

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn

Celebration of the past, focus for the future



TEACH
ENDEAVOUR
LEARN
INNOVATE
SURGERY
COLLABORATE
DEVELOP
EDUCATE
HEALTHCARE
LEADERSHIP
ALUMNI
MEDICINE
BUILD
INTERNATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
SERVICE
SHARE
COMMUNITY
STANDARDS
KNOWLEDGE
RESEARCH
TRAIN
DISCOVER
PROMOTE
WELCOME

Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.
RCSI NOBLE PURPOSE

About RCSI

The principles firmly established by our founders during the earlier years of our College are just as relevant today as they were at that particular time. The early members of Council bequeathed to us the noble tenets of institutional independence, academic freedom, tolerance of difference and a commitment to humanitarian concerns. These tenets are continuously upheld by our College and its staff.

The year 2010 marks 200 years of the College on St Stephen's Green. In 1810 the College moved to its present location at the corner of York Street facing St Stephen's Green where 'Number 123' was built. Since its foundation over 200 years ago, the College has trained doctors and surgeons who have given exemplary service throughout the world and the advances in surgical procedures that we use today, represent the culmination of centuries of learning and enquiry.



We are responsible for setting the highest standards in surgical care and training in Ireland and are an internationally recognised medical school with a 226 year heritage.

We believe that the patient is at the centre of everything we do.

We value innovation, excellence, independence, academic freedom, diversity, tolerance and community.

We are committed to enhancing human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

We strive always to improve human health, to improve continuously our education and research programmes and to form strong relationships with our partners and communities.

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is a Registered Charity for the promotion of the practice of science of Surgery, Anaesthesia, Dentistry, Nursing and Radiology and the provision of education, training and research in Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. Registered Charity number CHY 1277.

Key Statistics

3,499

Number of students

822

Number of staff

€13m

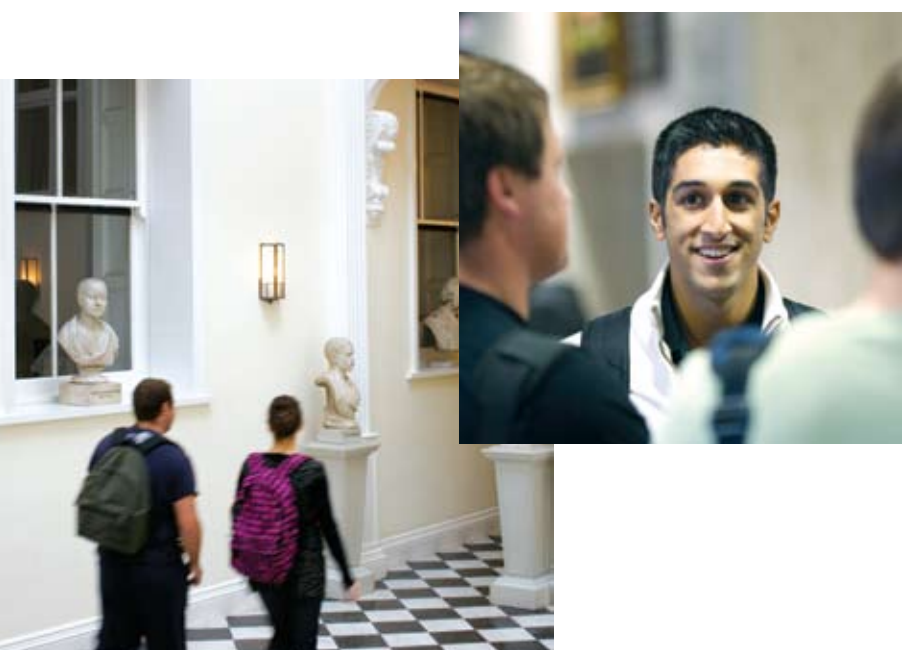
Research funding
awarded to RCSI

Number of students and trainees by Faculty

506	Surgical Trainees
2,413	Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
13	Faculty of Dentistry
96	Faculty of Radiologists
467	Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
4	Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine RCPI & RCSI

Contents

Key Statistics	1
Governance	
President	2
Council Members	6
Senior Management Team	8
Chief Executive's Review	9
Highlights	12
Surgical Affairs	
Surgical Affairs	16
Research	
Research	20
Teaching and Learning	
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences	25
<i>School of Pharmacy</i>	27
<i>School of Physiotherapy</i>	28
<i>School of Postgraduate Studies</i>	29
<i>Institute of Leadership</i>	30
Faculty of Dentistry	32
Faculty of Radiologists	33
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery	34
Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine	36
International	
RCSI International Projects	38
Development Office	
Development Office	42
Community	
RCSI in Ireland	44
Global Initiatives	46
Finance	
Finance	48



PRESIDENT

Professor Frank Keane



When Shakespeare described “a tide in the affairs of man” he spoke, of course, figuratively, suggesting that if one takes advantage of a high tide, one may be carried out to sea and travel great distances; if one misses the chance, then the journey of a lifetime may instead be confined to the shallows forever. A high tide in my life has, without question, been the privilege of becoming the 167th President of RCSI and leading it into its 200th year on St. Stephen’s Green.

Continuing the nautical metaphor, I can report that my two years have not all been unruffled calm. As was once famously remarked about what blows governments off course can, in equal measure, be applied to colleges, and these are simply events! There have been events aplenty facing the College, although none sufficient to set us significantly adrift but enough at least to signal a battening down of the hatches and the taking in of a few reefs of sail.

CHANGES IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Alterations in the executive of any institution often marks a shift in focus, strategy and, to some extent, ethos. Whilst not reflecting adversely on what went before, our institutional changes in senior management have brought not only their own challenges, but also the potential for freshness and renewed vigour. And so it was that in July 2009 the Council confirmed the appointment of Professor Cathal Kelly as our new Chief

Executive and Registrar. After an exacting search process we were delighted to appoint one of RCSI’s own, a former student and Dean of the Medical School, as well as an accomplished and successful vascular surgeon. Professor Kelly brings to the post a unique range of skills; a mix of surgery, management, education and innovation. I have no doubt, that he will stand the College well in the coming years and we wish him the best of good fortune.

As Professor Kelly demitted office as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we were delighted in January 2010 to ratify his successor, Professor Hannah McGee. She joined RCSI in 1987 and has been Professor of Psychology since 2006. She has already served the College very well and has built a formidable reputation as a member of a number of national bodies that inform health and social policy.

Just as we were delighted to welcome other new staff, such as Professor Seamus Sreenan, Director of the Graduate Entry Programme, we have also been sad to say goodbye and thank you for the unique contributions of Professor Alan Johnston, who gave such an impetus to the fledgling Graduate Entry Programme, to Professor John Kelly, who, as Head of the School of Pharmacy, created such a range of national initiatives within his discipline, thus leaving a department on a solid foundation and to Professor Paddy Collins, who provided leadership as Professor of Biochemistry since 1988.

DEGREE-AWARDING STATUS

Both Professor Cathal Kelly and Professor Hannah McGee have recently spearheaded a very successful benchmarking exercise for the Faculty against the standard of the World Federation of Medical Education. However, soon after their appointments, they were both thrown into the deep end when, in January

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2010, the former Minister of Education and Science, Batt O’Keeffe, announced the planned dissolution of the National University of Ireland, thereby threatening our degree-awarding facility with that body. Fortunately, when we last amended our Charter some years ago, we anticipated such an eventuality by setting in train a process by which the College could achieve its own degree-awarding status. The College was quick to respond to the announcement by putting in motion the final steps to award its own degrees, but this will ultimately require the Minister’s approval. The Minister, in turn, quickly established an assessment mechanism to be undertaken by the Health Education Authority and the National Qualifications Authority. An institutional self-assessment report was undertaken within a very tight time frame so that, at this point, a review has been completed by an international panel and a decision by the new Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan, is expected in autumn 2010. While we are optimistic, we are also deeply aware of the importance of a favourable outcome. Great credit must go to all College staff for the enormous work that was carried out as well as the selfless institutional response to this important initiative.

GOVERNANCE

As a by-product of this institutional review, we were prompted to reconsider once again our governance structures. The Vice-President, Ms. Eilis McGovern, led a working group that concluded, as we expected, that the current governance model of RCSI could be improved to reflect developments taking place in corporate governance generally and, in particular, to broaden participation to reflect public interest, the input of staff and appropriate expertise. In the light of these findings, amongst other things, the Council decided to establish two boards to oversee the main educational, training and research

activities of RCSI. The Medicine and Health Sciences Board will oversee the degree-awarding activities whilst the Surgery and Postgraduate Facilities Board will oversee postgraduate vocational training. Both these boards are to be constituted so as to ensure that all stakeholders are represented.

THE SURGICAL PILLAR

Professor Arthur Tanner boasted a successful surgical career, which he left in 2002 to become an equally successful Director of Surgical Affairs. In so doing he has, very necessarily, strengthened the surgical pillar within the College. In recent years he has established The Colles Institute to ensure that, in future, the College will continue to lead surgical innovation, training and practice, both in Ireland and internationally. Currently, the Colles Institute includes three centres, the National Surgical Training Centre, the Centre for Research and Development, and the Centre for Innovation in Research Technology. However, Professor Tanner’s anticipated departure has provoked a further, timely strategic review of this pillar because there are a host of issues to be met that will require a new approach and organisational structure.

For example, RCSI is, first and foremost, the recognised national body for surgical education and training in Ireland. In this role there are both opportunities and challenges, such as training within shorter hours, the need for new courses, the necessity of recruiting trainers and teachers within the new contractual arrangements for consultants, expanding our role in education and assessments overseas, encouraging research, supporting innovation and, ultimately, consolidating our financial resources to carry out all that we aspire to do. A fundamental challenge has, and will be, the removal of the trainee grant with the centralisation of funding to training bodies

that will be administered by the HSE METR (Medical Education Training and Research). This will almost certainly test RCSI’s ability to raise appropriate and adequate national funding for training in surgery, especially within the current financial climate.

Beyond training, our involvement in the generality of Irish surgical practice and its delivery is set to expand significantly as we undertake our role in providing competence schemes for surgeons. The Medical Practitioners Act 2007 lays out that surgeons in practice have to register with their training body, namely RCSI. We will be obliged to outline a Competence Programme for surgeons in which they will have to participate, starting in May 2011. With the assistance of the College, through the Colles Portal, surgeons will record their participation within their programme. They will use this evidence to inform the Medical Council so as to maintain their registration status. The responsibility for competence assurance therefore rests with the practitioner and the Medical Council and not the College. Undoubtedly, this activity will place a new and significant burden on the College and its resources and will have to be funded, most likely I’m afraid, from the surgical community at large.

Another new area of engagement for RCSI within surgical practice will be to advise the Health Service Executive on national initiatives related to the delivery of better surgical care. We have, for example, been pleased to participate with Dr. Barry White, National Director of Clinical and Quality Care at the HSE, in developing a much-needed programme for improving the patient journey and care within elective surgical practice by facilitating the implementation of better processes, greater efficiencies and ultimately providing better value for money and care for patients. The Elective Surgery Programme has been divided into four parts: firstly, a

PRESIDENT

(continued)

“Each overseas student contributes €8,000 per year to the local economy. This brings into sharp focus the significant and often unrecognised contribution that this College makes to the Irish economy.”

programme aimed at maximising day surgery activity and shortening average length of stay (AvLOS); secondly, to implement audit, including the monitoring of outcomes; thirdly, to propose clinical care pathways and guidelines; and finally, to provide better processes to improve efficiencies in the patient’s operating theatre journey.

Much will be heard about these activities over the coming months. Their implementation, as with the unavoidable programmes of transformation and reconfiguration that are being proposed, will demand both extremely hard work and much patience from the profession. I believe, however, most would agree that, in the areas of process and efficiency, we in Ireland are not coming from a good place and there is significant room for improvement. The College is very happy to play its leadership role in these changes and we will be asking for and trusting to the traditional support of its Fellows.

OUR ACADEMIC PROFILE

It is difficult to bottle our academic achievements over the past year into a few short sentences. Perhaps this is best reflected in the very successful matching programmes achieved, especially by our overseas graduates, or by noting that two of our surgical trainees achieved top marks in their intercollegiate specialty Fellowship examinations. We also look forward this year to the graduation of our first class of Graduate Entry students.

Visitors to the College also reflect our academic profile. Meetings hosted by the College included our annual Millin and Charter Day Meeting, which addressed topics including Safety in Surgery, Service Reconfiguration and Surgical Audit. Attendee numbers are increasing year on year and we had four break-out sessions during Charter

Day for different specialties. Registration fees for trainees were omitted but this now confers an obligation on them to attend. Each College faculty and many specialty groups hosted their annual meetings in the College. Visitors came from many corners of the globe as part of the many and diverse groups that assembled in the College, such as the Wound Healing Master Class, the WHO Network on Household Water Treatment, the Symposium on Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology, the 4th Congress on Abdominal Compartment Syndrome and the 2nd International Conference on Surgical Education.

We have been privileged to host invited lectures and talks by many distinguished speakers, including: President Mary McAleese at our Charter Day Dinner; Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan; Cleveland Clinic Chief Executive Delos Cosgrove; Mayo Clinic Staff Chairman Michael Brennan; Professor of Surgery at Imperial College and recent UK Under-Secretary of State for Health Lord Darzi; and the Chancellor of Oxford University, Lord Patten; amongst others.

Perhaps an even better yardstick of our academic profile is demonstrated by our research output and grants won. In research, the 2009 Forfás report stated that, in the matter of scientific publications, “RCSI has had an exceptional profile”, having achieved the highest citation impact of any Irish third-level institution. Meanwhile, we await the outcome of the PRTL Cycle 5 Awards, for which we have reached the last stages.

OUR INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

Our students represent over 50 countries worldwide. In Dublin, about 30% are Irish, 20% from North America, 20% from the Middle East and 20% from the Far East, mostly Malaysia, and 10% from other countries. Altogether RCSI has some 3,400

registered students and trainees at any one time. The Lord Mayor of Dublin recently informed me that each overseas student contributes €8,000 per year to the local economy. This brings into sharp focus the significant and often unrecognised contribution that this College makes to the Irish economy – not that financial gain is our sole prerogative. Hospitality, value and a positive Irish and educational experience are all just as important.

Bahrain has, for a number of years, consumed a great deal of our overseas energies. The Medical School is continuing to make strides, culminating in our first graduation class this summer. This will mark a significant milestone at many levels, consolidating the school itself as well as its regional credibility and status. We have for a long time been on the cusp of closing the deal for the development of the Health Oasis on the land donated to us by the King. At the same time, the management contract for the King Hamad Teaching Hospital has proved equally elusive and frustrating to try and reach closure. One of the goals has been to bring these matters to an early conclusion, which must happen soon.

Meanwhile, our partnership with UCD in Penang continues to thrive and, while there may be a curtailment of their students travelling overseas in time, we would still wish to explore further opportunities and partnerships within Malaysia.

During the past two years, RCSI and the Institute of Technology in Tralee have formed a partnership to provide education and training solutions for Saudi Arabia. This partnership has resulted in the recruitment of government-sponsored medical students who have already completed their Medical Commencement Programme and have entered into the Foundation Year in Dublin. The partnership plans to expand the programme to include Physiotherapy,

“RCSI has had an exceptional profile, having achieved the highest citation impact of any Irish third-level institution.”

Pharmacy and Nursing, and has helped us develop a strong relationship with our own Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs.

In January 2010, the RCSI Institute of Leadership signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Administrative Development Organisation, which is affiliated with the League of Arab States and has responsibility for promoting management, administrative and institutional development in various sectors. In April 2010, I signed a collaborative agreement with the Egyptian Minister of Health undertaking that we work with the High Committee of Medical Specialties of the Egyptian Ministry of Health to improve training and assessments of the Egyptian Boards of Surgery in order to match our RCSI, internationally recognised, standards across a range of activities.

REACH AND OUTREACH

The College is very conscious of what it owes, both to our local community and the world at large. At home, our Recreation, Education and Community Health Programme (REACH), established in 2007, promotes recreation, education and community health, and works in partnership with primary schools, youth groups and the local community on educational initiatives. It is aimed at encouraging and facilitating third-level participation and enhancing life chances for those traditionally underrepresented at third level, particularly those from the south inner city.

On the lighter side, in March at the annual Sports Day, a number of Dublin GAA football players spent the day training local school children. Excusing the pun, they all had a ball!

The Research Outreach Programme promotes public awareness of medical research. The main aim of this is to educate and inform the general public, teachers and students about the biomedical research that

is carried out in the College and its impact on health. It provides this information in a way that is accessible and understandable to these audiences.

Our international outreach initiatives during the year include our work with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), the Solar Water Disinfection Project (SODIS), the Paediatric Exchange Programme in Vietnam, our work with the Holy Rosary Hospital in Nigeria, our Health Research Programmes in HIV and Hepatitis C in Africa, and, finally, our response to the earthquake in Haiti, which was supported largely by our Trauma/Orthopaedic colleagues. These are very diverse activities but, over the past year, we have brought their oversight under the watch of a single committee. We are grateful for the helpful support from Irish Aid for a number of projects. With COSECSA, I believe we are continuing to have an impact both in the education and assessment of surgeons and also in task shifting, which is so important in a region of the world where there are so many populations suffering from a dire lack of access to surgical care and carers.

CONCLUSION

It would be easy to run on interminably about so many aspects of this burgeoning institution. However, as I said at the outset, it has not all been plain sailing. For example, although it would be correct to say that our fundamental financial position is sound, our financial model is finely balanced. As a not-for-profit, private, academic institution, we are required to generate sufficient funds to cover all our activities, including current and capital requirements and infrastructural developments. So we have to work to a break-even position annually with a turnover in excess of €120 million matched by staff and operating costs each of about €60 million. Net assets fell last year, mainly due

to falling property values, but we expect the central location of our properties to recover in the medium term.

Being a private institution, we continue to have to create our own future. This means that it is a time to manage our costs tightly, look for economies of scale across the organisation and innovate to generate new sources of revenue.

We greatly value our Faculties of Radiology, Dentistry, Nursing, and Sports and Exercise Medicine and applaud their achievements so clearly expressed at their annual conferences. We are very conscious of their aspiration to participate at the highest level of College governance and I feel sure that this will be met within our new governance structures when they are implemented.

My job as President has been made so much easier by a myriad of colleagues, staff, senior management and Council members, to whom I remain enormously grateful. I would like to convey a particular thanks to Louise Loughran and her team as well as my personal assistant, Kate Smith, who have all chaperoned me with such facility.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-President and successor, Eilis McGovern, for her unstinting support and wish her great enjoyment and success as this College's first Lady President.

Council Members

Pictured left to right

Professor Frank Keane

President and Consultant Surgeon
(General / Colorectal)
The Adelaide & Meath Hospital incorporating
the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght

Mr. Patrick J. Broe

Consultant Surgeon (General)
Beaumont Hospital

Mr. Kevin O'Malley

Consultant Surgeon (Vascular)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Professor W. Arthur Tanner

Former Director of Surgical Affairs, RCSI

Professor Ronan O'Connell

Professor Surgery and Consultant Surgeon
(Colorectal)
UCD and St. Vincent's Hospital

Ms. Eilis McGovern

Vice-President and Consultant Surgeon
(Cardiothoracic)
St. James's Hospital

Professor John Hyland

Consultant Surgeon (General / Colorectal)
St. Vincent's University Hospital

Mr. Declan J. Magee

Consultant Surgeon (General)
St Columcille's Hospital

Professor Thomas F. Gorey

Consultant Surgeon (General)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Mr. Michael J. Earley

Consultant Surgeon (Plastic)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital and the
Children's University Hospital, Temple Street



Professor Michael J. Kerin

Professor and Head of Department of Surgery
and Consultant Surgeon
(Breast /Endocrine /General)
NUI Galway and University Hospital, Galway

Mr. Kenneth Mealy

Consultant Surgeon (General)
Wexford General Hospital

Mr. Parnell Keeling

Consultant Surgeon (General)
Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown

Ms. Laura Viani

Consultant Surgeon (Otolaryngology)
Beaumont Hospital

Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood

Consultant Surgeon (Cardiothoracic)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital and Our Lady's
Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin

Mr. Joe O'Beirne

Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)
Waterford Regional Hospital

Professor David J. Bouchier-Hayes

Retired Professor of Surgery and Consultant
Surgeon (Vascular)
RCSI and Beaumont Hospital

Mr. Frank McManus

Retired Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Mr. Joseph P. Duignan

Consultant Surgeon (General)
St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire

Professor H. Paul Redmond

Professor and Chair of Surgery, UCC
and Consultant Surgeon (Oncology)
Cork University Hospital
St. Michael's Hospital, Dún Laoghaire

Mr. Gordon Watson

Retired Consultant Surgeon (General)
Waterford Regional Hospital



Senior Management Team



1. Dr. Terry McWade
Deputy CEO

2. Professor W. Arthur Tanner
Director of Surgical Affairs



3. Professor Hannah McGee
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine
and Health Sciences

4. Professor Brian Harvey
Director of Research



5. Ms. Jennifer Cullinane
Director of Finance

6. Mr. Bernard Cahill
Director of Human Resources



On facing page:

Professor Cathal Kelly
Chief Executive/Registrar

Chief Executive's Review



It is my privilege to address you as the new Chief Executive of RCSI and to update you on the activities of the College over the past year. As a Graduate and Fellow of the College and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, I feel deeply privileged and honoured to assume this position.

It is appropriate that I record the debt and gratitude we owe to Michael Horgan, who was Chief Executive and Registrar from 2004. Michael joined the College in 1976 and was centrally involved in all the major strategic initiatives in this institution over the past 25 years. Under his stewardship, the College went from strength to strength in all areas of activity. The groundwork that he has laid has strengthened this institution and will shape its future.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Hannah McGee, who has succeeded me as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. I wish Hannah every success in her new role.

There is no doubt that we are living in unprecedented times. As an international institution, the College is not immune from the events in the global economy and it is prudent that we plan and act accordingly. Indeed the past year was not without its challenges. However, RCSI has made many developments and advances, and has achieved many successes over the past 12 months.

Chief Executive's Review

(continued)

“Our Graduate-Entry Programme is consistently ranked number one with the CAO in terms of popularity and it was the first graduate programme to be assessed and accredited by the Irish Medical Council.”

The reorganisation of health services in Ireland and the challenging financial times for our health system continue to present major challenges to the delivery of medical education. As the leading provider of medical education in Ireland, we were delighted in June this year to confer the first 50 graduate-entry programme students in Ireland. The Graduate-Entry Programme, which began in 2006, aims to increase the access routes to study medicine and to diversify the academic and social backgrounds of the student population. A measure of the success of our Graduate-Entry Programme is that it is consistently ranked number one with the CAO in terms of popularity and it was the first graduate programme to be assessed and accredited by the Irish Medical Council.

The continuing difficult economic climate led to significant cuts in the Irish Government's research funding. However, despite this, the College maintained its competitiveness in research funding, continuing to win significant levels of funding, particularly at European level. In clinical sciences, RCSI has an exceptional profile, holding the lead position on citation impact, ahead of all other universities in Ireland. This has been documented in a recent Higher Education publication entitled 'Research Strengths in Ireland'. Additionally, the level of postgraduate research training within the College continues to go from strength to strength, with registration significantly above the 21% national average.

As the governing body for surgery in Ireland, the introduction of part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007 (which will make participation in professional competency schemes mandatory by May 2011) means that plans for the future are being laid to support the surgical community as it prepares for these changes. An outline of the College's proposed scheme has been provided to the Medical Council and the feedback was very positive. However, the finalisation of exact requirements for professional competence is still in progress.

Despite the volcanic ash disruptions in May, the College hosted the 2nd International Conference on Surgical Education and Training (ICOSSET). More than 30 prestigious global thought leaders from North America, Australia, New Zealand and across Europe gave their global perspectives on surgical training and the impact of reduced work hours. The conference attracted a large cohort of national and international delegates.

Also within surgery, the Centre for Innovation and Surgical Technology (CIST) continues to grow. In February this year, the College embarked on a unique collaboration with Tyndall National Institute in Cork to boost Ireland's competitiveness in the medical device market and to propel Ireland to the forefront of innovation in the biomedical device sector.

Another first for RCSI took place in June of this year when RCSI Bahrain conferred its first class of healthcare professionals. Under the patronage of His Royal Highness, Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, 72 postgraduates and undergraduates were conferred in Medicine, Nursing, Healthcare Ethics and Law. As the first cohort of students in Bahrain, it was a particularly proud moment for all involved.

Also in Bahrain, the King Hamad General Hospital project is progressing well. The hospital, which is currently under construction, is one of the biggest public sector health projects in Bahrain in recent times. It will provide world-class healthcare services to the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain upon its completion. It is a 312-bed public hospital and will be the main teaching hospital for RCSI Bahrain.

“The level of postgraduate research training within the College continues to go from strength to strength, with registration significantly above the 21% national average.”

“The College maintained its competitiveness in research funding, continuing to win significant levels of funding, particularly at European level.”

Philanthropy plays a key role in leveraging funding from both private sources and public bodies and it enables the College to enhance the quality of our resources on offer. RCSI is extremely grateful to the International Development Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. Dermot Desmond, for its continued strategic advice and ongoing support. The board is comprised of leaders of business and industry, from Ireland and overseas, including Mrs. Loretta Brennan Glucksman and Mr. Gilbert Little. Our ongoing priorities include the redevelopment of York Street, which will encompass our new Colles Institute, and the refurbishment of the College library.

During the year, more than €1.6 million was raised for breast cancer research and I would like to thank everybody who contributed for their generosity.

I am extremely proud of our students and their willingness to participate in humanitarian and charitable initiatives, and this year was no exception. The Caribbean-African Society (CAS) hosted the popular Chocolate Ball as part of World Aids Day in December 2009. Funds raised through charity balls and events were donated to benefactors including Aid Africa, SUAS, the Irish Cancer Society, Islamic Relief and Fighting Blindness.

RCSI students also gave generously of their time to assist with many outreach programmes, notably the REACH Sports Day and the REACH Homework Club for local school children as well as the Mini Med School for Transition Year students.

This year the College marks its 200th anniversary on St. Stephen's Green. The 200th anniversary of our building is a landmark, not just in St. Stephen's Green, but also in Dublin and Ireland, and for many people in different parts of the

world. Its presence has been central to the advancement of surgery and medical education in Ireland and worldwide.

RCSI has been a recognised College of the National University of Ireland (NUI) since 1974, with graduates of RCSI receiving NUI degrees in addition to the awards of the College. This relationship has served the College well for more than 30 years and the College has always valued its position within the NUI. However, earlier this year, we were formally informed of the intention of the Minister of Education and Science to introduce legislation to abolish the NUI. At our request, the Minister instructed the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) to engage with us, in an institutional review, with a view to granting us independent degree-awarding status.

“In February this year, the College embarked on a unique collaboration with Tyndall National Institute in Cork to boost Ireland's competitiveness in the medical device market and to propel Ireland to the forefront of innovation in the biomedical device sector.”

This review, led by Professor Hannah McGee and her team in the faculty centre, culminated in a three-day intensive site visit by an international panel of experts. They met with over 150 staff and students as well as external stakeholders. The panel was uniform in their praise of the staff and students, the morale and the sense of community within RCSI. Despite their extensive experience, they had never witnessed such a sense of collegiality in any other institution worldwide, which is testament to the sense of endeavour and collaboration that is evident across the entire RCSI community. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the efforts and commitment of the staff of RCSI throughout the process. I have always been proud and passionate about the College but never more so than during this period. We must now wait to receive formal feedback from the panel and it is hoped to receive a decision from the Minister in October.

The past year has been a successful and exciting year, though not without its challenges. The achievements and success of RCSI are due to the dedication, energy and loyalty of the individuals who comprise the staff of RCSI and I would like to thank them for their contribution. I would also like to acknowledge the senior management team for their outstanding performance during my first year in office. I would have been in an invidious position without their unstinting support and I am deeply indebted. Finally, I look forward to working with our new President, Ms. Eilís McGovern, and her council as we work toward the successes of our future.

Milestones and Achievements in 2009/2010

2009 JULY

Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony – Approximately 150 people were conferred with postgraduate awards including Intercollegiate Board Speciality Diplomas in Cardiothoracic Surgery; General Surgery; Neurosurgery; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Otolaryngology; Paediatric Surgery; Plastic Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery; and Urology. Intercollegiate membership of RCSI and new Members and Fellows of the Faculties of Radiology, Dentistry, and Sports and Exercise Medicine were also conferred. Dr. Delos M. Cosgrove, President and Chief Executive of the Cleveland Clinic, and leading Orthopaedic Traumatologist, Professor Eric Egan Johnson from UCLA were awarded Honorary Fellowships.

The **21st RCSI Annual Golf Classic** at Luttrellstown Castle Golf Club raised over €35,000 in aid of surgical research.

The **RCSI 'Come to Your Senses' summer course** was attended by 25 primary school teachers from schools throughout Ireland. The course provides teachers of the primary science curriculum with practical experiments and novel ideas to use in the classroom.

The Summer Meeting of the **Forum of Surgery** of Great Britain and Ireland took place over two days at RCSI in Dublin.

AUGUST

Health checks for the local community were carried out in RCSI Mercer's Medical Centre as part of the REACH RCSI Programme.

SEPTEMBER

The **RCSI Alumni Gala Reunion** was attended by more than 250 medical graduates and their guests, who travelled from all parts of Ireland and across the globe. Professor Lord Ara Darzi, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the UK Department of Health, received the Distinguished Graduates Award.

At its **Orientation Day**, RCSI welcomed over 400 new students into its undergraduate Medicine, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy programmes.



Pictured (l-r) are Dr Marc Devocelle, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, RCSI with Primary School teachers Sinead Coakley from Gael Scoil Naomh Padraig, Lucan; Linda Wheatley, RPNS Rathfarnham and Elaine Lyons, Salesian Primary School Limerick at the RCSI 'Come to Your Senses' summer course.



Pictured (l-r) at the RCSI Alumni Gala Reunion are Mr. Hy Browne, Professor The Lord Ari Darzi, who received the Distinguished Graduates Award, and Professor Sarah Rogers, President, Association of Graduates.

OCTOBER

The **RCSI North American Chapter of Fellows** meeting took place in Chicago. It provided an opportunity to foster relationships between the College and its Fellows and Members in North America.

This year's **Millin Meeting** was devoted to "Assuring Patient Safety", bringing to the fore all issues concerning safety, particularly those which are pertinent to surgical disciplines. The day-long event culminated in the Honorary Fellowship of Dr. Victor Fazio from the Cleveland Clinic and Mr. Chris Russell, Honorary Consultant Surgeon, University College London and former Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons in England. Mr. Ronan Cahill, FRCSI, delivered the 32nd Millin Lecture, entitled "Tailoring Innovation for Surgical Care".

NOVEMBER

The **RCSI/AIB Race Against Breast Cancer Day** at Leopardstown attracted over 730 people and raised in excess of €294,000. This will go towards funding vital breast cancer research aimed at speeding up discovery time and, ultimately, offering more effective and more personalised treatments for those diagnosed.

The inaugural **Órán Ó Muiré Bursary for Nurse-Led Asthma Research** was awarded to RCSI Postgraduate Nursing student Deirdre Long.

The **official opening of the RCSI Bahrain sports centre** in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, took place under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Faisal Bin Yacub Al Hamer, Minister of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain.

At the **RCSI November Conferring**, approximately 550 students were conferred with undergraduate and postgraduate awards at three conferring ceremonies throughout the day. This was the largest number of students to be conferred in a single day at the College.

The **Breast Cancer Ireland Autumn Raffle** raised in excess of €450,000 towards breast cancer research at RCSI with over 10,000 people participating nationwide.

DECEMBER

The 2009 **Father Michael Kelly Lecture** for World AIDS Day at RCSI was given by Dr. Seth Berkley, President of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

A 10-week **REACH RCSI Health Programme** came to a close, improving the health and fitness of 15 members from Aungier Celtic Football Club in the south inner city.



Pictured from (l-r) are Mr Christopher Russell, Professor Frank Keane, President, RCSI and Dr Victor Fazio at the 2009 Millin Meeting.



Leopardstown Racecourse designated a feature race on the last day of the flat season in support of RCSI AIB Race Against Breast Cancer. Pictured are Ms. Aisling Hurley, RCSI Director of Development and winning jockey Mr. Seamie Heffernan.



Pictured (l-r) at the RCSI November Conferring Ceremony are Ms. Elisabeth Griffin, Ms. Catherine Holland and Ms. Anne Landers who received their Degrees of Master of Science (MSc) Healthcare, Ethics and Law.



Pictured (third from left) is Minister for Overseas Development, Mr. Peter Power, TD, with Dr. Seth Berkley, President of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and RCSI Medical Students at the opening of the Fr. Michael Kelly Lecture for World Aids Day.

Milestones and Achievements in 2009/2010

2010 JANUARY

RCSI's Annual Open Day gave more than 500 students from second-level schools a taste of life as a medical, pharmacy and physiotherapy student.

A **Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO)** was signed by RCSI's Institute of Leadership. ARADO is responsible for promoting management, administrative and institutional development in various sectors in the Arab region.

The **RCSI Mini Med Transition Year programme** welcomed 150 Transition Year students from 75 schools for a week-long training programme. The programme, which is the only one of its kind in Ireland, gives Transition Year students the opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a doctor.

RCSI's Celebration of 200 Years on St. Stephen's Green got under way with a visit from the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Emer Costello, and a reception for RCSI staff, student representatives and businesses based on St. Stephen's Green.

FEBRUARY

At the **Charter Day Meetings**, Honorary Fellowships were granted to four leading international medical professionals: Dr. Michael Brennan, President of the Mayo Clinic, USA; Professor John Collins, Dean of Education at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; Professor Anthony Costello, Professor of Urology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, Australia; and Professor Peter Lee, Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery in Penang Medical College in Malaysia.

The annual **RCSI Charter Day Dinner** was attended by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 200th anniversary of RCSI on St. Stephen's Green.

A joint **collaboration between RCSI's Colles Institute and Tyndall National Institute**, UCC, was announced by Mr. Micheál Martin, Minister for Foreign Affairs. RCSI and Tyndall will combine their respective strengths and synergies to propel Ireland to the forefront of innovation in the biomedical device sector.

MARCH

The **REACH RCSI Sports Day** was supported by Dublin GAA football players. They volunteered their time to spend the day training 100 local school children as part of the REACH RCSI recreational, education and community health outreach programme.

The **Irish Institute of Training and Development (IITD) National Awards ceremony** recognised Dr. Orna Tighe, Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, RCSI's Research Institute, who won the Learner of the Year award; and Dr. Brian Kirby, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology at the School of Pharmacy, who was highly commended.

APRIL

The **Annual RCSI Research Day** provided RCSI scientists with the opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings.

A team of RCSI students competed in the **114th Boston Marathon**, with nine RCSI runners participating in what is one of the world's most prestigious road races and which attracts an average of 26,000 runners annually.

A **national clinical research programme on the treatment of breast cancer**, in association with Aviva and RCSI, was launched by the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney.



Ms. Deirdre Moran, (18) a 6th year student from Our Lady's College, Terenure, Dublin 6, examines one of the exhibits at RCSI's Annual Open Day.



Pictured are Professor Frank Keane, President of RCSI with his wife Dr. Noreen Keane and the President of Ireland, Ms. Mary McAleese, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate 200 years of RCSI on St. Stephen's Green.



Pictured (l-r) are Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive / Registrar, RCSI, Dr. Michael Murphy, President of UCC, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Professor Roger Whatmore, Chief Executive, Tyndall National Institute at the announcement of the joint collaboration between RCSI and Tyndall National Institute, UCC.

MAY

The **8th Annual Leadership Lecture**, entitled “G1, G2... G20 – Who Leads the World?”, was delivered by Lord Patten of Barnes, The Right Honourable Chris Patten. Lord Patten was also awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI.

The **2nd International Conference on Surgical Education and Training** was hosted by RCSI. 30 prestigious global thought leaders from North America, Australia, New Zealand and across Europe gave global perspectives on surgical training.

JUNE

RCSI's Annual Public Outreach Lecture, which explored the link between biological diversity and human health, was delivered by Dr. Aaron Bernstein, MD, Centre for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School.

At the **RCSI Summer Conferring**, graduates from Ireland's first Graduate-Entry Programme in Medicine (GEP/GEM) were among 259 students conferred at the ceremony in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. This year's graduating class is the largest ever to be conferred by RCSI.

The first **RCSI Research Summer School** was launched, with 52 undergraduate health sciences students from the junior and intermediate cycles of the Medical School, School of Pharmacy and School of Physiotherapy, taking part in a structured programme throughout the summer.

The **inaugural RCSI Bahrain graduation** ceremony took place in Muharraq, Bahrain. Some 72 students from postgraduate and undergraduate courses were conferred under the patronage of His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.



Pamela Moran (8) and Serena Reilly (9) from St. Enda's Primary School, Whitefriar Street, Dublin at the REACH RCSI Sports Day.



RCSI Boston Marathon team.



Lord Patten Receiving his Honorary Fellowship from Professor Frank Keane, President of RCSI.



Pictured (l-r) at the RCSI Annual Graduation Ceremony at the National Concert Hall, Dublin are Ms. Katryna Zabidi and Ms. Wafaa Ahmed.

Surgical Affairs

We believe our principal role as a College of Surgeons is to act as patient advocates for high quality safe surgical care and practice.



Surgical Affairs



PROFESSOR ARTHUR TANNER,
DIRECTOR OF SURGICAL AFFAIRS



The 2nd International Conference on Surgical Education and Training took place in RCSI from 12th -14th May 2010. Pictured (l-r) are Professor Austin Leahy, Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Management, RCSI, Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI, Professor The Lord Ara Darzi, Head of Surgery at Imperial College London and the Institute of Cancer Research, Professor Frank Keane, President, RCSI, Professor Arnie Hill, Professor of Surgery, RCSI, Professor Tom Walsh, Associate Professor of Surgery, RCSI, and Consultant Surgeon Connolly Hospital, Dublin.

Key Facts

179

Higher Surgical Trainees

232

Basic Surgical Trainees

95

Irish Surgical Residency
Programme

Laying down the foundations for the future is how one could describe the main focus of the past year. The medical profession in Ireland is in the midst of high-paced changes in both service delivery and the regulatory environment. The Health Service Executive continues to push the change and transformation agenda. The introduction of part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 means that participation in structured and monitored professional competence schemes will be mandatory from 1 May 2011. We have dedicated significant effort into how we support our trainees, fellows and the broader community of surgery to prepare for these changes and, at the same time, ensuring that the quality of surgical care for patients is of the highest order.

This year we undertook an exercise to lay out a strategic plan for the department of Surgical Affairs over the next five years. The key drivers for this are to best prepare for the external environmental changes, to ensure our relevance to supporting the development of all surgical sub-specialties, to keep our training schemes recognised as being of the highest international standards and to ensure the future financial stability needed to meet our strategic objectives. In carrying out our planning project, we actively sought the views of our key external and internal stakeholders. We are very grateful for the time and input all provided in helping us shape our strategy. As a result of this exercise and the feedback we received, we will be setting up a specific function in our department to develop and manage professional development for surgeons and surgical care. In addition, we will build upon our engagement with the HSE in taking a proactive and leadership role in areas of policy, change and transformation. We shall continue to build upon our success in research, education development, surgical training and innovation. We shall also focus on our international developments and supporting RCSI as an internationally recognised brand of excellence in medical, surgical and healthcare education and training.

SURGICAL TRAINING

These are challenging times financially for our health system. There have been a number of changes in the funding of surgical training that affected trainees and RCSI alike. However, I am pleased to confirm that the HSE's commitment to funding medical training remains and we appreciate our ongoing productive collaboration with the HSE in the provision of our surgical training



Ms. Marie O'Boyle, Ms. Leila Wilson, and Ms. Fiona Walsh from the Surgical Affairs Team demonstrate the Colles Portal at the 2009 Millin Meeting.



Pictured (l-r) with Professor Frank Keane, President of RCSI Professor Eric Egan Johnson and Dr. Delos M. Cosgrove who were awarded Honorary Fellowships in July 2009.

“In 2011 we will commence a Basic Specialty Training programme in Emergency Medicine and we will be engaging with all the surgical disciplines in preparing a comprehensive programme of Basic Specialty Training as our trainees enter year three of their BST programme.”

programmes. We, along with the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies, approved a detailed agreement with the HSE that will strengthen the governance and structures of training in Ireland. We had more than 160 trainees in our Basic Surgical Training (BST) programmes and over 200 trainees in our Higher Specialty Training (HST) programmes, including 30 in Emergency Medicine. In 2011 we will commence a Basic Specialty Training programme in Emergency Medicine and we will be engaging with all the surgical disciplines in preparing a comprehensive programme of Basic Specialty Training as our trainees enter year three of their BST programme.

We continue to adopt modern information technology to support the organisation of our training and communications. The Colles Portal has gone ‘live’ and is being used by trainees, trainers, committee members and our administration to organise our activities.

We very much appreciate the co-operation, patience and feedback all have given us as we continually optimise this system to be more streamlined.

The highlight of the year must be the hosting of the 2nd International Conference on Surgical Education and Training (ICOSET) in May. This event was spearheaded by Professor Oscar Traynor and the team here at RCSI. The event attracted one of the largest gatherings of international surgeons this country has ever seen, and the insight and information on the future of surgical training was truly fantastic. We at RCSI were very honoured to host this event and our colleagues from far and wide. The event outlined a common position statement on the future of surgical training on which all involved in this endeavour can focus. Our congratulations to Professor Traynor, all at RCSI and the organising committee of ICOSET on this historical event.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE SCHEME

In May 2010 the Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, signed into law Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, which deals with the legal requirements for medical practitioners in Ireland to participate in professional competence schemes (PCSs). Through our Surgical Service and Practice Committee, we prepared an outline of our proposed professional competence scheme and feedback from the Medical Council was very positive. However, the finalisation of the exact requirements for professional competence is in process through the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies in conjunction with the Medical Council. We anticipate being ready to begin the process of enrolling practitioners in our PCS from late 2010.

Given the importance of this to the future of the surgical profession, RCSI will be establishing a dedicated unit for professional development and we intend to make a senior appointment to this role in 2010. We shall utilise our Colles Portal to facilitate the scheme and allow enrolled practitioners to manage their professional competence requirements.

This is, of course, only the start of a long journey. The initial phases of the PCSs will be to facilitate practitioners to engage in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Clinical Audit. Practitioners will have to accumulate 250 CPD credits in any five-year cycle and engage in about 12 hours of clinical audit activity per annum. The schemes are relatively non-prescriptive at this point but we envisage a process whereby each specialty and sub-specialty will begin looking at particular activities that contribute more succinctly to the assurance of competence.



Pictured (l-r) are Mr. John Orr, President, RCSEd, Mr. James Steers, FSSA, Professor Frank Keane, President, RCSI and Professor Brian Williams, President, RCPSG at the Summer Meeting of the Forum of Surgery of Great Britain and Ireland.

“Two multidisciplinary, multisite and interinstitutional projects have received funding in excess of €500,000 from the Health Research Board. These projects are looking at the effectiveness of a novel technique to manage diverticulitis and to explore and design the necessary requirements for the advancement of day surgery in Ireland.”

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

We continue to develop our research programme, both internally into surgical training and education and in support of the community of surgery through our ISURN (Irish Surgical Research Network) initiative. We learned in June that two multidisciplinary, multisite and interinstitutional projects have received funding in excess of €500,000 from the Health Research Board. These projects are looking at the effectiveness of a novel technique to manage diverticulitis and to explore and design the necessary requirements for the advancement of day surgery in Ireland.

Two of our research fellows, Ms. Emily Boyle and Mr. Princeton Lee, were awarded their MD and MCh degrees respectively.

Our taught modular MCh programme continues to grow and we are pleased that our inaugural class will complete their studies this year. This educational course has facilitated the collaboration between many of the RCSI faculties and departments, and we convey our appreciation to our colleagues throughout the College for their incredible input into the success of this course.

LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH POLICY AND CHANGE

Professor Frank Keane, President, RCSI, began a process of engagement with Dr. Barry White, HSE National Director for Quality of Clinical Care. Dr. White was keen to establish a number of work programmes directly with clinicians to refocus the change and transformation programme of the HSE to be patient centred. One of the most immediate areas requiring attention was the crisis in elective surgery in Irish public hospitals. Through a series of meetings and consultations with surgical colleagues, a formal work programme has been established with the HSE that puts

surgeons firmly in the driving seat. This important work centres around four areas: (1) the optimisation of inpatient elective average length of stay and increase of day surgery; (2) the optimisation of theatre utilisation and workflow; (3) ensuring quality of care and service effectiveness through national surgical audit; and (4) supporting implementation to achieve the objectives of the work programme through design of integrated care pathways and national guidelines. In addition, Ms. Eilis McGovern, Vice-President, RCSI, is engaged in the programme for hospital reconfiguration.

INNOVATIONS IN SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Our Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) continues to go from strength to strength, with over 50 innovative ideas being supported and developed by CIST. We were delighted to learn that CIST will receive significant funding from Enterprise Ireland to allow us take on the necessary resources and expertise to continue the growth of this exciting area.

Finally, as in previous years, we continue to support the professional development of our surgical trainees outside of the structured programmes. The College awarded funding and grants to well-deserved trainees to develop their careers through experience in international centres of clinical excellence.

AWARDS 2010

RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship for 2010

Ms. Emer Lang

RCSI Surgical Travelling Grants

Mr. Rowan Casey
Dr. Jurgen Mulsow
Mr. Gavin O'Brien
Mr. James O'Riordan

Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants

Mr. Michael Donnelly
Dr. Paul O'Neill
Mr. James O'Riordan

RCSI/Ipsen Travelling Fellowship in Urology

Dr. Barry McGuire

Royal Society of Medicine Section of Coloproctology Irish Travelling Fellowship

Dr. Niamh McCawley

Joint Research Grants in Surgery

Joint RCSI/Department of Surgery RCSI:

Dr. Gemma Solon

Joint RCSI/Department of Surgery UCD:

Dr. Sheng Oon

Millin Lecture 2010

Mr. David Gerard Healy

Research

Research at RCSI integrates basic and clinical research, so that advances in medical science are translated as quickly as possible into patient treatments.



Research



PROFESSOR BRIAN HARVEY
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



Pictured (l-r) are Oliver Schubert, Magdalena Hryniewiecka, Melaine Focking and Professor David Cotter, RCSI Psychiatry Department, pictured outside The Education & Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital. The team were awarded funding for schizophrenia research under the Science Foundation Ireland Research Frontiers Programme.

Key Facts

1st

RCSI's position for citation impact in the clinical sciences among higher educational institutions in Ireland

€13m

Research funding awarded to RCSI

135

Number of PhD students

In spite of the deep recession, which has led to significant cuts in the Irish Government's investment in research, RCSI has maintained its competitiveness in research funding awards. Once again, it has demonstrated its scientific standing at international level, bringing to Ireland funding awards from the European Seventh Framework Programme (EU FP7), the European Research Council and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Professor Fergal O'Brien was the recipient of one of the two Starting Independent Research Grant awards made to Ireland by the European Research Council. The €2 million award will enable Professor O'Brien's team to carry out a research programme that aims to develop bone graft substitute biomaterials and laboratory-engineered bone tissue for implantation in damaged bone sites.

Professor Gerry McElvaney was successful in securing Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)/NIH co-funding, under the US Ireland R&D Partnership programme, to investigate the role of anaerobic bacterial infection in cystic fibrosis (CF). The outcome of these studies will be critical in designing strategies to improve therapy of CF lung disease.

Dr. Annette Byrne is the co-ordinator of the AngioTox programme, which was awarded €1.8 million funding under the FP7 MarieCurie Industry Academia Pathways and Partnership programme. The AngioTox programme aims to understand the mechanisms of toxicity for clinically approved anti-angiogenic oncology drugs.

Professor Alice Stanton is one of the international partners involved in the UMPIRE clinical trial, with partners also from the UK, the Netherlands and India. The trial, awarded €3 million funding under the EU FP7 Health Co-operation Programme, will test the efficacy of a multidrug pill in reducing cardiovascular events.

Professor Tom Fahey and 17 European colleagues from universities and private organisations are partners in the TRANSFoRm project, which was awarded €7 million by the EU FP7 ICT programme. The project aims to aid general practitioners in diagnosis by integrating decision support directly into their electronic records systems and to speed up the recruitment, management and follow up of patients for research studies through routine electronic health record systems linked to research databases.



Dr. Leonie Young leads a research team which has identified a biomarker in patient blood that can predict the severity of breast cancer in patients.



*Orlaith Kelly, PhD Scholar
Category Oral Winner and
Professor Brian Harvey,
Director of Research, RCSI, at
the annual RCSI Research Day.*

APPOINTMENTS

As a sign of further strengthening of RCSI's research partnership with DCU in the area of Biomedical Diagnostics and Translational Research, RCSI and DCU made the joint appointment of Professor Michael Berndt as Director of the Biomedical Diagnostic Institute and Chair of Experimental Medicine. Professor Berndt's research team, funded under a SFI Principal Investigator Award at RCSI, will carry out research in the area of thrombosis and vascular biology.

RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS

Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri and a group of international scientists made a breakthrough in understanding human adaptation to high-altitude environments. They identified a gene in Tibetan highlanders that allows them to thrive at altitudes more than two miles above sea level, which would induce serious altitude sickness in other populations. The findings are published in the prestigious science journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Professor Ray Stalling's team has developed a novel miRNA expression signature that is predictive of clinical outcome for neuroblastoma patients, which is expected to lead to more optimised therapy for patients (*Plos One*; 2009). Further analysis of tumours with this signature also led to the important discovery that a particular tumour subtype, involving chromosome 11q deletion, is actually composed of two biologically distinct

tumour groups that differ dramatically in clinical outcome (published in *Clinical Cancer Research*; 2010).

An RCSI research team led by Dr. Leonie Young, and funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), has identified a biomarker in patient blood that can predict the severity of breast cancer in patients and enable clinicians to track patients throughout the course of their treatment.

Dr. Norman Delanty and Dr. Cavalleri are involved in a major international study aimed at identifying the genetic risk factors that influence the development of sporadic forms of epilepsy. This study is carried out by the EPIGEN consortium, which includes clinicians, scientists and geneticists from the Institute of Neurology at UCL, London; the Institute of Genome Sciences and Policy at Duke University; and centres in Australia, Belgium and Finland. A study from the group,

“Once again, RCSI has demonstrated its scientific standing at international level, bringing to Ireland funding awards from the European Framework 7 Programme, the European Research Council and National Institutes of Health.”



Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri, Biomedical Research Lecturer, RCSI is one of a group of international scientists who have made a breakthrough in understanding human adaptation to high-altitude environments.



Professor Jochen Prehn delivering the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Life Sciences Award Lecture, entitled “Bench-to-Bedside Research – A Two-Way Street”.



Pictured (l-r) are Professor Brian Harvey, Director of Research, RCSI, Mr. Erwan Guillou, Abbott, Professor Sarah Rogers, President of Association of Graduates, Ms. Karen Walshe, Hewlett-Packard and Mr. Bernard Kennedy, Mundipharma at the annual RCSI Research Day.

published in the Lancet Neurology, utilised the latest HapMap data to study the DNA of more than 2,700 epilepsy patients, representing the first major attempt to deliver a large-population study of the genetics of epilepsy.

Dr. Markus Rehm and colleagues found a new approach that allows the investigation of the signalling network coding the death decision within individual, living, human cells. The findings of this study were published and included in the editorial highlights of the Journal of Cell Science in April 2010. This research was supported by SFI, the Health Research Board Ireland, HEA PRTL Cycle 4, and EU FP7 Marie Curie Co-fund and Co-operation Health Programmes.

Research into female-specific actions of oestrogen, conducted by Professor Brian Harvey and his team in the Molecular Medicine Laboratories in Beaumont Hospital, was the topic of a special symposium of the Physiological Society in July 2009. It also appeared on the front cover of the November issue of the Journal of Physiology and was also featured as a translational highlight by the Endocrine Society USA.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In June 2010 the Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, launched the Government's new 10-year National Cardiovascular Policy 2010-2019, "Changing Cardiovascular Health". The end goal is to translate research into policy and practice. This policy was developed by a team chaired by RCSI Dean Professor Hannah McGee, including RCSI Vice-President Ms. Ellis McGovern and Dr. Emer Shelley, and was informed by national studies recently completed by RCSI and partners – the Irish National Audit of Stroke Care (INASC) and the national Survey of Lifestyles and Nutrition (SLAN 2007).

The RCSI bioengineering research team, lead by Professors Fergal O'Brien and Clive Lee won five out of eight awards on offer at the 16th Annual Conference of the Section of Bioengineering of the Royal Academy of Medicine (RAMI) in January 2010.

In December 2009 Professor Jochen Prehn delivered the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Life Sciences Award Lecture, entitled "Bench-to-Bedside Research – A Two-Way Street".

In June 2010 RCSI launched its first Research Summer School, co-ordinated by Dr. Sarah O'Neill. It had a first-year intake of 52 undergraduate health sciences students from the junior and intermediate cycles of the Medical School, School of Pharmacy and the School of Physiotherapy.

"An RCSI research team led by Dr. Leonie Young, and funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), has identified a biomarker in patient blood that can predict the severity of breast cancer in patients and enable clinicians to track patients throughout the course of their treatment."

Teaching and Learning

We believe that the patient's interest is paramount in clinical teaching, medical practice and research, which fosters a spirit of enquiry in our students.

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences	25
School of Pharmacy	27
School of Physiotherapy	28
School of Postgraduate Studies	29
Institute of Leadership	30
Faculty of Dentistry	32
Faculty of Radiologists	33
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery	34
Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine	36



Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences



PROFESSOR HANNAH MCGEE
DEAN, FACULTY OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Key Facts

19,836

Total alumni since 1784

3,399

Total number of registered
students and trainees in RCSI

346

Medicine, Pharmacy and
Physiotherapy students
graduated



Ms. Laura Houlihan and Mr. John O'Flynn were among the first graduates from Ireland's first Graduate Entry Programme in Medicine (GEP/GEM) conferred at RCSI Annual Graduation Ceremony in the National Concert Hall in June 2010.



Students who received their medical degrees at the RCSI Annual Graduation Ceremony in the National Concert Hall in June 2010.

This is my first report as Dean of the Faculty and it gives me great pleasure to update you on what has been an exciting and challenging academic year. Outgoing Dean Professor Cathal Kelly took up his new post as Chief Executive/Registrar on the 1 January 2010. On behalf of the Faculty, we wish Professor Kelly every success in his new role as he leads the College through the next stages of its development.

A YEAR OF FIRSTS

This year saw a number of firsts of which we can be very proud. In October 2009, the College began the new Masters in Pharmacy Programme (MPharm) for all Irish graduates in this discipline. The College was awarded this prestigious programme following intensive competition and special credit is due to Professor John Kelly, Professor Paul Gallagher and Ms. Judith Strawbridge. Succeeding in getting the opportunity to run this programme greatly strengthens and enhances the position of the School of Pharmacy within Ireland.

On 3 June 2010, the Annual Conferring Ceremony was held at the National Concert Hall. This year was hugely significant with the first 50 graduate-entry students conferred along with 180 of their colleagues from the five-year programme. RCSI was the first medical school to be approved by the Higher Education Authority and the Medical Council to run the four-year graduate-entry programme. It was a very proud day for the Medical School as a whole and in particular Professor Alan Johnson, Director of the Programme, to see the first batch of graduate-entry students complete this intensive programme with great success.

RCSI Bahrain also saw its first graduation. The first group of Medical and Nursing students were conferred on 28 June 2010. It was a great honour to be present at this inaugural ceremony in the impressive building that is RCSI Bahrain. In such a short time, RCSI Bahrain has become a very significant part of the educational activities of the College. Its success has been due to the vision of the now-retired RCSI Chief Executive/Registrar, Michael Horgan, and the dedication and hard work of Professor Kevin O'Malley, Professor Faisal Al Mousawi and their talented staff.

“A critical component of any educational institution is how well we look after our student body. We should never forget that the students are the life blood of RCSI.”

We can be very proud of our educational programmes but a critical component of any educational institution is how well we look after our student body. We should never forget that the students are the life blood of RCSI. RCSI continues to develop the supports for all students based on our main campus on St. Stephen's Green and for those studying medicine in our main teaching hospitals with the appointment of senior clinical tutors. Further improvements were also made to the preparatory courses for students preparing to do the USMLE exams, including the introduction of a very successful peer-led teaching programme.

DEGREE-AWARDING STATUS

In January 2010 the outgoing Minister for Education and Sciences, Batt O'Keeffe, announced the proposal to restructure the State bodies that award national degrees. This included the dissolution of the National University of Ireland. Following discussions with the Minister, it was decided to seek our own independent degree-awarding status. The achievement of degree-awarding status is important for our future in the delivery of internationally recognised education and training programmes, independent of any other awarding body.

The review, conducted on behalf of the Minister by the relevant Irish agencies (Higher Education Authority (HEA) and National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQA)), involved providing documentation on academic elements of RCSI, along with information on the operational, service and support functions, including administration, governance, management processes and procedures. This document was presented to an international group of experts who visited the College from 19 to 21 May. The entire period from January, right up to and including the visit, was a period of high activity and I am very grateful for the support

I received from the staff and students in the preparation of the documentation, organisation of the visit and, indeed, the enthusiasm and dedication that was evident throughout that time. We now await the decision of the Minister, which hopefully will be received by the end of the year.

PROFESSORIAL RETIREMENTS

This year saw the retirement of a number of key people in the organisation. These included Professor John Kelly, Professor of Pharmacy; Professor Alan Johnson, Director of the Graduate-Entry Programme; Professor Paddy Collins, Professor of Biochemistry; and Mr. James Moulton, Senior Technician, Department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics. All four have made major contributions to RCSI over many years. They will be a huge loss to the organisation and we wish them well and a long life in their retirement.

OUTGOING VICE-DEAN AND FACULTY EXECUTIVE TEAM

I would like on my own behalf and that of the Chief Executive/Registrar to record my thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Vice-Dean and Faculty Executive team. Over the last four years they have shown great commitment and have worked very hard on all our behalf under the leadership of Professor Kelly as Dean. Their achievements have been many: to mention only a few – the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) re-visit and review of medical education in 2008; improved methods of assessment across our courses; the development of the student experience and investment in the appropriate supports for our students; the focus on new methods of learning such as blended postgraduate learning opportunities; and the increased focus on research and development activities around our core educational outputs across



Pictured is Professor Cathal Kelly, Registrar/Chief Executive with Professor Paddy Collins, Professor John Kelly and Professor Alan Johnson on the occasion of their retirement dinner

Schools. Additionally, in the last semester of their 4-year term, they coped with the arrival of a new Dean and played a key role in many of the activities relating to the degree-awarding status initiative. I want to thank them for their invaluable guidance and support to me over this early period as Dean.

The outgoing team to whom I wish to extend my thanks are Professor Fergal Malone, Professor David Croke, Dr. Alice McGarvey, Dr. Kenny Winser, Professor Seamus Sreenan and Professor Geraldine MacCarrick as Vice-Deans, Dr. Jackie Daly and Ms. Judith Strawbridge as associate Vice-Deans and the Administrative Staff of the Faculty Office at Stephens Green and Beaumont, coordinated by Mr. Fintan Foy, who support all of the Executive activities.

CONCLUSION

The last academic year was once again an extremely successful period for the Faculty in what are undoubtedly challenging times. Our success is only possible through the excellence and dedication of the staff. As Dean, I will strive to continue to further develop our educational programmes and the services we provide to our students. I look forward to working with both the staff and students to achieve those aims.

School of Pharmacy

“Across all the quality parameters, the School of Pharmacy in RCSI was statistically superior to all other institutions providing pharmacy education in the State.”

The School of Pharmacy was successful in 2009 in a competitive tender for the provision of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme for all student pharmacists in Ireland.

Interns are awarded a MPharm, which is the qualification necessary to apply for registration as a pharmacist in Ireland and for subsequent free movement within the EU/EEA under the Professional Qualification Directive (2005/36/EC).

This globally unique programme has been made possible by the sharing of expertise between the School of Pharmacy, the Institute of Leadership, the Colles Institute and the Division of Population Health Sciences.



Pictured at the graduation ceremony on 3 June 2010 are three PhD graduates from the School of Pharmacy with the former Head of the School: Dr. Eva Bunk (Neuroscience, jointly with Department of Physiology), Dr. Neeraj Sivasdas (Pharmaceutics), Professor John Kelly (previous Head of School) and Dr. Tamasine Grimes (Clinical Pharmacy).

May 2010 saw the publication of the Pharmacy Education and Accreditation Standards Report (PEARS) by the pharmacy regulator. To reach their recommendation, the authors surveyed all students in the three Schools of Pharmacy in the State (Trinity College, University College Cork and RCSI) using a standardised instrument. The validated survey instrument was designed to measure student experience with their pharmacy education across a wide range of quality parameters. The results from each of the three Schools were recorded and analysed to permit comparison of data across the three institutions. Across all the quality parameters, the School of Pharmacy in RCSI was statistically superior to all other institutions providing pharmacy education in the State. Commenting on the results, the outgoing Head of the School of Pharmacy, Professor John G. Kelly, remarked: “This is a result of the outcome-focused approach that the School had taken in the design of its curriculum and a validation of the talent and application of the academic staff of the School of Pharmacy.”

This dedication to hard work and excellence of the School is also evidenced in outputs from the research strategy of the School, with academic staff being distinguished in delivering 23 invited lectures, supervising 19 students for higher degrees, securing 13 research and educational grants, publishing 40 peer-reviewed publications and filing 10 patents.



Dr. Aisling O'Leary, Programme Director of Studies, in conversation with Mr. Darragh Connaughton, pharmacy intern.

There was success too for undergraduate and postgraduate research. At the 2010 Research Day, intermediate cycle B student Mr. Kieran Reynolds (under the supervision of Dr. Steve Kerrigan) won the Harry O'Flanagan prize for undergraduate research. Mr. Brian Cleary, a PhD postgraduate student under the supervision of Professor Paul Gallagher and Professor Deirdre Murphy (University of Dublin), won best oral presentation at the 2010 Joint School of Pharmacy All-Ireland Research Seminar with a talk entitled “The impact of methadone maintenance treatment during pregnancy on perinatal outcomes”.

The School has now formed an on-campus company (Dulcis) with the assistance of Enterprise Ireland, which at present is licensing drug delivery technologies to commercial parties.

The School looks forward to extending its expertise in learning and research in pharmaceutical sciences under the new leadership of Professor Paul Gallagher.



Pictured with Ms. Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children, at the launch of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme on 13 October 2009 are pharmacy interns Mr Diarmuid Semple, (class representative), Ms. Linda Fitzharris, Dr. Ben Ryan and Ms. Laoise Wallace.

School of Physiotherapy

“the MSc in Neurology and Gerontology programme... was developed to address increasing demands and to provide an opportunity for physiotherapists to expand their knowledge and skills in the area of neurological rehabilitation and rehabilitation of the older person.”

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA / MSC IN NEUROLOGY AND GERONTOLOGY

The first cohort of students successfully completed the MSc in Neurology and Gerontology programme and will be conferred in November. This programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, was developed to address increasing demands and to provide an opportunity for physiotherapists to expand their knowledge and skills in the area of neurological rehabilitation and rehabilitation of the older person.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The School of Physiotherapy continues to compete very successfully in the Health Research Board Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals awards. The most recent award is for a research project investigating conventional versus virtual-reality-based vestibular rehabilitation and effects on dizziness, gait and balance. In addition, the School of Physiotherapy will collaborate with DIT's Department of Electronic Engineering on a footwear telemetry project funded by Science Foundation Ireland. This project will address the challenges of human interaction with electromagnetic communications antennas in order to facilitate viable radio links from footwear to electronic data-analysis systems.



CLINICAL EDUCATION

An innovative 4:1 clinical placement model was piloted in partnership with the Physiotherapy Department in Cork University Hospital. This pilot was extremely successful, maximising student learning and clinical service efficiency. The results have been accepted for presentation at the conference of the Association for Medical Education in Europe later in the year.

Researchers from the School of Physiotherapy in collaboration with Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) received funding from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to develop the first ever wireless footwear sensor system. Pictured at the announcement in April 2010 are (l-r) Professor Brian Harvey, RCSI, Director of Research, Dr. Frances Horgan, Senior Lecturer, RCSI, Dr. Tony Betts, DIT, Professor Frank Gannon, Director General, SFI, Mr. Batt O'Keefe, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation; Ms. Louise Keating, Lecturer, RCSI; Dr Max Ammann, DIT.

School of Postgraduate Studies



Postgraduate students pictured with RCSI staff at the Annual Conferring Ceremony in June 2010.

The School of Postgraduate Studies endeavours to promote fourth-level education in RCSI and to play a major role in achieving Irish Government policy of enhancing postgraduate and postdoctoral education and training. The introduction of structured PhD programmes is an important part of the evolution of fourth-level education. These programmes offer a breadth of relevant training through taught modules and laboratory rotations or research placements in year one, followed by in-depth PhD projects with continuous transferable skills training and overseas university or industry placements in years two to four. RCSI currently participates in five such programmes, either as lead partner or collaborating institution. Two RCSI-led programmes are the HRB PhD Scholars' Programmes in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease (RCSI/Beaumont Hospital/DCU) and Health Services Research (RCSI/UCC/TCD).

Following mid-term reviews by international panels, both of these received acclaim and full funding for the second half of the programmes – a significant achievement in the current economic climate. Highlights from these programmes include: publications in international peer-reviewed journals, including Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA); an invention disclosure; and six travel scholarships from international societies. These were achieved during laboratory rotations and the early part of the PhD projects.

In addition to the structured PhD programmes, RCSI also offers traditional three-year PhD degrees as well as MD, MAO, MCh and MSc, the last two of

"At the 2009/2010 graduation ceremonies, RCSI celebrated its largest number of higher degree by research graduations to date, with a total of 46, including 24 PhD, 12 MD, 7 MCh and 3 MSc degrees."

these by research or by taught modules with dissertation. All postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers may avail of the taught modules in the structured PhD programmes. A recent innovation, in collaboration with the Research Office, is the establishment of Co-Tutelle PhD agreements with the Universities of Montpellier and Naples.

At the 2009/2010 graduation ceremonies, RCSI celebrated its largest number of higher degree by research graduations to date, with a total of 46, including 24 PhD, 12 MD, 7 MCh and 3 MSc degrees. The number of new postgraduates registering for higher degrees by research was 68, bringing the total number registered to 211.

The first MSc graduates in Leadership and Management Development for Researchers were conferred in November 2009. This degree course is a collaboration between the School of Postgraduate Studies, the Institute of Leadership, and the Department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics. As part of the programme, graduates completed projects relevant to their group, department or RCSI as a whole, thus 'giving back' to the College in a practical way. Two graduates of the programme were prize winners at the Irish Institute of Training and Development (IITD) National Awards ceremony in March 2010. Dr. Orna Tighe, Department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, won the Learner of the Year award for her project on Quality Improvement in Examination Result Administration.

Dr. Brian Kirby, School of Pharmacy, was highly commended for his project, An Education Skills Workshop for Health Science Lecturers.

The School of Postgraduate Studies continues to work closely with the Postgraduate Students' Union (PGSU), which organises a welcome event for new postgraduates, various career events and workshops, and social activities. The PGSU members in 2009/2010 were: Claire Wynne, President; Sarah Theissen, Information Officer; Claire O'Leary, Welfare Officer; Robert Wells, Treasurer; Catherine Coughlan, Events Officer; and Eamon Hughes, Sports Co-ordinator.

The School of Postgraduate Studies is delighted to co-ordinate the annual Transition Year MiniMed School programme with colleagues in Beaumont Hospital. In January 2010, 150 students from more than 80 Irish schools attended this programme for five days. During this period, they see what it is like to be a student at RCSI, including observing live operations, meeting patients and accessing the virtual-learning platform from which they interact with the lecturers and programme staff. In 2010, the programme was rolled out to the RCSI Education Centre at Waterford Regional Hospital, where 120 students from the surrounding region attended a similarly hands-on programme.

Institute of Leadership

“Our continuing emphasis on the practical application of learning saw two of our graduates win major awards from the Irish Institute of Training and Development.”

The RCSI Institute of Leadership continues to provide opportunities for health professionals to develop as leaders and managers in their clinical or administrative roles. Now in its fifth year of operation, the Institute – with more than 450 students registered for postgraduate degrees and an equal number undertaking short development programmes – contributes to high-quality patient care through the development of excellent managers and leaders. The economic downturn and the increased demands on busy health professionals in the current academic year prompted the development of a blended learning approach to the delivery of our programmes. This provides a learner-centred, flexible programme that has been enthusiastically welcomed by our students.

This year, the Institute conferred more than 230 health professionals with Masters degrees in Healthcare Management, Leadership and Management Development, and Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management. Graduation ceremonies took place in Dublin, Dubai and Bahrain. In Bahrain, a further 20 senior clinical staff of the Bahrain Defence Forces’ (BDF) Hospital were conferred with Postgraduate Diplomas in Leadership following an intensive course of study. A highlight of the year was the attendance of Princess Mona of Jordan at the conferring of our Masters in Health Services Management degree, which is delivered with the University of Yarmouk in Jordan.

Institute staff were delighted to contribute to RCSI’s innovative National Pharmacy Intern Programme (NPIP), leading to the degree of MPharm. The Institute provided modules in patient safety and risk management, and in organisational development. It also contributed to the induction of tutors and the initial orientation of students. The Institute continues to work closely with the RCSI School of Postgraduate Studies and with the Department of Postgraduate Surgery to provide bespoke education and training to scientists and surgeons, respectively.

Director of Academic Affairs Ms. Pauline Joyce presents Dr. Strahil Kotsev, Consultant Anaesthetist with his Masters in Healthcare Management certificate.



Professor Sultan Abu-Orabi, President of Yarmouk University and Professor Ciaran O'Boyle, Head of the Institute of Leadership.



Faculty members from the RCSI Institute of Leadership and Yarmouk University at a visit to RCSI in November 2009.



Our continuing emphasis on the practical application of learning saw two of our graduates win major awards from the Irish Institute of Training and Development. In a national competition, Dr. Orla Tighe won the Learner of the Year Award, with Dr. Brian Kirby also being highly commended. Their projects were conducted as part of the MSc in Leadership and Management Development.

The Institute has broadened its collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland through the delivery of professional training for Senior House Officers (SHOs) and the development of interactive learning programmes in patient safety and the training of clinical educators.

The coming academic year will see the introduction of two new Masters Degrees and a new Diploma in Leadership. In collaboration with Dublin City University (DCU), the Institute will provide a bespoke DCU/NUI-accredited MSc in Organisational Change and Leadership for Beaumont Hospital and the Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown. Starting in October 2010, the programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, will develop the management and leadership cadre of the hospital. We will also deliver a new MSc in Leadership in Health Professions Education, which will harness participants' potential to become educational leaders in the health professions. The programme is unique in that it combines education in leadership with the principles and practice of curriculum design, instruction, assessment, research and evaluation.



Pictured at the November conferring are RCSI staff:

(l-r) back row: Dr. Orna Tighe, Ms. Sibeal Carolan, Ms. Pauline Joyce, Professor John Waddington, Dr. Aine Behan, Dr. Steve Kerrigan, Ms. Kay McKeon & Ms. Tina Joyce.

(l-r) front row: Professor Kevin B Nolan, Ms. Louise Sherwin, Dr. Helen McVeigh, Ms. Laura Phelan & Professor Terry McWade.

Ms. Orna Tighe, Ms. Aine Behan, Ms. Kay McKeon, Ms. Louise Sherwin and Ms. Laura Phelan were all conferred with Degrees of Master of Science (MSc) Leadership and Management Development for Researchers from the Institute of Leadership.

Faculty of Dentistry



DR. PATRICK J. BYRNE
DEAN, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

This year has been an extremely busy, challenging and exciting year for the Faculty of Dentistry. The Faculty has been very active in all areas of dentistry, both at home and overseas, where it continues to strive to improve standards in postgraduate training. In addition, the Faculty has continued to be involved in the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.

The Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (ICSTD), a standing committee of the Faculty, is now chaired by Professor Finbarr Allen. Mr. David Ryan continues as the Director of Specialist Training in Ireland.

The Irish Committee for Primary Dental Care (ICPDC) has continued to meet four times a year. Its remit is to review training and training needs in the primary dental care sector in Ireland. The committee has made excellent progress in reviewing the needs in training in primary dental care in Ireland. The addition of the new Fellowship in General Dental Surgery, FGDS, RCSI examination, completes the Primary Care Training Roadmap in Dentistry in Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

The Faculty remains heavily committed to its overseas programmes. The MFD examination is currently held in the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait.

The Faculty involvement with the Kuwait Ministry of Health has continued to flourish. This October, 134 candidates will take the Part 1 MFD examination in Kuwait. The MFD preparation courses continue in Kuwait and are held three times each year.

The first two successful candidates from New York University College of Dentistry, where a joint RCSI and NYU programme commenced in September 2009, were recently awarded their Diplomas.

MEETINGS

The Faculty's Annual Scientific Meeting, entitled 'Dentistry Today', took place in October 2009. It undertook to review the current status of dentistry as we know it today. The Annual Scientific Meeting for 2010 is entitled 'In Practice'.

An overseas scientific meeting took place on 4 and 5 April 2010 in Ajman between the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI and Ajman University of Science and Technology, College of Dentistry. This scientific conference was very successful and very well attended. A new agreement, for a further five-year period, was also signed by the Dean.



Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Brian O'Connell, who was awarded Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry (Ad Eundum), Dr. P.J. Byrne, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry and Dr. David Ryan.

FACULTY CHANGES

It continues to be a great honour to be Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI and it is particularly challenging in the current national and international environments. I am particularly fortunate to have an excellent Board, whose expertise allows the Faculty to continue to develop its international links.

I would like to congratulate our Dean-Elect of the Faculty, Professor Gerry Kearns, who will start his term as Dean in February 2011.

FACULTY BOARD

Dr. Patrick J. Byrne Dean	Dr. Frank Burke
Professor Gerry Kearns , Vice-Dean	Dr. Therese Garvey
Dr. John Walsh , Honorary Secretary	Dr. Anita Nolan
Dr. Seamus Napier Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee	Dr. Osama Omer
Mr. Ken Halpenny Chairman of the Education Committee	Dr. Alan McMichael
Dr. Marielle Blake Chairman of the Education Committee	Mr. David Ryan
Dr. Declan Corcoran Honorary Editor	Mr. Peter Rarnsay Baggs (Co-opted)
	Mr. Sean Sheridan Chairman of Inspections and Recognitions Committee (Ex-Officio)
	Professor Frank Keane President RCSI
	Ms. Launa Viani Council representative

"The Irish Committee for Primary Dental Care... has made excellent progress in reviewing the needs in training in primary dental care in Ireland."

Faculty of Radiologists



DR. RISTEÁRD Ó LAOIDE
DEAN, FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

This year was again an extremely active one for the Faculty of Radiologists. The Faculty continues to proactively adapt to a rapidly changing environment in the education and clinical arenas. A number of issues have occupied the Faculty of Radiologists during the last year.

EDUCATION

Education remains the central focus of Faculty activity. Current arrangements have necessitated the signing of a formal agreement between the Faculty of Radiologists and the Medical Education and Training (METR) Office. A satisfactory structure for this agreement has been achieved through the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies. The Faculty continues to work in the area of curriculum development with a view to developing competency-based training rather than the traditional apprenticeship model. Reviewing the content of the radiology training programme involves benchmarking its content with best practice in both the USA and Europe. It is hoped that proposals for an updated curriculum will be available for review at the Education Committee and the Board meeting in autumn 2010.

FACULTY GOVERNANCE

The Faculty is engaged in discussions with RCSI President and senior executives on the issue of Faculty governance. Significant limitations, with regard to finance and HR decision-making, has led the Board of the Faculty to evaluate the current governance and administrative model. Strategies are evolving on how best to address this issue. RCSI, with input from the Faculty, is involved in assessing and developing modern governance structures.

Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Raymond Kelliher; Dr. Emma Kelliher, who was awarded Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists and Mrs. Aileen Kelliher.



“The Faculty continues to work in the area of curriculum development with a view to developing competency-based training rather than the traditional apprenticeship model.”

NATIONAL RADIOLOGY PROGRAMME

Restructuring of the HSE in 2009 led to the establishment of the Office of the Director of Quality and Clinical Care (DQCC). Within this directorate, a National Radiology Programme has been established. The Board of the Faculty of Radiologists has agreed to act as a high-level advisory group to the programme.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Faculty has engaged with a number of bodies, including the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the HSE, the Department of Health and Children, and HIQA, to develop a national quality assurance programme. The programme will be formally launched in the autumn and this will hopefully give an opportunity to educate the public and the media on the inherent risks associated with radiology practice.

VALIDATION

The Faculty of Radiologists advises the Medical Council on the validation of training for candidates seeking to be placed on the Specialist Register in Radiology. In conjunction with the Medical Council, procedures have been made more transparent and streamlined for the applicant, the Medical Council and the Faculty of Radiologists.

FACULTY WORKLOAD STUDY

The Faculty of Radiologists is engaged in a national radiology workload study. This exercise has the support of the HSE. It is hoped that the data acquired will help develop a national benchmark for workload and contribute towards radiology workforce planning.

EXTERNAL REVIEWS

The Board of the Faculty has agreed to establish a structured framework for engagement by each radiologist for

external reviews. This will be developed in conjunction with the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies. Issues to be addressed include indemnity, specific responsibilities of an expert reviewer and the specific responsibilities of the organisation requesting the review.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely indebted to all my colleagues on the Board, whose outstanding support and enthusiasm for Faculty projects has been of great assistance during the past year. I would particularly like to thank Dr. Adrian Brady for his invaluable support and advice. I would like to wish him every success during his tenure as Dean. I know he will be a wonderful ambassador for radiology during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Faculty in 2011.

Finally, I would like to thank most sincerely Ms. Jennifer O'Brien and Ms. Karen Milling for their invaluable and dedicated work in the Faculty office during the past year. Their support and professionalism, despite significantly increasing pressures, has been outstanding.

OFFICERS

Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide
Dean

Professor Dermot Malone
Vice-Dean

Dr. Adrian Brady
Honorary Secretary and Dean Elect

Dr. Ian Kelly
Honorary Treasurer

Professor Frank B. V. Keane
Council Representative

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Peter K. Ellis

Dr. Clare Faul

Dr. Peter Kavanagh

Dr. Barry Kelly

Dr. Maeve Pomeroy

Dr. Max Ryan

Dr. Ronan S. Ryan

Dr. John Stack

Dr. William Torreggiani

Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery



DR. ÁINE COLGAN
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF
NURSING AND MIDWIFERY



PROFESSOR SEAMUS COWMAN
HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF
NURSING

From its foundation and inauguration in 1974, the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery has sought to maintain the highest standards in education and training for healthcare professionals. As one of the earliest and longest-serving providers of nurse education in Ireland, the Faculty has ensured wide-ranging and relevant programmes of education for nurses from a variety of nursing specialties. In line with its philosophy, the Faculty has an inherent aim through its programmes to develop a caring, reflective practitioner who has the ability to seek out and use research-based knowledge for the purpose of improving patient care.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

There are currently 467 students, all of whom are part time. The academic programmes within the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery have been developed to address continuing professional development needs in line with recommendations from the Commission on Nursing (Government of Ireland 1998), the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery (NCNM) (2003, 2004) and An Bord Altranais (2007, 2008). The philosophy of lifelong learning and the need to demonstrate continuing professional development means that academic qualifications are becoming increasingly relevant for those wishing to further develop a career in nursing. An increasing focus on 'evidence-based' practice in nursing has created an environment in which research awareness is essential (DOHC, 2003). Employment potential for nurses completing Faculty programmes is enhanced through the acquisition of clinical leadership skills, research skills and patient-centred content.

In September 2009, the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery introduced a new programme of education designed to meet the specific requirements of nurses working in the field of clinical research. This is the first programme of its kind in Ireland, or indeed the UK, and was developed in partnership with the Dublin Centre for Clinical Research (DCCR) and its associated institutions, and clinical research centres at Beaumont Hospital (RCSI), the Mater Hospital (UCD) and St. Vincent's Hospital (UCD).

The Faculty has developed several other new and innovative programmes in response to healthcare needs. These include:

- Authority to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray): The School of Nursing and Midwifery will introduce a module in ionising radiation x-ray in September 2010 as a component of the MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) programme – the first college to do so.
- Unique Development of Masters in Nursing (Advanced Practice) Programme: The MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) programme is unique in the context of Ireland and the EU. It has been developed as a direct response to the Bologna Agreement.
- Innovative Content of MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) Programme: An innovative MSc Nursing Framework was developed that incorporates Masters-level study (Level 9 NQF), advanced practice, nurse prescribing and ionising radiation prescribing for nurses. The programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, prepares the registered nurse for practice as an advanced practitioner who is also a nurse prescriber.



Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI, with Fellowship candidates Ms. Stephanie Lawrence, RCSI, Professor Batool Al-Mohandis, RCSI Bahrain, and Professor Roger Watson, Sheffield University at the Fellowship Conferring Ceremony in 2009.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

The Faculty staff are working in an environment that is continuously transformed by advances in healthcare, scientific discoveries, regulatory demands, and changes in education and training needs. Increasingly, the quality and quantity of research being undertaken within the Faculty is fundamental to its future success. The first five-year research strategy for nursing and midwifery in RCSI has been developed following consultation within the Faculty and with our partner hospitals. It will contribute towards the Faculty's mission statement in relation to the development of a research base for nursing and midwifery practice. This strategic plan aims to develop nursing and midwifery research with a related body of knowledge that has high social relevance and can be used to guide patient care and professional decision-making and will ultimately contribute to improved patient outcomes. The Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Report of 2009-2010 was also published.

Staff at the Faculty enjoyed continued success in research this year. Dr. Zena Moore graduated in November 2009 with a PhD from RCSI following the successful completion of her studies exploring repositioning for the prevention of pressure ulcers. This work was funded by a research fellowship from RCSI. Ms. Catherine O'Neill is continuing her PhD work on practitioner perspectives of patient autonomy at the end of life. Ms. Mary O'Neill is also preparing for her PhD with a research project entitled "Stroke: paving the way to integrated care".

“The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery introduced a new programme of education designed to meet the specific requirements of nurses working in the field of clinical research.”



Ms. Emma Cullen Gill and the former Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Ms. Maeve Dwyer, receiving the student bursary.

Other research projects currently being undertaken at the Faculty include:

- Safety and security in mental health services.
- Evaluation of the role of the clinical nurse specialist in cancer care.
- Epidemiology of lymphoedema in Ireland.
- Maximising best practice in surgery to minimise surgical infection.
- Dressings and topical agents for the prevention of pressure ulcers.
- The role of attitudes, behaviours and pressure ulcer prevalence.
- Undergraduate nursing education in wound management.

More recently, Professor Seamus Cowman as Principal Investigator was successful in obtaining a HRB research grant of €257,000 to undertake a study on day surgery in Ireland.

Each year the Faculty hosts an international research conference. This is the oldest Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference in Europe and will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2011. With more than 100 posters and 60 free papers, it provides an ideal platform for researchers and clinicians to present and discuss their work. The conference is also an ideal opportunity for delegates to network and share experiences with others in the field. The 29th International Conference was held on 24 and 25 February 2010. Keynote speakers included Professor Janet Rankin, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Ms. Madge Buus-Frank, The Children's Hospital and Dartmouth Medical School, Haverhill, New Hampshire, USA.

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The staff at the Faculty recognise the changing nature of nursing education during the past 10 years and the complexities inherent in such changes to a profession and to the manner in which education is delivered. The nature of healthcare delivery has also changed and this has implications for nursing care and nurse education. These two extremes place demands on nursing care delivery and the ability of qualified nurses to seek university education and funding. The demands of nurses for professional development are being fulfilled by the Faculty through the development of bachelor, postgraduate and masters programmes. The Faculty has risen to this challenge as far as possible within its current financial constraints. The need for a quality-focused approach to patient care delivery and to nursing education has necessitated an innovative approach to the development and delivery of the schools programmes. An outstanding objective for the Faculty is the establishment of an undergraduate nursing programme in 2011.



Pictured at the Annual International Nursing and Midwifery research conference in February 2010 are (l-r) Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Mary Donohoe, who received an honorary fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Frank Keane, President, RCSI, Ms. Maeve Dwyer, former Dean, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI and Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide, Dean, Faculty Radiologists, RCSI.

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Áine Colgan Dean	Ms. Catherine Clune-Mulvaney Board Member
Ms. Edna Woolhead Vice Dean	Ms. Maeve Dwyer Board Member
Ms. Maureen Duff Honorary Treasurer	Ms. Mary Jacob Board Member
Ms. Louise Johnston Honorary Secretary	Ms. Eileen Maher Board Member
Professor Seamus Cowman Head of Department Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery	Ms. Mary McMahon Board Member
Dr. Anne Marie Ryan An Board Atranaís' Representative	Ms. Mary Murray Board Member
Professor David Bouchier-Hayes Council Representative	Ms. Helen Walsh Board Member



Professor Seamus Cowman and staff member Dr Zena Moore, PhD graduate at the Conferring Ceremony in 2009.

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI



DR. PHILIP E CAROLAN
DEAN, FACULTY OF SPORTS AND
EXERCISE MEDICINE (FSEM), RCPI & RCSI

Higher Specialist Training is very important for the continued development, strengthening and expansion of the medical specialty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, both in Ireland and in Europe.

In an increasingly difficult budgetary situation, the Faculty's primary objective is to procure funding to permit the commencement of a Higher Specialist Training programme. This is essential to improve the status of the specialty and, most importantly, to provide the highest standard of care to our patients.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007

Part I of the Medical Practitioners Act commenced in March 2009 with the four new Divisions of the Register. In May 2010, Part II of the Act was commenced. This brought into effect aspects including the "maintenance of professional competence". In practice, that means that practitioners who are on the Specialist Division of the Register in Sports and Exercise Medicine, or who believe that their daily medical practice is best defined by 'sports and exercise medicine', should contact the Faculty, as the relevant training body, in preparation for the implementation of the scheme in May 2011.

FORUM OF POSTGRADUATE TRAINING BODIES

The Forum of PGTBs is a united body that works to achieve funding and deals with all relevant requirements and aspects of training and negotiations with the HSE METR. The Dean represents the Faculty on the Forum of PGTBs and has attended all four meetings in the past year.

The Faculty will work with the executive of the Forum on reapplying to both the Medical Council and HSE METR to approve our programme and, in turn, procure funding.



Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Paul Murphy, who was awarded Membership of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine; Dr. Philip Carolan, Dean of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine and Dr. Matthew McConaughy.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

This committee addresses all aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate training. It is drawn from a wide range of interested parties and is an interdepartmental steering group on medical education and training.

The National Committee on Medical Education and Training meets four times a year and the Dean has represented the Faculty at all four meetings.

THE FACULTY OF SPORTS AND EXERCISE MEDICINE (UK) – FSEM (UK)

The Dean of Faculty continues to represent the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI, and the two parent Colleges, on FSEM (UK). We continued to promote collaboration and develop links with the FSEM (UK).

The Intercollegiate Examination in Sports and Exercise Medicine, Great Britain and Ireland, is run by FSEM (UK). It has been modified to maintain the highest standards in the speciality and to reflect the requirements as set out in the Higher Specialist Training programme curriculum, which is common to both faculties. It is hoped that a Part II examination may be held in Dublin in 2012.

The London 2012 Olympics is a very important event for FSEM (UK). It plans to hold a major Sports and Exercise Medicine conference that year and it is hoped that we will run a scientific section of that conference.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The Annual Scientific Conference held in RCSI in September 2009 was opened by European Commissioner Charlie McGreevy. The theme of the conference was the benefit of sports and exercise on the health of children and adolescents. The programme focussed on the important role exercise has on bone health and obesity management in this specific group. Specific injuries that are common to this group were highlighted, and the management and rehabilitation of these injuries were presented from the viewpoint of both the sports physician and surgeon. Prizes were awarded for the best scientific research presentations.

Each year the conference goes from strength to strength and continues to attract the best local and international speakers from the field of Sports and Exercise Medicine.

The 2010 conference will cover a number of aspects, including roles of the team physician, lower back pain and posterior thigh pain. The original research section attracts a good audience and is a forum for trainees and established doctors to present their material.



Annual Scientific Conference 2010 delegates and speakers picture (l-r) are Lt Col Gerry Kerr, Dr. Chris Lonsdale, Professor Nicola Maffulli, Dr. Conor McCarthy and Professor Giuseppe DeVito.

Photographed during the Faculty Scientific Conference 2009 were (l-r) Dr. Pat O'Neill, Mr. John King, Professor Nicola Maffulli, Mr. Charlie McCreavy and Dr Philip Carolan.



“The London 2012 Olympics is a very important event for FSEM (UK). It plans to hold a major Sports and Exercise Medicine conference that year and it is hoped that we will run a scientific section of that conference.”

JOINT FSEM AND ICGP DIPLOMA COURSE IN MUSCULOSKELETAL EXAMINATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

The joint Diploma course with the ICGP commenced in September 2009. There were 22 participants who completed their final exam in May 2010 and will be conferred with Diplomas in November 2010. This very popular course will greatly add to the skills of doctors carrying out MSK examinations. We would encourage them to use this training to submit scientific research material for the Faculty Annual Scientific Conference.

HONORARY CONFERRING

In 2009 the Faculty conferred Mr John King with an Honorary Fellowship. He is an international figure in Sports and Exercise Medicine, President of ECOSEP and a renowned orthopaedic and sports surgeon from London. Professor Barry Bresnihan, retired rheumatologist and international rugby player, was conferred in absentia due to illness. We are sorry to report that Professor Bresnihan died in July 2010. These two distinguished doctors have made major contributions to medicine and sport, both nationally and internationally, over many decades.



Pictured at the conferring ceremony in 2009 were (l-r) Dr. John Donohoe, President RCPI, Mr. John King, who was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty, Ms. Eilis McGovern, Vice-President, RCSI Dr. Pat O'Neill, and the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Philip Carolan.

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

We will continue to promote the skills and expertise of our specialists, as the speciality has a vital role to play in the future healthcare of our population, athletes and sports people.

The specialists in Sports and Exercise Medicine need to drive the physical activity prescription model to help combat the major problem of obesity in the developed world. Our colleagues worldwide now talk of the physical inactivity epidemic and the resultant chronic diseases. A fundamental change is required to help promote preventative medicine through activity.

The 'Exercise is Medicine' model is out there; it is a challenge for doctors to fundamentally change healthcare focused on prevention and treatment of chronic disease through exercise and physical activity.

In February 2010 Dublin took over the mantle of European Capital of Sport. It is important that some legacy should follow on from this. I feel that the Faculty needs to promote the

physical activity model and highlight its use in preventing and managing chronic disease.

I would like to thank the chairpersons and members of each sub-committee for their work and continuing commitment to the development of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine in Ireland. The Faculty cannot flourish and achieve its objectives without the involvement of all its members and Fellows.

OFFICERS

Dr. Philip E Carolan
Dean

Dr. Martin McConaghy
Honorary Secretary

Mr. James Colville
Vice-Dean

Dr. Frank McGrath
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Professor Michael G Molloy

Dr. John O'Riordan

International

RCSI continues to explore both philanthropic and entrepreneurial opportunities across the globe. We are a culturally diverse, truly international organisation with a highly respected fellowship and alumni presence in almost every country in the world.



RCSI International Projects



Pictured are His Royal Highness, Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa with Ms. Eilis McGovern, new RCSI President, at the inaugural graduation ceremony at RCSI Bahrain in June 2010.

RCSI INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENTS

2009/10 has been a good year for the international activities of the College. The predominant focus has been on nurturing our investment, activity and relations in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

RCSI BAHRAIN

Having successfully launched the new RCSI Bahrain campus in February 2009, the doors to a new sports centre were opened in November 2009 under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Faisal Al Hamar, Minister of Health.

The completion of the sports hall concluded the first phase of RCSI Bahrain's \$65 million campus. The 12,000 square foot indoor facility began construction in August of 2008. Located adjacent to the University's main building, the new sports centre features a main hall for indoor hockey, basketball, badminton, five-a-side football, netball and volleyball. There are also separate male and female gymnasiums, a snooker room and an exercise studio for group classes such as dance, aerobics and yoga.

The new sports centre represents an exciting addition to the campus and will enrich the lives of our students, staff and the community by encouraging the enjoyment of, and the participation in sports and recreational activities. It is hoped that RCSI Bahrain will become a key player in the Kingdom's effort to encourage sports participation at all levels. The facility will not only be used for sporting activities but also to host future specialist courses and events.

In June 2010, RCSI Bahrain conferred its first class of healthcare professionals. This inaugural event, which was held in the new sports centre, honoured 72 students from postgraduate and undergraduate courses, who were conferred under the patronage of His Royal Highness, the Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The graduates, from disciplines including Medicine, Nursing, and Healthcare Ethics and Law, marked the successful completion of their studies at RCSI Bahrain at a ceremony in front of 800 guests, including parliamentarians, regional and overseas ambassadors, family and friends.

Ms. Eilis McGovern, new RCSI President, congratulated the first cohort of graduates, acknowledging them as "pioneers, exploring where nobody had gone before" and recognising the trust they placed in RCSI when choosing RCSI Bahrain as their place of study.

General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science for public service to the Kingdom of Bahrain and in recognition of the Bahrain Defence Force Royal Medical Services and his support for the University.

The colourful procession saw Faculty and senior administration from four distinguished centres of learning: RCSI (Dublin), the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the National University of Ireland and RCSI Bahrain.

As a constituent university of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, RCSI Bahrain delivers education and training in Medicine, Nursing, Surgery, General Practice, Healthcare Management, and Healthcare Ethics and Law to the highest international standards with qualifications that are recognised worldwide. The student body is an international one, with around 30 countries represented, including Ireland.

RCSI Bahrain is located on a site provided by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, adjacent to the King Hamad General Hospital and RCSI Bahrain Health Oasis sites. The entire concept extends over a combined site of circa 60 hectares. Together these inter-related components will form a truly unique medical education and healthcare campus.



RCSI Bahrain conferred its first class of healthcare professionals in June 2010.

“RCSI Bahrain delivers education and training in Medicine, Nursing, Surgery, General Practice, Healthcare Management, and Healthcare Ethics and Law to the highest international standards with qualifications that are recognised worldwide.”



Pictured (l- r) at the ribbon cutting for the new sports centre in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain in November 2009 were His Excellency Dr. Faisal Alhamar, Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Professor Frank Keane, RCSI President, Mr. Saleh Bin Hindi, Advisor to the King of Bahrain, and Dr. Faisal Al Mousawi, President of RCSI Bahrain.

HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENTS

Recognising our strengths in healthcare education, research and service, RCSI made a strategic decision to invest in a range of international healthcare opportunities in Bahrain. It has established a dedicated team to support these initiatives. This diversification from our core education and research activities is driven by our need to provide sustainable additional revenue to allow us to meet our long-term strategic objectives.

KING HAMAD GENERAL HOSPITAL

King Hamad General Hospital (KHGH), currently under construction, is one of the biggest public sector health projects in Bahrain in recent times. Subject to satisfactory completion of outstanding works (including the installation of equipment and ICT), the hospital is scheduled to open in 2011. It will provide world-class healthcare

services to the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is a 312-bed public hospital occupying a 227,000 square metre site located to the north of Sheikh Isa Bin Salman causeway on the coast of Muharraq. The hospital, which is constructed over four floors and three main blocks, will be a centre of excellence in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Orthopaedics and will be the main teaching hospital for RCSI Bahrain.

At the invitation of the Government of Bahrain, RCSI signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health to provide commissioning services for the hospital. A commissioning team has been on the ground in Bahrain since April 2008. In parallel with the commissioning work, RCSI has been negotiating with the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for a contract to manage and operate the hospital.

RCSI BAHRAIN HEALTH OASIS

Over the past year our International Project Team, led by Mr. Gilbert Little, has focused on completing negotiations on the King Hamad General Hospital management and operation contract. The Bahrain Health Oasis and King Hamad projects have been strategically linked by the Government of Bahrain and we are hopeful that the Health Oasis Project will commence when the hospital contract negotiations have been finalised.

When developed, the Health Oasis will represent a truly unique medical education and healthcare campus within a world-class, mixed-use waterfront development – an international healthcare centre of excellence and enterprise for the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Middle East. When completed, it will integrate world-class healthcare, state-of-the-art medical education and research, and health sector enterprises in an unprecedented environment designed to foster novel approaches to healthcare and healthcare delivery. It will be unlike any existing or proposed health or wellness centre in the region. It will combine an extensive and comprehensive provision of international standards and RCSI-led medical and healthcare excellence with state-of-the-art medical enterprises in a high amenity, waterfront environment.



Students at the inaugural graduation ceremony at RCSI Bahrain in June 2010.



RCSI Health Oasis Preliminary Masterplan.



Model of King Hamad General Hospital.



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Medical University of Bahrain

The Oasis Private Hospital will perform a central role and deliver much of the specialist medical care within the Oasis. In doing so, it will have the support of the King Hamad General Hospital (KHGH) and RCSI Bahrain. The activity and speciality mix will complement that of the KHGH and will be consistent with the overall target market.

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

RCSI continues to explore both philanthropic and entrepreneurial opportunities in nations across the globe. We are a culturally diverse, truly international organisation with a highly respected fellowship and alumni representative of almost every country in the world.

“The Bahrain Health Oasis will integrate world-class healthcare, state-of-the-art medical education and research, and health sector enterprises in an unprecedented environment designed to foster novel approaches to healthcare and healthcare delivery.”

Development Office

“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”

- Winston Churchill



Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Michael Horgan, Former Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI, Mr. Louis Copeland and Ms. Mary Kennedy at Breast Cancer Ireland's annual RCSI/AIB Race Against Breast Cancer Day at Leopardstown Pavilion.



Lord Patten of Barnes, the Right Honourable Chris Patten Delivered the 8th Annual Leadership Lecture. Pictured from left: Terry Slattery, Master of Ceremonies, Lord Patten, and Professor Frank Keane, President of RCSI.



Hundreds run the Mini Marathon for Breast Cancer Ireland.

Development Office

RCSI is extremely grateful to its International Development Board (IDB), under the chairmanship of Mr. Dermot Desmond, for its ongoing support and strategic advice. The Board is comprised of leaders of business and industry from Ireland and overseas including Mrs. Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Mr. Gilbert Little, Mr. James Kenny and Mr. Faisal Al Mousawi, to mention just a few.

RCSI's priorities include the following:

- Celebrating our 200-year tradition of learning on St. Stephen's Green, the College is embarking on a redevelopment programme for the Mercer Library, the heart of campus life, learning and inquisition at RCSI. With ever-increasing numbers of students, the increasing move towards digital media, enhanced technology requirements, small group teaching, and the need for greater community and social interaction, the current Library facilities are in need of renovation. A new €4 million campaign is about to be launched.
- The establishment of a new Education and Research facility at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda will enhance the medical provision and delivery of service within the local community, improving the recruitment and retention process of key medical staff. An education and research focus is critical in the delivery of world-class healthcare and hospital care, and RCSI is committed to ensuring that the country's north-eastern community succeeds in this endeavour.
- The redevelopment of York Street will encompass our new Colles Institute. The Colles Institute currently consists of three centres:
 - The National Surgical Training Centre (NSTC) is a world leader in the development and delivery of procedural-based education, training and assessment.
 - The Centre for Research and Development (CR&D) provides clinical research services and facilitates clinical research by surgeons and by industry in Ireland and internationally.

"The establishment of a new Education and Research facility at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda will enhance the medical provision and delivery of service within the local community, improving the recruitment and retention process of key medical staff."

- The Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) provides services to assess, develop and commercialise surgical technology ideas from surgeons, researchers and industry.
- Our REACH (Recreation, Education and Community Health) Programme provides access and support to primary and secondary students, and their families, from areas of social and economic disadvantage within the surrounding inner city.

RECENT EVENTS 2009/10

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AT RCSI RAISES A FURTHER €1.6 MILLION

Breast Cancer Ireland at RCSI would like to thank everyone for their generosity and continuing support. Professor Arnold Hill, RCSI Professor of Surgery and Director of Breast Cancer Ireland, said: "This level of support and generosity in these challenging times is truly overwhelming and greatly assists in our mission at RCSI to offer Ireland a truly 'translational' approach to the treatment of breast cancer by speeding up discovery and ultimate treatment of patients diagnosed, through endeavour and collaboration amongst all relevant clinicians and scientists throughout the country."

RCSI HOSTS ITS 8TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP LECTURE

Lord Patten of Barnes, the Right Honourable Chris Patten, delivered the 8th Annual Leadership Lecture entitled "G1, G2... G20 – Who Leads the World?" in RCSI on 6 May 2010. Lord Patten was also awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI.

Lord Patten is a former European Commissioner for External Relations and former Governor of Hong Kong. He was appointed Governor of Hong Kong in April 1992, a position he held until 1997, overseeing the return of Hong Kong to China. He was Chairman of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, set up under the Good Friday Peace Agreement, which reported in 1999. In September 1999 Lord Patten was appointed European Commissioner for External Relations, a post he held until

November 2004. On leaving office in Brussels, he was made a Life Peer and took his seat in the House of Lords in January 2005.

Professor Cathal Kelly, RCSI Chief Executive/Registrar, said: "The RCSI Leadership lectures offer a unique opportunity to hear first-hand of the outstanding work carried out by some of the world's greatest leaders and an opportunity to welcome industry leaders to the College. RCSI is committed to creating leaders in the medical professions to enhance human health and well-being. Lord Patten is a leader in his field; the outstanding contributions he has made to society – not only in Ireland through the Patten Commission in Northern Ireland but also as Governor of Hong Kong and as European Commissioner for External Relations – makes him most worthy of delivering the annual RCSI Leadership lecture."

RCSI HOSTS ITS 22ND ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC RAISING OVER €25,000 FOR SURGICAL RESEARCH AT RCSI

On 1 July 2010, the 22nd Annual Golf Classic was held at The K Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare. The 18-hole championship course, designed by Arnold Palmer and venue to the Ryder Cup in 2006, set the scene for a very competitive outing of 24 teams and 96 golfers. This fantastic show of support produced three winning teams, with Ohshima Ireland Limited receiving first prize, followed by International Investments and Underwriting (IIU) (second) and Sattal Print and Promotional Solutions (third).

RCSI is at the forefront of surgical care in Ireland. Surgical practice and the role of surgery is experiencing rapid change in its provision of care to patients. The convergence of pharmaceuticals and medical devices into innovative health technologies, the replacement or regeneration of organs and tissues, the potential for scarless surgery and the use of robotics represent an exciting challenge for the future of surgery.

Community

As a leading education and healthcare provider, we are committed to finding ways in which to give back to our communities. We recognise the significance of education and health management in both the life of an individual and a community.



Community

In 2009/2010 RCSI continued to enhance the standards of health, education and life chances among our local communities and people worldwide, thanks to the efforts of many of our staff, students and Fellows that contribute their time and skill.

RCSI IN IRELAND

The REACH RCSI programme promotes Recreation, Education and Community Health. REACH has involved 2280 participants and 443 staff and student volunteers since its establishment in 2007. REACH is a partnership with schools, youth and community groups that work together on the design and delivery of initiatives. The programme aims to stimulate access to further and higher education, improving retention and attainment rates at second level; and promoting lifelong health and activity in the community.



Pictured taking part in the Annual REACH RCSI Sports Day were; Dublin GAA player Eamonn Fennell with Amber Rose Kelly McDonnell, Ryan Honer, Charlie Kelly and Kristy Maher from St. Enda's Primary School, Whitefriar Street, Dublin.



Celtic Football Club Coaches Chris Hendry, Ryan McGregor and Frank Donegan, Porter RCSI with Dr Terry McWade, Deputy CEO at RCSI at the presentation ceremony for the REACH Health Improvement programme.

Activities during 2009/2010 included the daily Homework Club; Community Health Checks Day; the Educational Information Service which supports students, parents and guardians regarding educational opportunities; annual REACH RCSI bursaries for each of the second level schools; the Kiran Pathak scholarship to the RCSI School of Pharmacy; an annual REACH RCSI Sports Day; Men's Health Programme, Glasgow Celtic coaching sessions with young people from the local area and NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) Student Elective. Through the Student Ambassador Programme, 32 students, from 6 schools represent the College in the local community.

The REACH RCSI programme was highly commended at the Chambers Ireland Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility in the 'Good Neighbour' category.

PROMOTING SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND RESEARCH

Programmes to promote interest in research, medicine and science were run throughout the year, attracting young and older people alike by making science fun, exciting and accessible.

The hugely popular MiniMed School, presented by leading health professionals from RCSI, provided an informative and entertaining open lecture series to members of the general public who are interested in learning more about health, medicine and the delivery of healthcare in Ireland. The series attracted widespread public interest with 300 members of the public attending each lecture and demand for places far outstripping availability. This year, the MiniMed School was free of charge to the public and was held on the last Wednesday of every month between January and May 2010. A special week-long programme for transition year students also took place.

150 Transition Year students attended the programme in Dublin and 120 Transition Year students from the South East attended Waterford's Transition Year RCSI's MiniMed training programme which took place for the second year running in RCSI/HSE Education Centre in Waterford Regional Hospital.

In July 2009, 25 primary science teachers participated in the 'Come to your senses' workshop delivered by the RCSI Primary science for Teachers Initiative (PSTI) team. The workshops aim to encourage teachers to develop their confidence and enthusiasm for science education in their own classrooms. The Primary Science for Teachers Initiative is a component of REACH RCSI programmes.

The Annual Outreach Lecture promotes interest in science among the wider community and was delivered by Dr. Aaron Bernstein, MD, from the Centre for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School. Coinciding with 2010 being the U.N.'s International Year of Biodiversity, Dr Bernstein delivered a lecture entitled "Life Support Systems: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity" which explored how human health depends, in every conceivable way, upon the diversity of life present on Earth.

"The REACH RCSI programme was highly commended at the Chambers Ireland Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility."



Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Declan J. Magee, Chairman, RCSI OUTREACH, Committee for International Cooperation, RCSI Council Member and Consultant Surgeon, Dr. Anthony J.V. Obinna, Archbishop of the Owerri Archdiocese and Mr. Kyle O'Sullivan, Irish Ambassador to Nigeria at the opening of a new state-of-the-art out-patients and casualty department at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Emekuku, Nigeria, in November 2009.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

MR. DECLAN J. MAGEE, CHAIRMAN
RCSI OUTREACH, COMMITTEE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As a leader in medical education, training and research, the College strives to advance the quality of healthcare in the developing world by sharing knowledge and providing training and expertise in medicine, research, healthcare and surgery. Throughout the year, the College has strengthened its links with the developing world, particularly in parts of Africa and Asia. RCSI OUTREACH, Committee for International Cooperation, has been established to oversee RCSI's diverse international outreach initiatives under a single committee.

This was the second year of the Irish Aid supported partnership between RCSI and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). The aim of the collaboration programme is to enhance the quality of surgical care in the Sub-Saharan region by improving the quality

and accessibility of surgical education and training. Under existing structures, COSECSA countries collectively graduate only approximately 60 surgeons a year for their shared population of 270 million people.

Increased cooperation in surgical training, ICT development, rollout of RCSI's e-learning platforms and numerous capacity sharing initiatives in syllabus development, examination and organisational development, have taken place during the past year.

To date, the programme has been successfully developed and delivered in Kenya, Zambia and Uganda. Expansion of the programme into other countries will start with Rwanda and Malawi in 2011, followed by Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique in 2012 and 2013. To date, 10 e-learning labs have been established with a total of 27 locations planned over the next 3 years.

In early 2010, the collaboration worked successfully with a number of partners to raise funds for a training programme in essential surgical skills for non-physician

clinicians in Malawi and Zambia, under the EU FP7 grant framework. The Principal Investigator under this research based intervention is Professor Ruairi Brugha of RCSI Department of Epidemiology. Twenty clinical officers in both countries will be trained in essential surgery during a two year course.

The EU SODISWATER project continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of solar disinfection of drinking water against diarrhoeal diseases. During the year, Dr. Kevin McGuigan from the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics and Professor Ronan Conroy from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health Medicine visited Cambodia, where SODIS has been a major public health success. The preliminary analysis of the Cambodian field trial where over a thousand children were monitored for a year showed a significant reduction in the risk of dysentery. Dr Kevin McGuigan received the Dean's award in the College in October 2009, for his role in bringing together the international collaboration, which has considerably



A Cambodian mother with her well-used SODIS bottle. SODIS has been a major public health success, using solar disinfection of drinking water to protect against diarrhoeal diseases.



Student nurses at the opening of a new state-of-the-art out-patients and casualty department at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Emekuku, Nigeria, in November 2009.

“Following the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010, the Office of the President, RCSI, coordinated a number of orthopaedic surgeons to travel to the region on a reconnaissance trip and to provide much needed on the ground clinical support.”



Christina Noble pictured with RCSI students Amber Waits and Ciara Shouldice at the opening of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation photographic exhibition held in RCSI in November 2009.

advanced the evidence base for solar disinfection. Dr McGuigan's research into the area of solar disinfection of drinking water has had a direct impact on 2.5 million people in over 35 developing countries.

RCSI continues to support the Paediatric Exchange Programme which has entered its seventh year, in conjunction with Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin (OLCHC). The programme was founded by Professor Martin Corbally, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at OLCHC and Associate Professor at RCSI. During the year, a team of specialists from Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin travelled to Ho Chi Minh City to carry out complex surgical procedures and to help Vietnamese counterparts in Paediatric Surgery and Anaesthetics achieve best practice performance and so improve the level of care in their own society. The programme also received support from the Christina Noble Foundation and Irish Aid. Building on their experience, the group have extended their objectives to include open heart surgery which began at Children's Hospital # 2 HCMC this year and is overseen by Professor Mark Redmond, Mater Hospital and OLCHC. In addition, the group has undertaken to upskill paediatric surgeons in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, to deal with complex paediatric oncological problems.

RCSI also encourages and advances research, helping to improve the sustainable development of developing countries. Professors Ruairi Brugha and Sam McConkey have been engaged in multiple programmes in 2009/2010 with the objective of strengthening health systems and disease control programmes across Africa.

During the year, the Global HIV Initiatives Research Network (www.ghinet.org), coordinated by RCSI (Professor Ruairi Brugha and Ms. Aisling Walsh) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, published several journal articles and

briefs for policy makers on the effects of HIV specific funding on the health systems of countries, especially in Africa. The Connecting Health Research Africa Ireland Consortium (ChRAIC), led by RCSI (Dr. Elaine Byrne) with colleagues in Trinity College and NUI Galway has been supporting country teams in six African countries to prioritise health systems research in their countries. GHIN and ChRAIC are both co-funded by Irish Aid. The Health Research Board (HRB) Nurse Migration study, led by Dr. Niamh Humphries, which resulted in several research papers on the experience of non-EU nurses in Ireland, was completed; and the HRB agreed to fund a new study on foreign doctors in Ireland, also led by Dr. Humphries. The findings of these studies will inform policy on more effective health workforce planning in Ireland, which has an impact on the global health worker crisis, which particularly affects Africa.

Professor Samuel McConkey is the Principal Investigator for the National Malaria Surveillance system in Gambia in collaboration with the relevant arms of government in Gambia and, the Centre for Innovation against Malaria. The mature findings of the study, funded by an Irish HRB research grant, will be presented at workshop at American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) annual meeting in Atlanta in 2010. In partnership with Ministry of Health, the University and Medical Research Council in Sierra Leone, Professor McConkey's team has completed a synthesis of existing knowledge in the country related to health equity, governance and human resources, finding diversity of governance and dire lack of skilled staff. The team are now exploring ways to address the human resource crisis in Sierra Leone. Professor McConkey organised and chaired a workshop at the international Malaria meeting in Nairobi in November 2009 which

explored a pathway to create an effective affordable malaria vaccine. RCSI has committed to join the European Vaccine Initiative based in Heidelberg, a collaborative research organisation advocating for, funding and fostering development of new effective affordable vaccine technologies.

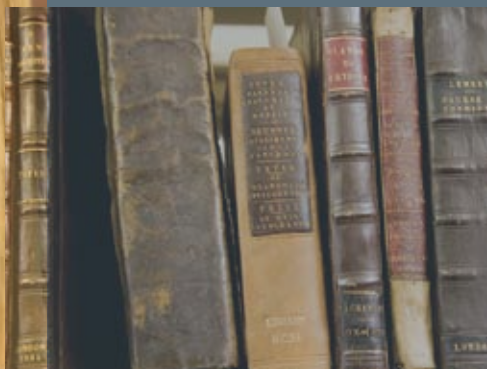
In November 2009, a new state-of-the-art out-patients and casualty department was opened at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Emekuku, in Nigeria. The new facility hosts a range of healthcare services and training including HIV/AIDS programmes, funded by RCSI in conjunction with Irish Aid, for an estimated 5 million people in the area.

RCSI continued its annual sponsorship of a group of students from the schools of medicine, physiotherapy and pharmacy to travel to Vietnam and Mongolia to volunteer with the Christina Noble Children's Foundation, providing help and support to children in need of medical care, nutritional rehabilitation, educational and vocational opportunities, as well as children at risk of sexual and economic exploitation. In November 2009 the Christina Noble Children's Foundation photographic exhibition took place in RCSI, celebrating the 20th anniversary of Christina Noble's first visit to Vietnam and to raise awareness and funds for Foundation.

Following the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010, the Office of the President, RCSI, coordinated a number of orthopaedic surgeons to travel to the region on a reconnaissance trip and to provide much needed on the ground clinical support in conjunction with Partners in Health, USA and Beacon Medical Group. The volunteer surgeons departed for Haiti on the five-day mission on 24 January and, under the auspices of the Institute of Orthopaedics, continue to deliver orthopaedic care to the people of Haiti.

Finance

RCSI is a not-for-profit, independent academic institution with charitable status. As we operate as a primarily self-funding institution, we must operate a sustainable financial model and thus continue to be able to create our own future.



Finance



MS. JENNIFER CULLINANE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

OVERVIEW

RCSI is a not-for-profit, independent academic institution with charitable status. As we operate as a primarily self-funding institution, we must operate a sustainable financial model and thus continue to be able to create our own future.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The 2008/09 year was a significant year for the College, with a number of key strategic objectives achieved. Our new university building in Bahrain was completed, on time and on budget, and officially opened in February 2009 by President McAleese and the Prime Minister of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa. Our student numbers continued to grow, numbering just over 3,300 across our campuses in Dublin, Bahrain, Penang and Dubai. This compares to 3,100 in the previous year.

From a financial perspective, the College continues to move towards a near break-even position, with an overall deficit of €1 million as against a deficit of €3 million in 2007/08.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income in the group amounted to €123 million, up 13% on 2008 levels. This increase reflects the growth in our education programmes in Ireland and Bahrain, and also accounts for increases in research funding. Operating costs increased, mainly due to support being given to our education programmes, the continued development of RCSI Bahrain, increasing interest rates during the year and the ongoing costs of maintaining our Dublin campus and hospital-located education and research centres. Our core activities (being Education, Research and Surgery) operated to a planned net deficit of €2 million, compared to a net deficit of €3 million in 2007/08.

Our university in Bahrain, RCSI Bahrain, saw a 40% increase in income, reflecting another full year of student intake. It has now completed the roll out of the undergraduate courses in Medicine and Nursing. RCSI Bahrain operated at a deficit during the year in accordance with its business plan.

“RCSI is a not-for-profit, independent academic institution with charitable status.”

Financial Highlights

Years ended 30 September
2009 and 2008

Income & Expenditure

	2009 € millions	2008 € millions
Income		
Core Activities (Education, Research, Surgery)	110	94
Investments & Fundraising	13	14
Total Income	123	108
Expenditure		
Operating Costs	(109)	(98)
Interest & Depreciation	(15)	(13)
Total Expenditure	(124)	(111)
(Deficit) in the Year	(1)	(3)

Balance Sheet

Net Assets (consolidated)	9	90
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“RCSI Bahrain saw a 40% increase in income, reflecting another full year of student intake.”

RCSI Bahrain moved into its new building in Muharraq in time for the 2008/09 academic year and this move has transformed the student experience. Officially opened in February 2009, it marks the culmination of RCSI's €70 million investment in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

RCSI Dubai continued to develop its healthcare management programmes and grew income by 50%. Our other international projects, including the Bahrain Health Oasis and King Hamad General Hospital, continue to progress. Important decisions on the future of both projects are expected to be taken by RCSI during 2010.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Capital investment amounted to €18 million in 2008/09 with continued investment in the campus in RCSI Bahrain and additional works on Phase 1 of the Abraham Colles Institute at York Street, Dublin. There was also investment in a new Council room and preparation works for the RCSI 200 years on St. Stephen's Green celebrations in 2010.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

While the College's activities operated at break even during 2008/09, its net assets at 31 September reduced significantly to €9 million. This reflects a write down in the value of our endowment portfolio.

Over many years, RCSI established an endowment portfolio to provide an ongoing and stable source of income. The portfolio mainly comprised certain investment properties strategically located near its main campus in the centre of Dublin. Like all such investments in recent times, the underlying property assets have lost significant value. While losing capital value, they still provided a strong positive cash surplus in the year to support our educational activities.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

This year marks a significant milestone for the College with the completion of a number of major education investments, including the Graduate Entry Programme in Dublin, the university in Bahrain and various hospital education centre buildings. The College is now entering a period of financial consolidation with a strong focus on ensuring an appropriate return is achieved from its various investments.

At the same time, world economic conditions are uncertain and none more so than in Ireland. RCSI's primary financial focus will be in two areas, revenue generation and cost containment, but without having an impact on the service levels provided to students.

We are currently carrying out an extensive cost review of all areas of activity. Similarly, other activities are being assessed from a value-for-money perspective to ensure all activities move to making a positive financial contribution. Our constant focus is to ensure that the College's strategic vision can be delivered within an ever-changing and difficult financial environment.

Again, I wish to acknowledge the great support of the whole Finance Department and, in particular, the support and help from Ms. Caroline Murphy, Mr. Pdraig Barry, Mr. Niall Kelly and Mr. John Diviney.



RCSI

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*Celebrating 200 years on
St. Stephen's Green*

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