a summary of activity for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	383	1969
Non RCPI	325	1950
TOTAL	708	3919

National Office for Traffic Medicine

The National Office for Traffic Medicine engages in four categories of activities; Development of the *Sláinte agus Tiomáint* Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines, Education & Outreach, Research and Special Projects.

Sláinte agus Tiomáint Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines

The 11th edition of the national medical fitness to drive guidelines (2022) and a new information leaflet outlining the pathways and procedures involved in assessing medical fitness to drive were published at an online event on 28 April. Speakers included Mr Declan Naughton (Director of Driver Training and Testing (RSA)), Prof Des O'Neill (Director, National Traffic Medicine Programme), Dr Derek Crinion (Consultant Cardiologist) and Dr Margaret Ryan (Manager, National Traffic Medicine Programme). The event was attended by 74 healthcare professionals in Ireland and abroad and a recording is available [here](#). Following on from this event a feature "Traffic medicine: Moving with the times" that included an interview with Prof O'Neill was published in the Medical Independent:

<https://www.medicalindependent.ie/in-the-news/news-features/traffic-medicine-moving-with-the-times/>.

Research

The Agenda for the Traffic Medicine Research Webinar was held on 5 May with included presentations from:

Dr Janette Lynch, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (UK) - *"Multimorbidity and driving"*

Dr Stephen Klaus, Neurology Registrar (Beaumont Hospital) - *"Examining the impact of driving restriction on patients with epilepsy in Ireland"*

Ms Rachel Coomey (TCD), Winner of the Mary Ward Essay Prize in Traffic Medicine - *"Long Covid: the long road ahead"*

Ms Neha Siddharta (NUIG), *“Long-term effects of cannabis and fitness-to-drive in young populations”*

Dr Elizabeth Walshe, Neuroscience of Driving Programme, Centre for Injury Research and Prevention, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia - *“Risky driving behaviour and cell phone use while driving among young adult drivers in the US”*

Dr Kevin Moloney, Medicine for the Elderly Registrar (St. James Hospital) - *“Predictors of driving status in older Irish adults attending a geriatric outpatient service”*

Dr Anuraj Varshney Consultant Practitioner/Head of Service (Driving Mobility, UK) *“Fitness to drive assessments: analysing the data in England and Wales”*

Ninety-five healthcare professionals from 11 regions including Europe, the Middle and Far East and Canada attended this online event, which can be viewed [here](#).

Special Projects

The Government of Ireland Road Safety Strategy (2021-2030) was published in December, and this included several actions aimed at reducing driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). As a senior road safety stakeholder, the NOTM is actively supporting the RSA in developing policy and practice to address alcohol use/misuse and addiction in the driving population, with particular emphasis on therapeutic/rehabilitative approaches. Supporting and enabling safe mobility in society is the primary goal of the national Traffic Medicine programme and this aligns with RCPI strategic objectives and with public health policy.

We participated in meetings and other activities supporting the development of a medico-legal framework to address DUI and further meetings involving key medical stakeholders are planned throughout Quarters 2 and 3 of 2022.

Our Director, Prof Des O’Neill, attended a workshop organised by the EU Commission on 19 May where changes to the current driving licence Directive on medical fitness to drive were reviewed.

Our productive relationship with Driving Mobility UK continued with a visit by Prof O’Neill and Dr Ryan to the new Regional Driver Assessment Centre outside Birmingham on 24-25 May. The tour of the centre included a description of a typical on-road assessment for fitness to drive and an opportunity to try out some vehicle adaptations. During their visit they also met with the module leads on the Driving Mobility 3 level course on “On-road Driving Assessment and outdoor mobility” and with officials from Oxford Brookes University where the course is delivered.

Advocacy

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

RCPI engages in advocacy by defining the issue or desired change through development of position papers and reports, through communication of these issues directly to stakeholders and decision makers and by using media to promote messages or recommendations on the issue. RCPI also provides responses to relevant national consultations as they arise.

Papers/reports published September 2021 to Aug/Sept 2022

- *Cancer Care in Ireland in 2020 – the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic*. This paper, published in Dec 2021, highlighted the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on cancer diagnostics and treatment in Ireland in 2020. This was a collaboration between the Faculty of Pathology (RCPI), the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the National QI Programmes in GI Endoscopy, Histopathology and Radiology, Queen's University Belfast, the National Cancer Registry Ireland (NCRI), the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) and DATA-CAN (the UK's Health Data Research Hub for Cancer)
- *A review of the provision of the coronial autopsy service* – Compiled by the Faculty of Pathology with support from the Policy and Advocacy Specialist
- *Budget Decisions for a Tobacco-Free Ireland*. Pre-Budget Submission- RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco (Sep 2021)
- Position paper on increasing the age of sale of tobacco products to 21 years, from the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco in collaboration with the Institute for Public Health (published Sep 2022)

National legislation and Policy on which RCPI engaged in advocacy

- *Public Health (Tobacco and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Bill 2019*. Prof Des Cox, consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, represented the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco at Pre-legislative scrutiny of this bill from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health (Feb 2022).
- *National Adult Palliative Care Policy* – RCPI responded to a Department of Health public consultation on this policy in Nov 2021.

- *HSE Open Disclosure Policy* – RCPI provided feedback on HSE Open Disclosure Policy as part of a consultation process in Sep 2021.
- Human Tissue Bill - Faculty of Pathology made a submission (letter) to the Minister for Health on this Bill.

Other consultations/actions

- *Consultation with Professional Bodies on the role of Prescribed Classes of Professionals in assessing capacity for Co-Decision Making Agreements (CDMA) and Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) applications as required by the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act.* RCPI was represented in this HSE-led consultation in May 2022.
- *Examining the impact of COVID-19 on cancer in Ireland* (Irish Cancer Society Irish Cancer Society funded project). RCPI is represented on the advisory group for this project and provided inputs (e.g., palliative care, gastroenterology, medical oncology) to a discussion paper being drafted by the advisory group (May 2022).
- RCPI provided feedback to the HSE on the draft National Clinical Guideline for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) (2022).
- RCPI Policy Specialist provided inputs to a chapter on Advocacy for the Faculty of Paediatrics' book to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Faculty

Advocacy priorities

A comprehensive consultation is underway to scope advocacy priorities under RCPI's new strategy. Focus groups have been completed with RCPI Council, Executive Board, Senior Management, Trainees and Healthcare Leadership team. Further focus groups are planned at hospital sites. Membership will also have the opportunity to contribute through a survey planned in Q3 2022/ Q1 2023.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

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

NIAC's workload in the last year remained demanding and was regularly performed under tight time constraints and considerable pressures. This has relied upon the dedication and availability of respected and experienced voluntary members, supported by strength and depth in the expertise of the Secretariat. The provision of vaccine related advice has been and continues to be, an important element of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NIAC has been addressing the backlog of routinely scheduled work deferred during the pandemic, whilst also maintaining the flexibility to pivot in emerging situations such as the mpox outbreak.

Governance and Operations

NIAC with the support of RCPI has submitted a proposal to the Department of Health to complete the transformation of NIAC to a National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization. This formal designation will enable NIAC to operate more sustainably, with additional resources to support capacity building. It is hoped this designation can be achieved in 2023. NIAC has continued to host Full Committee meetings on a bimonthly basis, with online COVID-19 meetings hosted as required to discuss relevant issues and topics. The work of sub-groups (e.g., Human Papillomavirus, BCG, Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule, Mpox) is ongoing.

Advice provided to the Chief Medical Officer and Department of Health

NIAC has produced recommendations through considered and timely decision making, informed by reliable and robust evidence. This work was aided by regular meetings of working groups, participation in European Union NITAG meetings and engagement with global experts on vaccines. Over 20 recommendations to the CMO have been made in 2022, with examples including:

Date of Issue	Recommendation
15 September 2022	Recommendations regarding Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines
6 September 2022	Recommendations regarding HPV Vaccine dosage
22 July 2022	Recommendations for additional COVID-19 Booster Vaccination
27 May 2022	Recommendations for Monkeypox Vaccination
5 April 2022	Medium Term Strategy for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme including Second Booster Dose
18 February 2022	Recommendations for COVID-19 booster vaccination of those aged 12-15 years

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

National Immunisation Programme

NIAC has reviewed vaccines for suitability for inclusion or removal (in the event they are no longer available/needed) in the national vaccine schedule. NIAC has reviewed and issued updates including for the HPV vaccination programme.

Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland have been prepared and maintained by NIAC as a robust and reliable immunisation resource for healthcare professionals. Fourteen chapters have been updated in 2022, with over 10 updates of the COVID-19 chapter alone. A new chapter has also been developed for Mpox/Smallpox (Variola).

National Resource, Stakeholder Support and International Collaboration

NIAC has continued to serve as a trusted and respected national resource for healthcare professionals and the public. Over 100 queries have been received pertaining to immunisation and national recommendations in 2022. These have been addressed by NIAC or referred to the appropriate agency for response in a timely fashion. COVID-19 and the work related to it has resulted in a strong collaborative working relationship between NIAC, the DOH and the HSE. The Health Products Regulatory Authority, with which NIAC has had an excellent long-standing relationship, has also been a key support to NIAC.

As a standing committee of RCPI, NIAC has profited from being sited in a collegial setting at the forefront of postgraduate medical education. This has facilitated critical inputs from the Institutes and Faculties of the College and also supported dissemination of NIAC's outputs. At a time when trust in vaccination information is so important, NIAC as a committee of RCPI, is further validated because of that association as a trusted information source. NIAC has engaged with the wider international immunisation community and participated in the EU NITAG meetings as well as national and international meetings as appropriate (e.g., WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunisation).

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

Global Training Partnerships

Ms Sinead Lucey, Head of Business Development

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative – Sponsored

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

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

International Residency Training Programme

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 the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. It is currently offered in Internal Medicine and Paediatrics.

There are currently 6 graduates of this Programme and 16 doctors in Residency training in Ireland, with an additional number in the Gulf countries working to meet the requirements to start in post.

International Clinical Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training at a senior level for doctors who are post-Residency and who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen specialty or sub-specialty. These programmes are now available in over 35 specialty areas across all RCPI Faculties and Institutes. 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 eighth year of full operation, 124 Trainees have graduated from our Clinical Fellowship programmes and have returned home to embed their newly acquired knowledge and skills in health services in their own countries. This year, we have 50 trainees on this programme across all specialties.

The first trainee on the Clinical Fellowship Programme in Public Health Medicine completed their MPH, master's degree in Public Health, with University College Dublin in September 2021, before commencing their clinical training with the HSE, Public Health East.

Particular gratitude goes to Prof Cecily Kelleher, Dr Anna Clarke, and their colleagues, for facilitating and supporting our International Trainees.



Dr Salma Alkalbani, International Clinical Fellow in Public Health Medicine, was admitted as a Diplomate Member of the Faculty at the Admission Ceremony in May. Dr Alkalbani is pictured at the ceremony with Dr Ruth McDermott, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, who was admitted as a Fellow of the Faculty at the ceremony.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative – Scholarship

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.

Applications for RCPI IMGTI programmes July 21 to July 22

For Paediatrics, the programme had 10 applications from CPSP and 13 applications from SMSB. Overall, 6 were invited for interview and 6 were appointed to the programme.

There were 4 in year 2 of the programme and all 4 progressed to registrar posts in year 2.

There is a limit on the intake for the paediatrics programme of 6 due to the need for paediatric posts by ICGP. This will increase to 8 for July 22.

Ongoing work and review of IMGTI

For the year 2021 to 2022 the Joint Operations Committee and Joint Senior Management Committee for the IMGTI was operationalised. These committees are working very well. The operations committee is looking after the day to day of the programme whereas the senior management committee is looking at the programme overall. Changes in how the programme is run, number of countries approved and the range of specialty and subspecialty programmes to be offered will all be discussed during the year 2022/2023.

Increasing Contribution to Global Health Efforts under the EQUALS Initiative

Focus on Zambia: The EQUALS Initiative is a joint venture between RCPI and the HSE that support training and equipment needs in low to middle income countries and those countries experiencing humanitarian crises. In July 2021 and June and August 2022, 3 additional shipments of decommissioned medical equipment were sent from hospitals in Ireland to Lusaka, Zambia, for a total of 14 40ft containers of equipment donated to date. 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.

Through the collaboration between RCPI and the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS), RCPI continues to provide access to online courses to Zambian trainees on various specialist training programmes, which comprises part of their core curriculum. To date, RCPI have also delivered two Train the Trainer courses to faculty members of ZACOMS.

Support for Ukraine: In response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, RCPI, in partnership with the HSE, organized to donate equipment to be shipped with the national consignment bound for Ukraine. This included a portable x-ray machine, laparoscopy equipment, infant warmers, and an ultrasound machine. Through the RCPI Global Health fund, we have also made a financial contribution to several voluntary medical services providing on the ground support in Ukraine, such as the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontiers.

Administration and contact details

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

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Other key departments are linked to the Faculty of Public Health Medicine page on <https://www.rcpi.ie/>