



RCSI

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

Annual Report 2010–2011



*Advancing global standards in  
healthcare education  
and training*

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## 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.

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## RCSI Noble Purpose

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



**We are** responsible for setting the highest standards in surgical care and training in Ireland and are an internationally recognised medical school with a 227 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

3,754

Number of students

867

Number of staff

€12.4m

Research funding  
awarded to RCSI

Number of students  
and trainees by Faculty

446 Surgical Trainees

2,736 Faculty of Medicine  
and Health Sciences

23 Faculty of Dentistry

98 Faculty of Radiologists

448 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery

3 Faculty of Sports and Exercise  
Medicine RCPI & RCSI

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## President's Review

Professor Ellis McGovern

RCSI operates in both national and international environments, and as the whole world has experienced turbulence over the past year, it was inevitable that we would be exposed to serious challenges that would test our resilience. However, as we have demonstrated many times over the past two centuries, we have risen to these challenges and can again report on many successes and positive developments.

### GOVERNANCE

For some time now, we have been looking at our governance structures, and this work has been progressing steadily through the efforts of the Governance Review Committee, chaired by the Vice-President, Mr. Paddy Broe. We knew that as an organisation we needed to respond to changes in the corporate governance environment. In addition, the process of applying for independent degree-awarding status alerted us to new requirements for modern governance structures in third-level institutions. Following discussion, Council approved the introduction of a new paradigm which involved the establishment of two new committees.

The Medicine and Health Sciences Board oversees the activities of the undergraduate schools of Medicine (including the graduate-entry course), Pharmacy and Physiotherapy, as well

as the postgraduate schools of Nursing, Postgraduate Studies and the Institute of Leadership. The Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board oversees the activities of Surgery alongside the Faculties of Nursing and Midwifery, Dentistry, Radiologists, and Sports and Exercise Medicine.

The importance of external input had been identified by the Governance Review Committee, and has been addressed by the recruitment of external members with appropriate skill-sets on both committees.

Authority has been delegated to the two new Boards in relation to their own activities, and a range of reserved matters have been identified which will continue to be the remit of Council. The Boards will undergo a review process at the end of their first year to ensure that they are working effectively, and the ongoing process of governance review continues.

### ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

RCSI has a long and fruitful relationship with the National University of Ireland (NUI), under whose authority degrees have been awarded since 1978. However the College has for a long time aspired to have its own independent degree-awarding status. When the possibility of dissolution of the NUI was raised, RCSI formally applied for this privilege. A rigorous external review process was set in place by the Higher Education Authority and the National Qualifications Authority in the spring of last year. This required a huge volume of preparatory work in submitting a self-assessment to the review board, followed by an intensive and painstaking site visit by the members of the international panel. The College staff who were involved in this initiative were rewarded when the then Minister for Education and Science, Mary Coughlan, formally announced in October 2010 that we had been successful in our application.

The very first person to receive an RCSI degree was the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who, in a special ceremony in the College on 30th May 2011, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of RCSI. This was followed later that week by the first major conferring ceremony in which our medical school graduates received RCSI degrees, in addition to the traditional NUI degrees and RCSI/RCPI licentiates.

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGICAL AFFAIRS

A strategic review of the Surgical Pillar was carried out in the spring of 2010, and has been implemented in the year since then. Mr. Eunan Friel was appointed as the new Managing Director for Surgical Affairs, and took up his position in October 2010. Working with Professor Sean Tierney, Dean of Professional Development and Practice and Professor Oscar Traynor, Director of the National Surgical Training Centre, a



re-structuring of the Department has taken place. This has incorporated a new unit to oversee the Competence Assurance process recently instigated by the Medical Council. The new National Office for Clinical Audit in Surgery office is also located in the Department of Surgical Affairs.

The committee structure has also been re-visited, with a new Policy and Standards Committee, and an over-arching Committee for Surgical Affairs, which incorporates representation from all the surgical specialities. This in turn reports to the Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board.

The Department of Surgical Affairs continues its close working relationship with the Health Service Executive (HSE) through our immediate Past-President, Professor Frank Keane's leadership of the Elective Surgery Clinical Programme, and also continues to work with other state agencies such as the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Medical Council, as well as having regular interaction with the UK surgical colleges.

## OVERSEAS

The College's activities in Malaysia continue to grow and develop. Penang Medical College (PMC) is thriving and graduated its 11th class of medical students at a colourful ceremony in June. A new medical school project in Terengganu, using the same twinning model as PMC, is due to admit its first students to the RCSI system in 2011 and to the Dublin campus in autumn 2012.

Perdana University is a new college being developed by private enterprise in Kuala Lumpur, and will incorporate two medical schools: a graduate-entry four-year programme and a traditional five-year programme run side-by-side. The graduate-entry programme will be run by the international division of Johns Hopkins University, and the five year course by the RCSI. The first students are currently being recruited and will begin their studies in September. The founding Dean is Professor Anthony Cunningham, and the faculty for the pre-clinical courses has been appointed.

Eventually the new Perdana University campus will incorporate not just the two medical schools, but also a teaching hospital, a research centre, staff accommodation, a hotel and many ancillary facilities. The site for this new campus has been identified, and construction is about to commence. The first

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intake of students will be accommodated in temporary buildings adapted and refurbished nearby. Several of the Dublin college staff were taken on a tour of this facility in June 2011, and were extremely impressed by the standard and finish of the buildings.

This is an exciting initiative, and the preparatory work involved has generated useful experience and expertise for the College, which will be very valuable in its search for further overseas educational opportunities.

Last year, the Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-MUB) came of age in June when, on a very proud day for Bahrain and RCSI, a conferring ceremony was held on the MUB campus for the first class of medical and nursing graduates. Earlier this year, during a time of unrest in Bahrain, all educational institutions had to cease their activities for a short time, and there was some concern that the class of 2011 might be unable to complete the course on time to graduate. However with the dedication and commitment of the university staff, the final examinations, although deferred, were held in time for the June graduation ceremony, and a second cohort of young doctors and nurses was conferred on June 13th.

RCSI is very aware of the need to give back to society in ways that will ultimately improve the health status of people in areas that do not have access to the standard of healthcare which exist in the developed world. Our major international outreach initiative is with COSECSA – the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa. This work is supported by a grant from Irish Aid, and aims to support local countries in developing training and examinations in surgery for doctors, as well as developing programmes for non-medically qualified

healthcare workers, which will enable them to be trained in the common surgical and obstetric procedures which can be delivered in areas remote from larger urban hospitals.

Other overseas projects in which our staff are involved include the Solar Water Disinfection Project (SODIS), the Paediatric Exchange Programme in Vietnam, our work with the Holy Rosary Hospital in Nigeria, and our Health Research Programmes in HIV and Hepatitis C in Africa.

## CONCLUSION

The nerve centre of RCSI is our Senior Management Team. In an 18-month period, we will have seen four replacements: the positions of CEO/Registrar, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Managing Director of Surgical Affairs, and we will soon welcome our new Director of Human Resources. The new range of complementary skills and experiences which they bring has resulted in a strengthened unit, well equipped to bring this institution onto the next stage of its historical journey. They in turn lead a team of dedicated staff and researchers across three continents who continue to steady the large ship which is the RCSI. I am very grateful to all of them, and to the Vice-President and the Council members, for their dedication and commitment to this unique College.

## Council Members

Pictured left to right

**Mr. Frank McManus**

Retired Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)  
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

**Mr. Kevin O'Malley**

Consultant Surgeon (Vascular)  
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

**Professor Ronan O'Connell**

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

**Mr. Patrick J. Broe**

Vice-President and Consultant  
Surgeon (General)  
Beaumont Hospital

**Professor Eilis McGovern**

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

**Professor Thomas F. Gorey**

Consultant Surgeon (General)  
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

**Professor H. Paul Redmond**

Professor and Chair of Surgery, UCC  
and Consultant Surgeon (Oncology)  
Cork University Hospital

**Mr. Kenneth Mealy**

Consultant Surgeon (General)  
Wexford General Hospital

**Mr. Joe O'Beirne**

Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)  
Waterford Regional Hospital

**Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood**

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





**Mr. Joseph P. Duignan**

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

**Professor David J. Bouchier-Hayes**

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

**Mr. Declan J. Magee**

Consultant Surgeon (General)  
St. Columcille's Hospital

**Mr. Gordon Watson**

Retired Consultant Surgeon (General)  
Waterford Regional Hospital

**Professor Michael J. Earley**

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

**Mr. Parnell Keeling**

Consultant Surgeon (General)  
Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown

**Professor John Hyland**

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

**Ms. Laura Viani**

Consultant Surgeon (Otolaryngology)  
Beaumont Hospital

**Professor Frank Keane**

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

**Professor W. Arthur Tanner**

Retired Director of Surgical Affairs, RCSI

**Professor Michael J. Kerin**

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



## Senior Management Team



**1. Dr. Terry McWade**  
Deputy CEO



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



**3. Professor John Kelly**  
Director of Research

**4. Ms. Jennifer Cullinane**  
Director of Finance



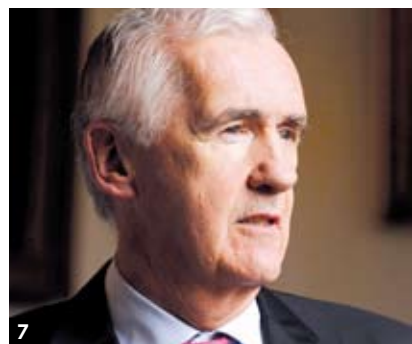
**5. Mr. Bernard Cahill**  
Director of Human Resources



**6. Mr. Eunan Friel**  
Managing Director of Surgical Affairs



**7. Mr. Michael McGrail**  
Director of Corporate Strategy





## Chief Executive's Review

**Professor Cathal Kelly**



**As Chief Executive of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, it is my pleasure to share with you the RCSI annual report for 2010 – 2011 and to update you on the activities within the College over the past year.**

As the continuing economic condition prevails, there is no doubt that we are all living in challenging times. One of the core strengths of our College is our ability to innovate and adapt and through this we have been successful in reducing our expenses by more than 13% over the last two years and we have worked hard to ensure that our resources are wholly focused on our core mandate – education in the health sciences. I would like to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff of RCSI for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the College. The achievements over the past 12 months in the College were made by our exceptional staff, who play a central role to the success of this College.

The past year has seen us grow both in Ireland and abroad as we continue to develop our core activities of education, training and research. In October 2010, the College was granted independent degree awarding status by the State. This followed a quality approval process culminating in the Government approving the bye-law, which enables the College to award degrees alongside its traditional powers to award licentiates. Our graduates will now receive an RCSI degree alongside the traditional licentiates of the RCSI and RCPI and the degree of the National University

of Ireland. To mark this landmark in the College's history, the first ever RCSI degree was awarded to Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland in May.

In terms of postgraduate activities, 2010/2011 was an exciting year with the largest number to date, (60) graduating with higher degrees by research (23 PhD, 15 MD, 14 MCh and 8 MSc). Our postgraduate student numbers have increased year on year from 314 (135 research) in 2005 to 854 in 2010 (253 research). In our postgraduate activities we already have many of the recommendations of the Hunt report in place and look forward to further enhancing the quality framework for our higher degree researchers as recommended in the report.

Despite significant cuts in the Irish Government's research funding, RCSI received Higher Education Authority (HEA) funding of €1.8 million for a new inter-institutional PhD programme in BioAnalysis and Therapeutics (BioAT). Our partners are Dublin City University (DCU), NUI Maynooth, and the Institute of Technology Tallaght. The programme offers students a unique training experience in applied research, advanced technologies, and collaborative clinician-scientist research in hospital-based laboratories. This integrated approach to advancing the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases with significant potential for commercialisation is a major strength of the programme.

Also in the area of research, the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, which is a scientific and clinical partnership between DCU and RCSI, secured €14.8 million in funding, as part of the largest award ever granted by Science Foundation Ireland. The investment which will support research and innovation is a significant achievement for the institute.

## Chief Executive's Review

(continued)

*“In October 2010, the College was granted independent degree awarding status by the State. This followed a quality approval process culminating in the Government approving the bye-law, which enables the College to award degrees alongside its traditional powers to award licentiates.”*

This year also saw considerable progress in the development of the Academic Health Centre between Beaumont Hospital, Connolly Hospital and RCSI. The mission of the Academic Health Centre is to prioritise patient care across the hospital and the community within a research-intensive learning environment, guaranteeing improved patient outcomes. A partnership agreement has now been signed by the parties involved and a number of working groups have been established to deliver the project.

Much change has taken place this year within the Department of Surgical Affairs. With the appointment of Eunan Friel as Managing Director of the Department in 2010, and the culmination of a strategic review process, new structures were put in place to ensure the department provides excellence in surgical training and relevance in surgical practice and to address changes in the delivery and regulation of the medical profession in Ireland. Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 came into effect on 1st May 2011, whereby it became mandatory for all medical practitioners practising in Ireland to be enrolled in a Professional Competence Scheme. RCSI was accredited by the Irish Medical Council to administer the Professional Competence Schemes for Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Sports & Exercise Medicine.

Within the Department of Surgical Affairs, the RCSI Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology continues to go from strength to strength. Most recently, its development of a podcast for surgeons which provides surgeons with easy access to the latest information regarding clinical practice and surgical technology is a great example of an innovative and internationally focused product and it continues to ensure that RCSI is internationally recognised as a leader in medical education.

The past year also saw the appointments of a new Director of Research and a Director of Corporate Strategy. Professor John Kelly, former Foundation Head of the School of Pharmacy, joined the Senior Management Team as Director of Research, bringing extensive experience, particularly on the commercialisation of research and clinical trials, to the position. Mr. Michael McGrail was appointed as Director of Corporate Strategy. Michael has extensive experience in consulting and corporate finance and previously held the role of acting Director of Finance in the College.

*“In terms of postgraduate activities, 2010/2011 was an exciting year with the largest number to date, (60) graduating with higher degrees by research.”*

This year saw RCSI enter into two very exciting opportunities in Malaysia. In Kuala Lumpur, the new Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine will deliver the five year undergraduate medical programme, with the first intake of students in September 2011. The Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine is part of the Kuala Lumpur Academic Medical Centre which will comprise a 600 bed private hospital, a research centre and Perdana University and is due for completion in 2014. In March, RCSI together with UCD signed an agreement for the provision of medical education with two colleges in the State of Terengganu in Malaysia. The agreement involves establishing a medical college branch campus in Terengganu. These students will come to Ireland to study at RCSI and UCD for 2.5 years and will return to Terengganu to undertake their clinical training and complete their medical degrees.

This year proved to be a difficult time for our staff and students in Bahrain. Since the beginning of the unrest in Bahrain in February, we have endeavoured to ensure the safety of our 900 students and 100 staff in Bahrain, to enable our students to complete their programmes. We developed contingency plans to ensure that irrespective of political unrest, our final medical year students would graduate on time. In June, we conferred 53 medical doctors and 70 nurses as originally scheduled. The graduation ceremony was an important tribute to the commitment and courage of these young people. It was a particularly proud day for all of us that were there to witness the occasion.

*“As a not for profit institution, we are enduringly grateful for the support of our loyal alumni, fellows, members and friends of the College, who continue to support us in our endeavours and who give generously to the College.”*

As a leading provider of medical education, we are committed to ensuring our educational offering to our students is second to none. Following the College being granted independent degree awarding powers, we established the Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) to support the implementation of the RCSI quality assurance and quality improvement strategy following recommendations by the National Qualifications Authority. The primary activity of the QEO is the coordination of quality reviews and to support the RCSI Schools and Faculties in statutory accreditation processes. The School of Postgraduate Studies underwent the first quality review in May, which was carried out by an international Peer Review Group.

As a not for profit institution, we are enduringly grateful for the support of our loyal alumni, fellows, members and friends of the College, who continue to support us in our endeavours and who give generously to the College. Our Library redevelopment project got underway this year and to date, almost €500,000 has been raised. Our vision for the redevelopment of the library is to support lifelong learning and create a space to support multiple learning styles and teaching practices through technology rich and multi-purpose spaces. While we are still a while off from our target of €4m, this is a great achievement for the beginning of the project, especially in today's difficult economic climate.

In January, the decision was made to sell a collection of books in the RCSI Library from the 16th to the 19th century in the fields of medicine, natural history, travel and literature. The decision to sell the books was a strategic decision in order to concentrate on the conservation and preservation of the RCSI archives and modern records which are essential and unique to the College. The analysis and evaluation of the antiquarian collections and the decision to divest of certain material is a necessary preparation to the library redevelopment plan and all money raised from the sale of the books will be reinvested in to the library.

*“Despite the panel’s 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.”*

Our students are the lifeblood of this College. I am extremely proud of their achievements and their willingness to participate in humanitarian and charitable initiatives. The Islamic Society raised almost €7,000 in just two weeks collecting for Islamic Relief. In December 2010, the Caribbean African Society raised over €1,400 from its annual Chocolate Ball event in aid of World Aid's Day and the Cancer Society raised almost €300 for the Irish Cancer Society and 'Mo-vember', which raises funds for men's health. Our students also gave generously of their time to assist in many outreach programmes including the REACH Sports Day, the REACH Homework Club for local school children and the MiniMed programme for students in Transition Year in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution that the patients, clinicians and staff in our teaching hospitals make to the College and to thank them for their generosity towards the College, our students and trainees.

During the Degree Awarding process, an external panel made a three day site visit to the College. The panel was uniform in its praise of the staff and students, the sense of morale and the sense of community within RCSI. Despite the panel's 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. I have always been proud of RCSI, but never more so than during this period.



# 2010/11

## Milestones and Achievements



*Pictured (l-r) are Ms. Linsey Abreu-Molly, Ms. Maura Cotter and Ms. Katie Ryan, who were conferred with Memberships of RCSI at the July Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony.*



*Pictured at Breast Cancer Ireland's annual "RCSI Race Against Breast Cancer Day" at Leopardstown are (l-r) Mr. Walter Beatty; Mrs. Orla Beatty; Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/Registrar, RCSI; Ms. Mary Kennedy; and Professor Arnold Hill, Professor of Surgery, RCSI.*

### 2010 JULY

The **22nd RCSI Annual Golf Classic** at The K Club, Co. Kildare raised over €25,000 in aid of surgical research.

25 primary school teachers attended the **'Come to Your Senses'** summer course, which is a component of the REACH RCSI programme. The course used the theme of the human senses to enable primary school teachers develop their interest and enthusiasm for teaching science and provided practical experiments and innovative ideas to use in the classroom.

Approximately 120 doctors were conferred with postgraduate awards at the **postgraduate conferring ceremony**. These include Fellowships of RCSI in Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery; Otolaryngology; Paediatric surgery; Plastic Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery and Urology. New Members and Fellows of the Faculties of Radiology, Dentistry and Sports and Exercise Medicine were also conferred. Professor Joseph McKenna, former President and Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland was awarded the College's highest honour, Honorary Fellowship of RCSI at the ceremony.

The Summer Meeting of the **Surgical Forum** 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

RCSI and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre jointly hosted a course on **'Safe Patient Care – Healthcare-associated Infection Prevention & Control for All'**. The initiative aimed to maximise patient safety by enhancing the education of health care workers that interact with patients on a day-to-day basis.

RCSI welcomed over 400 new students who were embarking on the undergraduate Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy programmes at the annual **Orientation Day**.

Professor Frances Ruane, Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) delivered the **21st Leonard Abrahamson Memorial Lecture** entitled 'Resource Allocation, Financing and Sustainability of the Irish Health Sector'.

### OCTOBER

The RCSI Alumni Gala Dinner was attended by more than 250 medical graduates and their guests, who travelled from all parts of Ireland and across the globe to celebrate special reunions during **Alumni Weekend**.

An Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Mary Coughlan, T.D., issued formal notification of her decision to grant **independent Degree Awarding Status** to RCSI.

RCSI was the local organiser of the international **BioPhotonics and Imaging Conference (BioPIC)** 2010 which took place in Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Co Meath. The event showcased innovations in the rapidly expanding sector of optics and photonics with benefits for healthcare and disease prevention.

A new **masters' programme in Organisational Change and Leadership Development** which will be jointly delivered by the RCSI Institute of Leadership and DCU Business School was launched by the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Mary Coughlan, T.D.

Breast Cancer Ireland's annual **RCSI Race Against Breast Cancer** Day at Leopardstown raised over €150,000 for vital breast cancer research aiding speedier discoveries and ultimately more effective treatments for those diagnosed.



*Pictured at the Millin Meeting are Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI; Mr. David G Healy, Thoracic Surgeon at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Mr. Paddy Broe, Vice President; RCSI. Mr. Healy delivered the 33rd Millin Lecture entitled: 'Successful Surgery: A Science of Scalpels, Sutures and Susceptive Cells'.*



*Renowned hand surgeon Dr. Thomas Graham MD from Cleveland Clinic, USA (right) greets former patient and Irish rugby international Gordon D'Arcy at an Innovation in Surgery Lecture delivered by Dr. Graham.*



*Pictured (l-r) are Ms. Rebecca Lynch and Ms. Elaine McCarthy who graduated as part of Ireland's first Masters in Pharmacy (MPharm) class.*



*Pictured (right) is Ms. Corriena Brien, Student Services Manager with show participants and organisers from RCSI's Caribbean African Society (CAS) who presented 'The Chocolate Factor', this year's variation of the ever popular Chocolate Ball.*

## NOVEMBER

Catherine Sweeney, from the School of Pharmacy, RCSI, was named as one of 'Ireland's Top Undergraduates' at the **Undergraduate Awards of Ireland & Northern Ireland**.

RCSI hosted the **RCSI Innovations** exhibition as part of the annual Innovation Dublin festival which is dedicated to promoting innovation and creativity in the city. Members of the public were given the opportunity to simulate surgical procedures, participate in a virtual patient diagnosis and discover more about health research from leading RCSI experts.

Dr. Thomas J. Graham, M.D, Chairman of Cleveland Clinic Innovations and Vice-Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, USA, delivered an **Innovation in Surgery Lecture** in the College. A renowned hand surgeon, Dr. Graham, has worked on many top sporting professionals including Irish rugby international Gordon D'Arcy, who attended the lecture.

This year's **Millin Meeting** explored the development of an Elective Surgery Programme and Competence Assurance, two of the most important issues facing Irish surgeons. The meeting incorporated the 20th Carmichael Lecture delivered by Marc Coleman, Author & Economist entitled: 'Doctors differ patients die: An analysis of the analysis of Ireland's condition'. The day-long event culminated in the 33rd Millin Lecture delivered by Mr. David Healy, FRCSI, entitled: 'Successful Surgery: A Science of Scalpels, Sutures and Susceptive Cells'.

Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of Department, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI, was made a **Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (ANN)**. He was the first applicant from Ireland to receive the accolade.

Graduates from Ireland's first Masters in Pharmacy class were among those who graduated at the **RCSI November Conferring** ceremony. With over 650 students being conferred with undergraduate and postgraduate awards at three conferring ceremonies, this was the largest number of students ever to be conferred in a single day at the College.

Surgical trainees spent an intensive week learning microsurgical skills at the **first ever microsurgical course in Ireland** which took place at the National Surgical Training Centre, RCSI.

## DECEMBER

Over 300 students enjoyed RCSI Caribbean African Society's **"The Chocolate Factor" Ball** which showcased some of RCSI's many talented students and raised almost €1,500 for charity.

Approximately 50 healthcare professionals graduated from RCSI-Dubai with United Arab Emirates accredited Masters Degrees in Healthcare Management and Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management at a **conferring ceremony in Dubai**.

140 healthcare professionals were conferred at the **December Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony**. These include Fellowships of RCSI in Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery and Urology. Memberships of RCSI including Ophthalmology were awarded as well as Fellowship and Membership of the Faculties of Radiologists, Dentistry and Nursing & Midwifery.

# 2010/11

## Milestones and Achievements



*Pictured at the RCSI Open Day was secondary school student, Ms. Alice O'Donnell (16).*

*Pictured (l-r) is Dr Garry Duffy, Lecturer in Anatomy; and Mr Ting Chu (Ken) Liu, 3rd Year Medical Student, who received the Dr. Harry O'Flanagan Prize for the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation which is generously supported by Dr. Yacoob Kadwa, RCSI graduate (Class of 1965) at Research Day 2011.*

### 2011 JANUARY

**RCSI's Annual Open Day** gave over 500 second-level students a taste for life as a medical, pharmacy and physiotherapy student.

RCSI signed an agreement to join the **European Vaccine Initiative (EVI)** putting the College in the limelight of EU research leadership in the area of vaccine development. EVI supports the development of effective, accessible and affordable vaccines for diseases of poverty.

Broadcaster and journalist Marian Finucane delivered a lecture on the topic of 'Listening' at the **78th Annual Biological Society Meeting**, which took place in RCSI.

The **RCSI Mini Med Transition Year programme** welcomed 160 students from 80 schools for a week-long training programme at RCSI and Beaumont Hospital. The interactive programme gave Transition Year students the opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a doctor.

Over 200 RCSI Alumni and a delegation from the College attended a reception in **celebration of the UAE RCSI Alumni** which took place at the ambassador's residence in Abu Dhabi.

### FEBRUARY

RCSI was proud host to the semi-final of the prestigious **Irish Times Debate competition** which was chaired by Senator Eugene Regan, member of Seanad Éireann.

New research conducted by RCSI was presented at a **Research Opportunities Day** in conjunction with Beaumont and Connolly Hospitals which included a National survey of day surgery in Ireland that identified seven barriers to the provision of day surgery.

Over 50 leading national and international surgeons gave lectures on a wide range of surgical topics at the **Charter Day meetings**. Mr. Edward Kiely, internationally renowned Irish Paediatric Surgeon from Cork gave the 86th Colles lecture on the 'Surgery of Conjoint Twins'. At the **Charter Day Dinner**, Honorary Fellowships of RCSI were awarded to Mr. Edward Kiely and Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the National Health Service in the UK.

Over 200 delegates attended the **30th Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Conference** at RCSI. Speakers from North America, Australia, The Middle East and across Europe gave global perspectives on the theme 'Promoting Patient Centred Care in Times of Change - the Challenge for Nurses and Midwives'

### MARCH

120 Transition Year students from the South East got a taste of what it is like to train as a medical student during the week-long **Waterford RCSI Transition Year MiniMed training programme** which took place in Waterford Regional Hospital (WRH) and Waterford Institute of Technology.

The Society of Neuroscience, an RCSI student society, hosted the **inaugural Neuroscience Symposium** in association with the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience, which attracted seven world-renowned speakers who gave talks across a broad range of Clinical Neuroscience topics.

Students and staff took part in **International Night** in the Mansion House, Dublin on Thursday 10th March 2011 which celebrated the cultural diversity within the College with a memorable night of dance, drama and music from all corners of the globe.

RCSI and University College Dublin signed an agreement for the provision of medical education in Dublin and by the two colleges in the **State of Terengganu in Malaysia** during an official visit to Dublin by Ministers from the State Government of Terengganu.

Students from the College launched the 4th edition of the **RCSI Student Medical Journal (RCSImj)** which aims to promote excellence in undergraduate research.





*Pictured at the REACH RCSI Sports Day are Megan Sherlock (10), Collins Melekwe (9) and Shauna Plunkett (10) from St. Enda's Primary School, Whitefriar Street, Dublin.*



*Pictured is Her Excellency, President Mary McAleese, who in May 2011, was the first person ever to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of RCSI in the College's 227 year history due to the granting of independent degree awarding status by the State to RCSI in 2010.*



*Pictured at second annual conferring ceremony in RCSI Bahrain are (l-r) medical graduate Dr. Sayed Al Moosawi and Dr. Sehriban Diab.*

## APRIL

Over 300 researchers attended **RCSI Research Day 2011** which provided RCSI scientists with an opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings.

RCSI students and staff volunteered their time to help with the **REACH RCSI Sports Day**. 110 local primary school children took part in the action packed day of games and events which aims to raise awareness and promote life-long recreation and community health.

Professor Geraldine McCarthy, Honorary Associate Professor, Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, RCSI was awarded the **Dr. Jacques Servier Scholarship** in recognition of her research on the biological effects of crystals in human disease.

A team from RCSI competed in the **115th Boston Marathon**, the oldest and largest marathon in the world, with the nine RCSI runners raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland.

## MAY

RCSI opened its **Professional Competence Scheme (PCS)** via the Colles Portal, which allows medical practitioners to record and monitor their continuing professional development and clinical audit activities online which is required by the Irish Medical Council under Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. RCSI will administer its PCS to doctors working in surgery, emergency medicine, sports and exercise medicine, ophthalmic surgery and ophthalmology.

The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) supported by Irish Aid and RCSI hosted a one day conference entitled **"Surgical Training in East, Central and Southern Africa - A Regional Approach"**. The conference was organised by RCSI and attended by a diverse range of international delegates with an interest in surgical training in the region.

Professor Gerry O'Sullivan, Past-President of RCSI, was awarded an **Honorary Fellowship by the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)** at a ceremony which took place in RCSI in Dublin.

Her Excellency, President Mary McAleese was awarded the **first Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from RCSI** at a special ceremony held in the College. This was the first Honorary Degree RCSI has awarded in its 227 year history due to the granting of independent degree awarding status by the State to RCSI in 2010.

## JUNE

211 medical students and 42 higher degree candidates graduated at the **RCSI Summer Conferring Ceremony** at the National Concert Hall. Also at the ceremony was the launch of the Perdana University – RCSI School of Medicine in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which was announced by Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

**RCSI's Annual Public Outreach Lecture 2011**, entitled "Genius of the Cell" which explored the theory that human cells capable of "independent thought" may unlock the secrets to disease, was delivered by Professor Brian J Ford, a renowned research biologist based at University of Cambridge.

The **second annual graduation ceremony at RCSI Bahrain** took place with 169 candidates conferred including 55 graduates of the School of Medicine, 100 of the school of nursing and seven Masters graduates.

A reception in **celebration of the launch of the Perdana University – RCSI School of Medicine** took place at the Ambassador's Residence, Kuala Lumpur, hosted by the Ambassador of Ireland to Malaysia, H.E. Declan Kelly, and the CEO of RCSI, Professor Cathal Kelly. The event was attended by Professor Eilis McGovern, RCSI President; RCSI Alumni in Malaysia; and leading academics, clinicians and other officials. The first intake of students to the programme will be in September 2011.

# Surgical Affairs



MR. EUNAN FRIEL,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
OF SURGICAL AFFAIRS

## KEY FACTS

**206**

Higher Surgical Trainees

**170**

Basic Surgical Trainees

**70**

Irish Surgical Residency  
Programme



WE PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN SURGICAL  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND  
CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO ENHANCE THE  
QUALITY OF SURGICAL CARE FOR PATIENTS.





*Surgical trainees spent an intensive week learning microsurgical skills at the first ever microsurgical course in Ireland at the National Surgical Training Centre, RCSI in November 2010.*

**This was a year of great activity and great change within RCSI's Department of Surgical Affairs. A new executive management was appointed and the process of putting a structure in place to deliver on the strategic priorities, identified late last year in our strategic review process, was initiated. Central to this strategy is a re-focusing on the delivery of excellence in surgical training across all our surgical specialties as well as building renewed relevance in surgical practice.**

The healthcare environment continues to be challenged by the severe funding difficulties arising from our national economic difficulties. This, together with a continuing commitment to improve the standards and safety of patient care delivery, has accelerated the change and transformation agenda of the Health Service Executive (HSE). The implementation of Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 has required all practising medical practitioners to enrol in recognised professional schemes from 1st May 2011. These developments are being actively supported by RCSI. Through new structures in the Department of Surgical Affairs, we are facilitating our Fellows and Members as well as the broader community of surgeons to meet these regulatory requirements while continuing to provide leadership in care delivery transformation to enhance the quality of surgical care.

We are extremely grateful to staff in our Department for their ongoing commitment to ensure we deliver our strategic goals and for their flexibility during this period of change.

### **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.



*Pictured (l-r) at the RCSI Charter Day meetings are Mr. Parnell Keeling, RCSI Council Member and Mr. Michael O'Riordan, Consultant Surgeon.*





*Ms. Marie O'Boyle, Surgical Training, RCSI, demonstrates the Colles Portal to Mr. Kenneth Mealy, RCSI Council Member at the Millin Meeting.*

*“The Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) continues to go from strength to strength, with over 50 innovative ideas being supported and developed at present.”*

This year saw the commencement of a new centralised funding model being implemented by the HSE's Medical Training Unit across all the postgraduate training bodies. The agreements we have reached with the HSE reflect their ongoing commitment to surgical training and we appreciate their support and co-operation during the transition to these new funding structures.

Our surgical training agenda continues to evolve under the leadership of Professor Oscar Traynor, to meet the changing needs of surgery today. July 2011 sees the introduction of our new Basic Specialty Programme, creating a three year Basic Surgical Training (BST) programme. Approximately 80 trainees are due to commence on the programme, representing a very significant move to shortening the surgical training journey by eliminating the necessity for the so called 'gap years' as a requirement for admission to Higher Surgical Training (HST).

The introduction of the basic specialty year has also facilitated the introduction of a more structured set of criteria for admission to Higher Surgical Training. This year we have over 200 trainees in both BST and HST as well as an additional 35 trainees commencing a new Basic Specialty Training programme in Emergency Medicine.

2011 will see RCSI applying for formal accreditation as a training body from the Irish Medical Council. This process also derives from the provisions of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and will provide a valuable external perspective on our training programmes in delivering against the “Medical Council Accreditation Standards for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training”. It is anticipated that this process will be completed towards the end of 2011 and will further inform the refinement of our mandatory training curriculum across all our specialties.

## SURGICAL PRACTICE

A central element of our strategic plan is the commitment to build on enhancing our relevance in surgical practice. This year saw the appointment of Professor Sean Tierney to the position of Dean of Professional Development and Practice. We are committed to a number of critical initiatives in support of surgical practice.

Under the National Directorate of Clinical Strategy and Programmes, a number of clinical programmes have been initiated with the aim of improving the organisation, quality, access and cost of service delivered to patients across a broad range of clinical areas. RCSI has been providing clinical leadership to an Elective Surgery Programme with Professor Frank Keane, Immediate Past-President, RCSI, acting as National Lead. This programme has an initial focus on the areas of average length of stay; optimising theatre utilisation and workflow; establishing a national surgical audit; and the development of integrated care pathways. Great progress has been made during the year with pilot implementation underway in several areas.

On 1st May, RCSI was ready to enrol medical practitioners in our Professional Competence Scheme, having received recognition from the Medical Council to provide a scheme for Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Sport & Exercise Medicine in March. RCSI has established a dedicated unit to administer the scheme and support enrolled practitioners in managing their professional competence requirements. The scheme is facilitated through the Colles Portal. In addition to the management of a professional competence scheme, we are also planning the provision of a Professional Development Programme for surgical Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs). This programme will be funded



*Pictured is Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI, presenting the Abraham Colles Medal to Mr. Edward Kiely, internationally renowned Irish Paediatric Surgeon from Cork who gave the 86th Colles lecture on the 'Surgery of Conjoint Twins' as part of the Charter Day meetings.*

*“July 2011 sees the introduction of our new Basic Specialty Programme, creating a three year Basic Surgical Training (BST) programme. Approximately 80 trainees are due to commence on the programme, representing a very significant move to shortening the surgical training journey...”*

by the HSE and will support the needs of NCHD's in meeting their professional competence requirements. We anticipate rolling this programme out in late 2011.

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

We continue to support and develop our research programme, both in our core competency of surgical training but also in the broader clinical space. We have been successful in securing grant funding from both industry and central sources to support research fellows. Our taught Master of Surgery (MCh) programme continues to grow with the inaugural class having graduated this year. This educational course was facilitated through the collaboration of many 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. We are developing a two year, part time modular programme for 2011.

In addition, we recently secured National University of Ireland (NUI) approval for a MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Human Factors and Patient Safety. This is an important recognition of the College's pioneering work in this critical area in medical training. RCSI is the only surgical training college in the world to offer this comprehensive human factors training integrated into the surgical curriculum.

## SURGICAL INNOVATION SERVICES

The Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) provides medical device innovation, assessment and evaluation services for the medical device industry, for innovators and for surgeons. CIST continues to go from strength to strength, with over 50 innovative ideas being supported and developed at present.

CIST has received significant funding from Enterprise Ireland to allow us take on the necessary resources and expertise to continue the growth of this exciting area.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The internationalisation of Postgraduate Surgical Training and Education represents a significant opportunity for the College. With long standing educational links with Alumni and Fellowship around the world, the RCSI brand is recognised and respected for excellence in the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. Within postgraduate surgery, our ability to support the training journey of both the trainee as well as the training body from 'Internship to Fellowship' offers a unique opportunity for RCSI to expand its mission across geographies. In addition, with the support of Irish Aid, the RCSI-COSECSEA Collaboration Programme, supports in the development of surgical training in several communities in the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSEA) region.

## CONCLUSION

Surgery remains central to who and what we are as the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The Department of Surgical Affairs is committed to owning and leading the key surgical initiatives and activities that will continue to build on the reputation of RCSI in delivering the Noble Purpose upon which it was founded.

## AWARDS 2011

### RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship Award

Dr. Anne O'Neill and Mr. Brian Barry

### RCSI Surgical Travel Grants

Mr. Rustom Manecksha  
Dr. Eimear Phelan  
Mr. Myles Smith

### RCSI/Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants

Mr. Padraig Daly  
Mr. Rustom Manecksha  
Dr. Anne C O'Neill  
Dr. Frazer Smith  
Mr. Myles Smith

### RCSI-Anthony Walsh/Ipsen Urology Travelling Fellowship

Mr. Padraig Daly

### Irish Travelling Fellowship, RCSI/RSM Section of Coloproctology

Dr. John P Burke

### The Millin Lecture

Dr. Fraser Smith

# Research



PROFESSOR JOHN KELLY,  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

## KEY FACTS

92

Number of research  
proposals funded

€12.4m

Research funding  
awarded to RCSI

253

Research postgraduate  
students

RCSI BRINGS TOGETHER SCIENTISTS AND CLINICIANS FROM TEACHING HOSPITALS AND RESEARCH LABORATORIES SO THAT NEW DISCOVERIES ARE TRANSLATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INTO PATIENT TREATMENTS.





*Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Angela Tangianu, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture; Professor Jochen Prehn, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics, RCSI; and Professor Brian Harvey, Professor of Molecular Medicine, RCSI, at a reception for international Postgraduate Fellows and their supervisors, who are funded under the Career Enhancement Mobility Programme (CEMP).*

Research is a central activity in RCSI's mission to enhance human health and excellence in knowledge, and, through development and innovation, our standing in the wider community. Our research promotes personal and professional development and stimulates interaction among colleagues within RCSI, nationally and internationally. RCSI educational activities greatly benefit from this commitment. We develop and train new generations of researchers; students in our undergraduate schools develop their analytical and deductive skills and learn the need for evidence based approaches to therapy. Our research and undergraduate students will, in their turn, continue our contribution to human health. In the past 10 years RCSI research has become increasingly competitive and in spite of the steep recession, RCSI investigators have been very active and successful in seeking and securing funding support.

| Period          | Research project proposals |        |              |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------|
|                 | Submitted                  | Funded | Success rate |
| Jul 07 – Jun 08 | 187                        | 89     | 48%          |
| Jul 08 – Jun 09 | 154                        | 66     | 43%          |
| Jul 09 – Jun 10 | 158                        | 71     | 45%          |
| Jul 10 – Jun 11 | 176                        | 92     | 52%          |

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

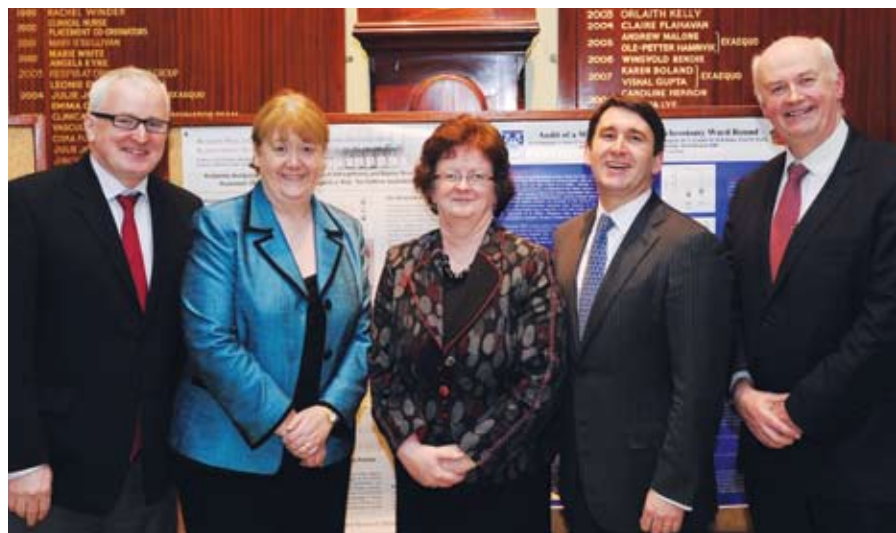
Professor John Kelly was appointed Director of Research in May 2011. Professor Kelly's background stretches from academia into industry and regulatory affairs. Originating from an academic teaching and research background at Queen's University, Belfast and RCSI, he then spent ten years in pharmaceutical industry research and development and was Head of Research and Chief Scientific Officer at Elan Corporation. Subsequently he became the founding Chief Executive of the Irish Medicines Board which was the successor body to the National Drugs Advisory Board. In 2001 he established the School of Pharmacy at RCSI, the second School of Pharmacy to be established in the State at that time and remained Head of the School until 2010.

## FUNDING AWARDS

In 2010-2011 RCSI researchers have maintained a remarkable success in competitive project grant awards both nationally and internationally.



*Pictured (l-r) is Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy CEO, RCSI; and Professor Ray Stallings, RCSI Professor of Cancer Genetics, who delivered the John J Ryan Distinguished Lecture, at Research Day 2011.*



*Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Liam Duffy, CEO, Beaumont Hospital; Ms. Mary Walshe, Hospital Manager, Connolly Hospital; Professor Hannah McGee, Chair of the Academic Health Centre (AHC) Education & Research Group and Dean of Faculty of Medicine, RCSI; Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy CEO, RCSI; and Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/Registrar, RCSI at the AHC Education and Research Conference in Beaumont Hospital*

## INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES

Dr. Annette Byrne has successfully coordinated a large-scale European programme grant proposal, ANGIOPREDICT, which has secured €6 million funding support under the EU Framework 7 (FP7) Cooperation Health programme. The ultimate aim of the project is to identify patients with secondary colorectal cancer who have intrinsic resistance to treatment and to direct them towards alternative therapies, thus sparing them from potential treatment-related morbidities. ANGIOPREDICT also represents a significant success for the RCSI Systems Biology team led by Professor Jochen Prehn and Dr. Heinrich Huber and the SFI funded Strategic Research Cluster in Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics for Cancer in Ireland (MCTI) and its scientists from RCSI (Dr. Annette Byrne and Dr. Bryan Hennessy) who will play a critical role in the implementation of this programme.

Professor Ruairi Brugha was also successful in securing FP7 funding support (€3 million) towards the five year COST-Africa project. This project aims to develop, locally promote, and implement a proven model for training and retaining a new cadre of non-physician surgical officers in Africa which will potentially provide a standard of life-saving surgical care often denied to African populations, tackle major rural urban inequities and transform district hospital care.

Dr. Caroline Jefferies was successful in securing funding support by the Alliance for Lupus Research (U.S.). This very competitive award will support Dr. Jefferies' research into the autoimmune disease Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).

## NATIONAL SUCCESSES

The Dublin City University (DCU)- RCSI partnership in the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI) has successfully secured €14.8 million in direct funding as part of the largest award ever granted by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). The investment will support research and innovation focused on the development of next-generation biomedical diagnostic devices at the BDI, a Centre for Science, Engineering & Technology (CSET). This award from SFI represents a renewal of funding for the Institute for a further 5 years and will support RCSI investigators led by Professor Dermot Kenny and Professor Elaine Kay. Professor Michael Berndt, Director of the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute and RCSI Professor of Experimental Medicine, will lead the programme. This is a major achievement for the DCU-RCSI science and clinical partnership.

Under PRTL Cycle 5, the RCSI School of Postgraduate studies, in collaboration with DCU and NUI Maynooth were awarded €1.9 million funding towards the establishment of the Bio-Analysis and Therapeutics Structured PhD Programme (BioAT). The Programme builds on the RCSI and DCU success in delivering the Heath Research Board (HRB) PhD Scholar Programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Diseases. BioAT addresses the challenge of increasing the quality, quantity and entrepreneurial skills of Ireland's graduate researchers in the critical areas of the biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries.

*“BioAT addresses the challenge of increasing the quality, quantity and entrepreneurial skills of Ireland’s graduate researchers in the critical areas of the biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries.”*

*Dr. Celine Marmion, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, was the Principal Investigator in the discovery of a new innovative class of platinum drug candidates for the treatment of cancer, which has recently been licensed to a pharmaceutical company for further development.*



Professor Hilary Humphreys and Dr. Bryan Hennessy secured two of only four HRB/SFI Translational Research Awards made in 2010. In partnership with Dr. Stephen Daniels from DCU, Professor Humphreys' research project will explore optimal methods for the detection of causes of healthcare-associated infections (HCAI) in the hospital environment. Dr. Bryan Hennessy's project will focus on novel therapeutic targets for ovarian cancer.

Dr. Stephen Keely was successful in the prestigious SFI Principal Investigators (PI) award. His five year research project will study the mechanisms by which bile acids regulate the transport of fluids and ions in the intestines, which can be problematic in conditions such as cystic fibrosis, infectious diseases, and inflammatory bowel diseases.

Professor Kieran Murphy was awarded €430,000 funding by the Irish Mental Health Commission to analyse the use of Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and seclusion in clinical mental health practice.

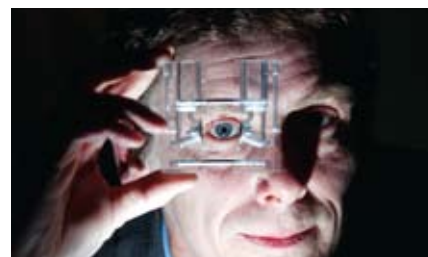
The RCSI awardees of the SFI 2011 Research Frontiers Programme were Dr. Celine Marmion, Professor Mauro Adamo, Professor Fergal O'Brien and Dr. Emer Reeves.

Successful applicants of the HRB 2011 Health Research Awards included Professor Richard Costello, Professor David Henshall, Professor Jochen Prehn, Dr. Valerie Urbach, Professor Fergal O'Brien and Professor David Williams. Each of the six projects were awarded between €200,000 and €300,000.

RCSI was also successful in securing seven SFI/Enterprise Ireland Technology and Innovation Development Awards. The awardees were Dr. Ann Hopkins, Professor Jochen Prehn, Professor Fergal O'Brien, Dr. Celine Marmion, Professor Niamh Moran, Dr. Stephen Keely and Dr. Caroline Jefferies.



*Professor Hilary Humphreys, Department of Clinical Microbiology, RCSI and Beaumont Hospital was among those who were awarded funding under the 'Translational Research Award' programme supported through the Health Research Board (HRB) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) for research into hospital superbugs in collaboration with Dublin City University (DCU). Pictured (l-r) are Mr Seán Sherlock TD, Minister for Research and Innovation, Professor Hilary Humphreys, RCSI, Department of Clinical Microbiology & Beaumont Hospital; Dr. Stephen Daniels, Executive Director of the National Centre for Plasma Science and Technology, DCU; and Dr. James Reilly TD, Minister for Health.*



*Dr Stephen Keely, Associate Director of the RCSI Molecular Medicine Lab at Beaumont Hospital, was awarded funding through Science Foundation Ireland's (SFI) 'Principal Investigator' (PI) Programme for a research project which will investigate ways to treat problems associated with transport of fluids and ions in the intestines that occur in conditions such as cystic fibrosis, infectious diseases, and inflammatory bowel diseases.*





*Dr. Sanjay Chotirmall, Respiratory Research Division of RCSI, Beaumont Hospital, was a joint lead author on a study which unveiled a new understanding into how female sufferers of cystic fibrosis fare worse compared to male sufferers, due to higher levels of the hormone oestrogen which limits the lung's ability to respond to infection.*

## HONORARY AWARDS

Professor Geraldine McCarthy was awarded the Dr. Jacques Servier Scholarship by L'Institut Servier in conjunction with Ireland Fund of France and RCSI. Professor McCarthy received the award in recognition of her collaborative research with Professor Frederic Liote, (Paris Diderot University and Hôpital Lariboisière, France) on the biological effects of crystals in human disease. Their research aims to advance the understanding of the mechanisms of inflammation and tissue reaction to crystals as well as their role in causing osteoarthritis and aggravating cardiovascular disease.

## IMPACT

The standing of RCSI research is also demonstrated by the high impact of the journals in which RCSI investigators have published. Drs. Melanie Foecking, Jane English, Patrick Dicker, Oliver Schubert, Mike Dunn, and Professor David Cotter published in *Archives of General Psychiatry*, which is the highest impact journal in the field of Psychiatry. Professor Mauro Adamo and his team published in *Angewandte Chemie*, the world leading journal in chemistry, and in *Chemical Reviews*, the journal with the highest impact factor in chemistry. Dr. Markus Rehm, Professor Jochen Prehn, Dr. Marc Devocelle et al. published in *Cell Death and Differentiation*, which is the highest impact journal in the field of cell death research. Professor John Waddington and his international partners from Harvard University and the International Schizophrenia Consortium published new findings on the genetics of schizophrenia in

*PLoS Genetics*. A study on neuroblastoma, carried out by the Cancer Genetics Research Group led by Professor Ray Stallings, was highlighted in the high impact journal *Nature Reviews of Clinical Oncology*. Among those whose research featured as reviews in very high impact journals included Dr. Dermot Cox and Professor Niamh Moran's in *Nature Reviews in Drug Discovery*, and Dr. Warren Thomas and Professor Brian Harvey's in the *Annual Reviews of Physiology*.

We take great pride in the successes of our researchers; the above are just a few of the examples of outstanding outputs that demonstrate the international standing of RCSI research.



*Pictured at a special reception in the French Embassy in Dublin to celebrate the award of the Dr. Jacques Servier Scholarship by the Institut Servier in conjunction with the Ireland Fund of France and RCSI are (l-r) Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, RCSI; Ms. Lucy Vincent, General Director External Affairs, Servier; Professor Geraldine McCarthy, Honorary Associate Professor Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, RCSI and recipient of the Dr. Jacques Servier Scholarship; and HE Emmanuelle d'Achon, French Ambassador to Ireland.*



Mr. Joseph Ward,  
Molecular Medicine  
Laboratory, RCSI

### RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Sanjay Chotirmall and Dr. Catherine Greene in the Respiratory Research Division of RCSI, Beaumont Hospital, were joint lead authors on a study which unveiled a new understanding into how female sufferers of **cystic fibrosis** (CF) fare worse compared to male sufferers, due to higher levels of the hormone oestrogen which limits the lung's ability to respond to infection.

A study by the RCSI Cancer Genetics Research Group, headed by Professor Ray Stallings, has revealed insights into **neuroblastoma**, the leading cause of childhood cancer deaths. The findings may enable clinicians to predict the severity of the tumour, allowing them to devise customised treatments, which could potentially help children to avoid unnecessary chemotherapy.

A potential new target for the treatment of a range of **intestinal diseases** that are associated with diarrhoea, such as

irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), Crohn's disease and colitis, has been uncovered by the RCSI Molecular Medicine Lab at Beaumont Hospital. Current medications are often ineffective and can have serious side effects so this discovery gives hope for the development of new treatments for sufferers of intestinal disease. The lead author on the paper was PhD student Mr. Joseph Ward who worked under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Keely.

Dr. Celine Marmion (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Darren Griffith, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, have discovered a new innovative class of platinum drug candidates for the **treatment of cancer**, which has recently been licensed to a pharmaceutical company for further development.

Dr. Frederick Sundram and a team from the Department of Psychiatry, RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, conducted

the first study of its kind to examine in detail, the basis of **psychiatric disorders** which occur in people with epilepsy. The findings of this study showed similarities with the brain cell patterns in people with schizophrenia. The research gives greater insights into both conditions which may potentially lead to new treatments in the future.

A novel drug target for the treatment of **infection in bone** (Osteomyelitis) was discovered as part of a joint project by the Host Infection Group led by Dr. Steve Kerrigan and the Tissue Engineering Research Group led by Professor Fergal O'Brien. The research was awarded the prestigious Donegan Bronze Medal at the annual meeting of the Biomedical section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, for a presentation given on the research by Mr. Amro Widaa, joint lead author and final year PhD student.

*“Dr. Annette Byrne has successfully coordinated a large-scale European programme grant proposal, ANGIOPREDICT, which has just secured €6 million funding support under the EU Framework 7 (FP7) Cooperation Health programme. The ultimate aim of the project is to identify patients with secondary colorectal cancer who have intrinsic resistance to treatment and to direct them towards alternative therapies.”*





# Teaching and Learning

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences                   | 25 |
| School of Pharmacy  | 28 |
| School of Physiotherapy                                   | 29 |
| School of Postgraduate Studies                            | 30 |
| Institute of Leadership                                   | 32 |
| Faculty of Dentistry                                      | 34 |
| Faculty of Radiologists                                   | 35 |
| Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery<br>and School of Nursing | 37 |
| Faculty of Sports and<br>Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI | 39 |

RCSI HAS A PROUD LEGACY IN DELIVERING QUALITY HEALTH-FOCUSED DEGREES. OUR INTERNATIONAL FOOTPRINT OF OVER 20,000 ALUMNI WORLDWIDE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EMPOWER TODAY'S STUDENTS TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN AS THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE OF THE 21ST CENTURY.



## Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences



PROFESSOR HANNAH McGEE  
DEAN, FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### KEY FACTS

# 20,284

Total alumni since 1784

# 3,754

Total number of registered  
students and trainees  
in RCSI

# 348

Medicine, Pharmacy and  
Physiotherapy students  
graduated

The last academic year has seen RCSI ratified as an independent degree awarding institution by the Irish Government's Department of Education and Skills. This endorsement of the range and quality of our health-focused degrees is testament to decades of hard work by the College's academic, administrative and technical staff in supporting our students to achieve high standards in their academic studies.



*Pictured are new RCSI students at a White Coat Ceremony held as part of the Orientation Week programme in the College. The event is held in recognition of the important career with responsibilities upon which the new students are embarking on.*

### DEGREE AWARDING STATUS

The last academic year will long be remembered for the date October 12th 2010; the date of the formal letter of ratification of RCSI as an independent degree awarding institution by the then Minister for Education and Skills Ms. Mary Coughlan TD. This level of independence is a very important national endorsement of the stature of our degrees. To mark this new status, we invited our First Citizen, Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, to receive the first RCSI degree. On May 30th 2011, President McAleese was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Sciences and then joined RCSI Graduands at their Conferring Dinner to make a most memorable occasion for the Class of 2011.

Our new status has required addressing governance issues to ensure we can achieve best practice in relation to similar institutions. A new governing authority of our degree awarding activities has been established by the Council: the Medicine and Health Sciences Board. This Board comprises 26 members, including representatives of the public, and staff and student representatives. It is chaired by the College President. Public representatives are Professor Aine Hyland, Emeritis Professor of Education, University College Cork; Mr. Michael Kelly, former Secretary General, Department of Health and former Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority; and Dr. Anthony White, former President, Milltown Institute. This group will provide strategic guidance for our academic decisions in Ireland and internationally in the coming years, and will work closely with senior Faculty through the Academic Council.



*Pictured are Dr Frances Meagher (centre), Department of Medicine, RCSI Beaumont Hospital, with Fennessy Hogan Medal Winners Mr. Muhammad Harith Rosdi and Ms. Yazwani Yaacob, both RCSI Medical Students.*

*“The last academic year will long be remembered for the date October 12th 2010 – the date of the formal letter of ratification of RCSI as an independent degree awarding institution by the Minister for Education and Skills... This level of independence is a very important national endorsement of the stature of our degrees.”*

### QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

RCSI's new degree awarding status comes in the year when the number of RCSI alumni tops 20,000 for the first time. These numbers remind us of the large and international footprint of RCSI in healthcare delivery; a legacy to be proud of and a responsibility to take very seriously to ensure that we remain in touch with all that is needed to empower today's students to be the best they can as the healthcare workforce of the 21st century.

There are many ways in which the College ensures it maintains quality and stays ahead, rather than abreast of, others in educational innovation. The profile of the new team of Vice-Deans provides some specific examples of this. More broadly, reflecting the accreditation needs of a degree awarding institution, the College established its Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) in late 2010. With Professor David Croke as Director, Dr. Richard Arnett as

Deputy Director and Ms. Anne Weadick as Administrator, the QEO has a breadth of knowledge about the College's degree programmes and administrative support, and has the technical and academic expertise and independence to provide robust and informative evaluations of all of our academic and administrative units on a sequential basis. The model is that tailored review teams comprising external and internal evaluators provide constructive feedback based on a unit's self-assessment report and a site visit incorporating feedback from a range of College sources. This feedback concludes with recommendations from which the unit in question will develop and progress a Quality Improvement Plan. The first reviews, in a five-year schedule, have just been completed in the School of Postgraduate Studies and the Examinations Office. The model provides for continual renewal and improvement in a constructive and collegial manner and will help us to maintain the quality and attractiveness of our courses.

### NEW VICE DEAN AND FACULTY EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Faculty Executive Team are the core operational grouping who ensure delivery of the strategic priorities of the Medicine and Health Sciences Board and Academic Council. The new team for the next four academic years are Dr. Celine Marmion (Chemistry), Vice-Dean for Foundation Year and the Medical Commencement Programme; Professor Clive Lee (Anatomy), Vice-Dean for Junior Cycle Programmes; Professor Arnie Hill (Surgery), Vice-Dean for Intermediate Cycle Programmes; Professor Gerry McElvanney (Medicine), Vice-Dean for the Senior Cycle Programmes; Dr. Orna Tighe (Molecular & Cellular Therapeutics), Vice-Dean for Student Affairs; Dr. Alice McGarvey (Anatomy), Vice-Dean for Student Career Development; and Professor Tom Fahey (General Practice), Vice-Dean for Professionalism. Alongside Vice-Deans, two Associate Vice-Deans assist in supporting the non-academic needs of students: Ms.



*Pictured at the RCSI Alumni Gala Dinner 2010 are (l-r) Dr. Sieu Heah, Dr. Caroline Heah, Ms. Mei Ling and Dr. Godfrey Geh.*

*RCSI Deans Past and Present: (clockwise from back left) Professor Cathal Kelly (2006-2010), Mr Hy Browne (1994-1998), Professor Alan Johnson (1998-2006) and Professor Hannah McGee (2010- present)*



Judith Strawbridge (Pharmacy) and Dr. Marc Devocelle (Medicinal Chemistry). Each member has taken on these roles in addition to a busy work schedule and I thank each of them for a very successful first year. Alongside the continuing Vice-Dean roles, we have given further prominence to two themes: first there will be a more explicit focus on professionalism throughout the curriculum, so that student attitudes and behaviours, alongside knowledge, are stimulated, shaped and assessed through the programmes of study. Secondly to ensure, through enhancing our graduate support mechanisms and links with alumni and international institutions, to deliver the best possible career placement of our senior students and graduates.

In keeping with our principle that interprofessional education enhances the education of all health professionals, representatives from each of the other Schools (Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Postgraduate Studies, Institute of Leadership) have now joined the Faculty Executive to promote joint development of policies and initiatives across the Faculty. Faculty Executive is ably managed by the Associate Director of Academic Affairs. This year, after 18 years with RCSI, Mr. Fintan Foy left this role to become Chief Executive Officer of the College of Anaesthetists. We thank him for such long and loyal support of the College and welcome Ms. Judith Gilroy to this position.

Other Faculty-related retirements include Ms. Mary Smyth, long-time administrator in the Dean's Office, Professor Walter Prendiville (Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Coombe Hospital) and Professor Tom Clarke (Paediatrics, Rotunda Hospital).

The Graduate Entry Programme, following its first graduation class success in 2010, has continued under the able new leadership of Professor Seamus Sreenan (Director) and Dr Tom Farrell (Deputy Director). The Programme's popularity ensures a diverse range of graduates bring a rich and unique set of perspectives to their education, and in the Senior Cycle years of the programme, to the wider group of undergraduate colleagues who share their clinical rotations.

## CONCLUSION

It has been another busy and stimulating year for the Faculty. International initiatives and activities in the College as described elsewhere, which include maintaining our educational activities in Bahrain and Penang and developing new programmes with Perdana University in Malaysia, provide both challenges and new opportunities for Faculty. My thanks to our excellent Faculty for all of our achievements in the last year; their commitment to the College means that our students are very well served and prepared for their career, whatever and wherever that may be in the future.

*“Reflecting the accreditation needs of a degree awarding institution, the College established its Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) in late 2010... The model provides for continual renewal and improvement in a constructive and collegial manner and will help us to maintain the quality and attractiveness of our courses.”*



## School of Pharmacy

**The School of Pharmacy at RCSI had its largest graduation in November 2010 with 47 graduating from the BSc Pharmacy programme, 139 from the Masters of Pharmacy (MPharm), 27 from the MSc in Industrial Pharmaceutical Science, 13 from the MSc in Healthcare Management, one MSc by research and four PhDs.**

The MPharm graduates were the first cohort conferred in Ireland, marking the successful completion of the inaugural year of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme. RCSI won the running of the Programme on the basis of its performance in a competitive tender in June 2009 and now all graduates from the Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland come to RCSI to undertake their internship year.



*Pictured at the first Masters in Pharmacy graduation in November 2010 are (l-r) Professor Eilis Mc Govern, President, RCSI; Professor Paul Gallagher, Head of the School of Pharmacy, RCSI; Dr. Ambrose McLoughlin, Registrar /CEO, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI); Ms. Noeleen Harvey, (former) President, PSI; Professor Hannah Mc Gee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, RCSI; Dr. Maurice Manning, Chancellor, NUI and Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI.*

The graduation day was also marked by the presentation of the Professor John Kelly medal (named after RCSI Foundation Professor of Pharmacy) to Ms. Catherine Sweeney who had the best performance in the undergraduate programme during the year. Catherine was also overall winner in the pharmacy category at the Undergraduate Awards of Ireland and Northern Ireland and was presented with the award by Dr. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland.

In November 2010, the then Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, TD, launched the first Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for pharmacists in Ireland, which was developed by RCSI. This programme, the Tutor Training and Accreditation Programme (TTAP), was developed by Professor Paul Gallagher and Mr. Hugh Carroll of the School of Pharmacy and Mr. Dermot O'Flynn and Professor Ciaran O'Boyle of the Institute of Leadership. This inter-faculty collaboration and use of technology to drive learning in the workplace, showcases RCSI's core competencies and builds on the collaborative relationship between the RCSI Institute of Leadership and School of Pharmacy.

In April 2011 the All-Ireland Schools of Pharmacy Research Seminar was hosted by RCSI. There was record attendance at this event thanks to the meticulous oversight by Dr. Brian Kirby with the assistance of Dr. James Barlow and Ms. Sharon Kerswell.

This dedication to hard work and excellence of the School is evidenced also in outputs from the research strategy of the School with academic staff delivering 60 invited lectures and conference presentations, supervising 26 students for higher degrees, securing over €900,000 in research and educational grants and publishing 49 peer reviewed publications during the academic year.

The School of Pharmacy continues to enable the research clusters in College through their expertise in drug delivery, biotechnology and pharmacokinetics. The Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Irish Drug Delivery Network Research Cluster (in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and University College Cork) contributes more than €1.3 million to RCSI in research funding through its Principal Investigators Drs. Sally Ann Cryan and Marc Devocelle. In an external market when continued funding was not at all assured, the research cluster successfully completed its mid-term review (2.5 years) by an international panel of experts in 2010.

The academic year concluded with successes for PhD student Mr. Amro Widaa (supervisor Dr. Steve Kerrigan) who was awarded the Donegan Bronze Medal at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and Professor Mauro Adamo who published a new breakthrough discovery on chemical reactions in *Angewandte Chemie*, the world's leading journal in chemistry.

***“The MPharm graduates were the first cohort conferred in Ireland, marking the successful completion of the inaugural year of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme.”***

## School of Physiotherapy

*“The School of Physiotherapy launched the taught Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Neurology and Gerontology in 2008; the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. The programme is delivered over two-years on a part-time basis and the first cohort graduated at a conferring ceremony which took place in November 2010.”*

The 16th International World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress was held in June 2011 in Amsterdam, Holland. Over 5000 delegates from 101 member organisations, of which Ireland is a member, attended the conference. The RCSI School of Physiotherapy delivered a total of 11 presentations (four oral, one poster discussion and six poster presentations), at the Congress. The presentations were delivered by RCSI staff members, PhD students, past undergraduate and postgraduate students.

There was success for 5 undergraduate physiotherapy students who were awarded Health Research Board (HRB) Summer Student Scholarships for research projects investigating a range of topics including chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy, concussion in sport, hip joint kinematics and exercise in older people.

The School of Physiotherapy launched the taught Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Neurology and Gerontology in 2008; the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. The programme is delivered over two-years on a part-time basis and the first cohort graduated at a conferring ceremony which took place in November 2010. The second intake of nine physiotherapists will commence in September 2010. The programme focuses on the development and enhancement of the professional research knowledge base and skills required by physiotherapists to fulfil their role in the rehabilitation of neurological and elderly patients in the context of changing health care services.

The European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS) held its 6th Congress in the Convention Centre Dublin, September 29th – October 1st 2010. Physiotherapists who recently completed the RCSI School of Physiotherapy taught MSc in Neurology and Gerontology were among those showcasing their research to the 1300 delegates in attendance. The EUGMS aims to develop geriatric medicine in Europe, to support availability of geriatric services to all European citizens and to promote education, continuing professional development and high quality evidence-based geriatric medicine. The RCSI group presented their research on a range of topics including; hip abduction strength in elderly fallers and non-fallers, the effects of Nintendo Wii on balance, cognitive performance and falls risk, mirror therapy in upper limb stroke rehabilitation, experiences of stroke patients and their carers following hospital discharge, cycle ergometry training and its effects on exercise tolerance, balance and quality of life in patients with Parkinson's disease, and outcomes among older people following inpatient and day hospital rehabilitation programmes.



*Pictured with the first MSc in Neurology and Gerontology class from School of Physiotherapy, RCSI are Academic Staff Ms. Louise Keating (back row, far left), Ms. Dara Meldrum (2nd row, far left), Dr. Helen French (back row, third from right) and Dr. Frances Horgan (front row, right).*

## School of Postgraduate Studies

*“The EAC was very impressed with scholar presentations, the quality of the science and the willingness to engage in discussions.”*

**External Advisory Committee (EAC)**

During the past year, the School of Postgraduate Studies has worked closely with the Dean, Professor Hannah McGee, in fulfilling our mission to elevate fourth level education in RCSI and to help create a platform for innovation and discovery.

### THE QUALITY JOURNEY

In order to meet National and European objectives in graduate education, the School of Postgraduate Studies underwent a Quality Review in May 2011, the first RCSI unit to do so. This was carried out by an international Peer Review Group and was overseen by the Quality Enhancement Office. In advance of a site visit, documentation on all aspects of the School's activities and its interactions with stakeholders was provided. The group met many postgraduate students, research supervisors, and thesis examiners in RCSI, affiliated teaching hospitals and in RCSI Bahrain. We are extremely grateful for the enthusiastic commitment given to the entire procedure by our stakeholders and look forward to implementing recommendations from the report.

One of our structured PhD programmes “Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease” (HRB) also underwent a quality review by an External Advisory Committee (EAC) which carried out a site visit in February 2011. EAC members spent one day at the St. Stephen's Green campus and one day at Beaumont Hospital meeting scholars and their supervisors. The EAC recommendations included training in grant writing which involves scholars submitting grant proposals on their proposed PhD projects followed by rigorous review by senior Principal Investigators.

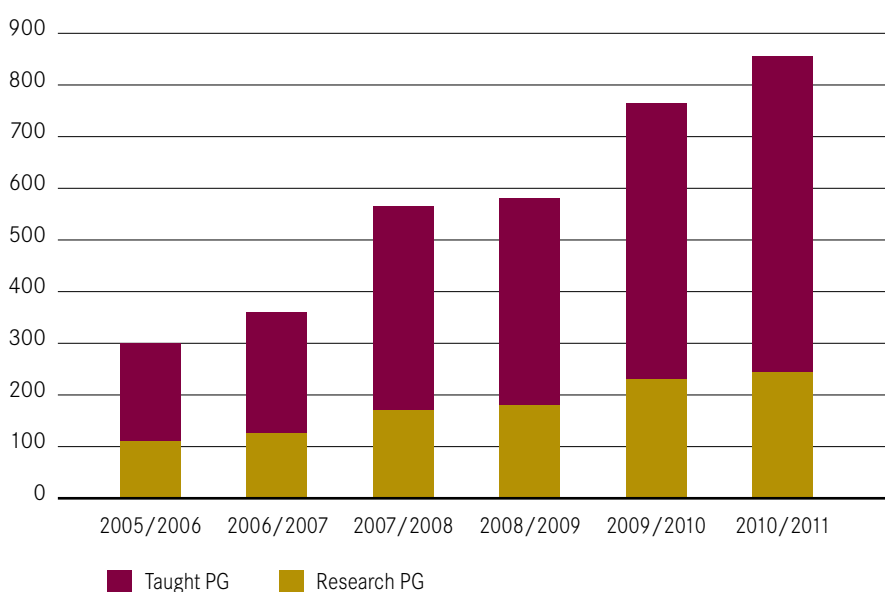
### INCREASE IN POSTGRADUATE NUMBERS

The School caters for a community currently comprising 260 postgraduate research students, 72 postdoctoral fellows and 102 supervisors. It oversees higher degrees by research (PhD, MD, MCh, MSc) across a number of campuses in Ireland and abroad, a number of co-tutelle PhD programmes, taught MSc programmes as well as postdoctoral and supervisor training.

Research postgraduate numbers have increased year on year since 2005 (from 314 in 2005/2006 to 854 postgraduate students in 2010/2011: 253 research and

601 taught Masters). These include research postgraduates, registered in RCSI Dublin, who are completing their projects in RCSI Bahrain. The increases in research student numbers can be attributed to successes in large scale funding applications to agencies such as the Higher Education Authority (HEA) under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL cycles 3, 4 and 5) and the Health Research Board (HRB) Structured PhD Programmes. The increases in taught postgraduate numbers are due to new programmes such as the Masters in Pharmacy (MPharm).

### All Postgraduates – Research & Taught



Postgraduate registrations from 2005 to 2011



*Transition year student learning practical laboratory skills as part of RCSI's Transition Year MiniMed School Programme.*



***“Postgraduate student numbers have increased year on year from 314 (135 research) in 2005 to 861 in 2010 (253 research).”***

*Members of the Postgraduate Students Union.*



### POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS UNION

The School provides assistance to postgraduate students in becoming fully incorporated into life at RCSI. It also provides an optimum environment for personal, academic and career development and mechanisms for dealing with issues such as quality of supervision, conflict resolution, intellectual property and other rights. The School, working with the Postgraduate Students Union (PGSU), provides an environment for academic and social contact between postgraduate students in different areas. This provides an excellent conduit for postgraduates to meet their peers through organised activities and meetings including welcome and careers events, workshops and social occasions.

### MINI MED SCHOOL

As part of its outreach activities, the School also runs the annual Transition Year MiniMed School which this year gave 160 pupils from 80 schools one week's experience of being an RCSI medical student. Typical comments from participating students over a 3-year period are:

- “It was enjoyable, informative and helped me to decide what courses I applied for.”
- “Gave me a really informative insight into the career and encouraged me to choose medicine as a career.”
- “I still think about the experiences I went through during that week. Seeing the operations and also learning how to give injections was brilliant!”

### CONCLUSIONS

This past academic year has been a highly successful one for our graduates and their supervisors. As we face challenging times we endeavour to sustain and develop the quality of our fourth level programmes and the services we provide to our stakeholders. We look forward to facing these challenges with your support.



*Pictured with postgraduate students who were among those conferred with higher degrees by research at the June 2010 conferring are Professor Kevin Nolan, Head of the School of Postgraduate Studies (3rd row, right) and Dr. Helen McVeigh (2nd row, left), Postgraduate Programmes Manager.*

## Institute of Leadership

The challenge to modern healthcare organisations to deliver excellent health services in a safe, effective and efficient manner has never been greater and the need for leadership never more acute. The mission of the Institute of Leadership is to improve health by optimising patient-centred care through the professional development of excellent leaders, educators and managers. This year, we conferred 198 health professionals with Masters degrees in Healthcare Management, Leadership and Management Development, and Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management. Graduation ceremonies took place in Bahrain, Dubai, Dublin and Jordan. A further 12 graduates were conferred with MSc degrees in Bereavement Studies, in a programme conducted by the Irish Hospice Foundation and accredited by the RCSI through the Institute.



*Pictured (l-r) are Ms. Aoife Coffey, Mr. Frank Kelly, Ms. Alana Moore, Ms. Anita Ambikapathy and Mr. David Robinson who were awarded with MSc in Healthcare, Ethics and Law at the RCSI Conferring day in November 2010.*

This year the Institute introduced two new Masters degrees and a new Diploma in Leadership. In collaboration with Dublin City University, we are providing a bespoke DCU/National University of Ireland (NUI) accredited programme for Beaumont Hospital. Launched in October 2010 by the then Minister of Education, Ms. Mary Coughlan, TD, the new MSc programme in Organisational Change and Leadership Development, the first of its kind in Ireland, will develop the management and leadership cadre of the hospital. The programme is applied in nature and even after the first semester, senior management at the hospitals were highlighting the positive impact of the participants' projects on the delivery of services.

We also launched a new MSc in Leadership in Health Professions Education which harnesses 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. It is planned to provide this programme in the United Arab Emirates in collaboration with the University of Sharjah. This year also saw the launch of a new Diploma in Leadership in Bahrain designed to develop the potential of healthcare personnel in the country.

*“...the new MSc programme in Organisational Change and Leadership Development, the first of its kind in Ireland, will develop the management and leadership cadre of the hospital.”*

*“The challenge to modern healthcare organisations to deliver excellent health services in a safe, effective and efficient manner has never been greater and the need for leadership never more acute.”*



*Pictured are Academic staff from the Institute of Leadership with MSc graduates from Dubai, (l-r) Pictured at Mr. Luke Feeney, Lecturer; Ms. Tina Joyce, Director of Operations, Ms. Sabin Afram, MSc Graduate; Dr. Pauline Joyce, Director of Academic Affairs, Ms. Sonali Datta Juneja, MSc Graduate; Mr. Mohamed Shaaban, MSc Graduate; Mr. Steve Pitman, Lecturer; and Ms. Sibeal Carolan, Lecturer.*

We continue to work closely with our colleagues in the School of Pharmacy on the National Pharmacy Intern Programme (NPIP); the Department of Surgery on the MCh programme; and with the School of Postgraduate Studies, providing bespoke development programmes for scientists. We also further developed our collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and developed a new collaboration with the Irish College of Psychiatrists.

In collaboration with the RCSI Department of Surgery and the Health Service Executive, the Institute hosted a training programme on “The Productive Operating Theatre” designed by the UK’s National Health Service (NHS) Institute for Innovation and Improvement. This human factors programme is designed to increase the safety, efficiency and reliability of surgical care while also improving team performance and staff well-being.

The Institute’s consultancy and training activities grew significantly this year with projects being undertaken in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. A team from the Institute delivered a “Train the Trainer” programme in Cairo for over 80 surgeons from centres throughout Egypt. The programme was delivered in the context of an ongoing agreement between the RCSI, the Egyptian High Committee of Medical Specialties and the Ministry of Health. A programme in “Leadership and Organisational Development in the Healthcare Sector” was also delivered in Egypt in September in collaboration with the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO). The Institute has also provided training for the Supreme Council for Health in Qatar and SEHA, the Abu Dhabi Health Services Company.

The Institute continue to develop our core competencies in the delivery of blended learning. In collaboration with the Royal

College of Physicians of Ireland and funded by the Forum of Postgraduate Bodies, Institute staff developed two new modular distance courses in patient safety and in the training of health professionals as teachers. A new distance education programme was also developed for the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in order to meet the new legal requirements for pharmacist tutors, taking on trainees, to be competent trainers.

Institute staff presented papers at conferences in Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Dublin, Hong Kong, London, Montreal, Qatar and Rotorua (New Zealand).

The coming academic year will see the Institute continue to broaden its range of blended learning programmes, increase the range of its consultancy, launch an MSc in Leadership in Health Professions Education with the University of Sharjah and make significant contributions to the College’s COSECSA project in sub-Saharan Africa.



*Over 50 healthcare professionals graduated with Masters in Healthcare Management and Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management at a conferring ceremony in Dubai in December 2010.*



## Faculty of Dentistry



PROFESSOR GERARD J. KEARNS  
DEAN, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

**It is a great honour to succeed Dr. PJ Byrne as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry. I wish to congratulate Dr. Byrne on his tenure of eleven years on the Board and as Dean of the Faculty over the past four years. He has worked tirelessly during that time and amongst his many other contributions the “Roadmap for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry” has been developed and fine tuned under his stewardship. I look forward to the challenges of serving the Faculty as Dean over the coming years and am grateful for the support and trust placed in me by my fellow Board members.**

The past year has been a busy and exciting year with activities continuing both at home and overseas. In addition, there has been continued involvement in the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and also with the newly constituted Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board at the College.

The Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (ICSTD), a standing committee of the Faculty, is chaired by Professor Finbarr Allen. Mr. Ken Halpenny is the newly appointed Director of Specialist Training in Ireland.

The Irish Committee for Primary Dental Care (ICPDC) is chaired by Dr. PJ Byrne and provides representation from a broad base in primary dental care. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and continues to address the needs in training in primary dental care in Ireland.



*Pictured at the Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony in December 2010 are Dr. Naomi Rahman, Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral Surgery; Dr. Patrick Byrne, Former Dean, Faculty of Dentistry; and Dr. Michael O'Halloran, Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral Surgery with Oral Medicine.*

The Faculty has developed the Post Graduate Dental Education Programme which is a series of lectures provided in modules and delivered in the College on Saturday mornings. The second series of four modules is due to commence in September and we hope to welcome a large attendance as before. Dr. Peter Cowan has pioneered this excellent programme and is to be congratulated.

The Faculty remains committed to our overseas programmes both in the Middle East and also in North America. The Membership of the Faculty of Dentistry (MFD) Examination continues in the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait and the MFD preparation course continues in Kuwait.

The joint NYU / RCSI Programme in Oral Medicine and Oral Surgery is well established at New York University (NYU) and the first MFD Part 2 Diet is scheduled in New York in September 2011. The Dean and Immediate Past Dean visited NYU in June when the Dean accepted the Arnold Maislen Award in Oral Surgery on behalf of the Faculty of Dentistry.

The Annual Scientific Meeting was held in October 2010 with the theme of “Practice Today”. The Faculty welcomed a large attendance to the meeting and look forward to the 2011 Meeting in October, “Prosthodontics and Endodontics”, with a number of highly regarded speakers from at home and overseas.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Faculty Board Members whose hard work and expertise permits the ongoing activities at home and overseas. I wish to particularly thank Dr. Seamus Napier and Mr. Peter Ramsay-Baggs, who demit office this year, for their contribution over many years to the Board. Finally, this year saw the retirement of Mr. David Ryan after many years of clinical service at the Dublin Dental School

and Mater Hospital and also administrative service to the Faculty of Dentistry as Board Member and Director of Specialist Training in Dentistry. His measured contributions and insightful opinion have been invaluable over many years at the Faculty and we will all greatly miss his presence at the Faculty. We wish him well in his retirement.

### FACULTY BOARD

**Professor Gerard J. Kearns**  
Dean

**Dr. John Walsh**  
Vice-Dean/Honorary Secretary

**Dr. Seamus Napier**  
Honorary Treasurer

**Dr. Declan Corcoran**  
Honorary Editor

**Mr. Gordon Watson**  
Council Representative

**Dr. Frank Burke**

**Dr. P.J. Byrne**

**Mr. Ken Halpenny**

**Dr. Therese Garvey**

**Dr. Sean Malone**

**Dr. Christine McCreary**

**Dr. Alan McMichael**

**Dr. Osama Omer**

**Mr. Peter Ramsay-Baggs**

**Mr. David Ryan**

**Mr. Sean Sheridan**

## Faculty of Radiologists



DR. ADRIAN BRADY  
DEAN, FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

The past few years have been marked by increasing engagement by the Faculty of Radiologists with employing and regulatory agencies. We strive to ensure that all bodies with which we interact understand the nature of our core function: the provision of postgraduate training in the medical specialties of Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology. Inevitably, our activities have broadened beyond this core, in the interests of safeguarding the quality of training, and ensuring that the clinical services which are provided by our trainees, Fellows and Members are at the highest-possible level.

*“2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Radiologists in 1961...”*

*Pictured at the December 2010 Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony are (l-r) Dr. Barry Kelly, Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists, Radiodiagnosis; Dr. Adrian Brady, Dean, Faculty of Radiologists; and Dr. Joe Coyle, Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists, Radiodiagnosis.*



2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Radiologists in 1961, and the occasion will be celebrated at our Annual Scientific Meeting in September 2011.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA)

The Faculty Diagnostic Radiology QA guidelines were launched in September 2010, and are, at present, being implemented in all radiology departments. Some elements are amenable to immediate adoption; others require the provision of an IT solution, integrated into hospital PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) systems. We are delighted that approval to tender for development for a suitable IT platform has been granted by the Department of Finance. We are grateful for the support of the Health Service Executive (HSE), National Cancer Control Programme, Health Information and Quality Authority, Department of Health and Children, and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, in this important work.

### RELATIONS WITH THE HSE AND MET

The Faculty has completed its first year of engagement with the Medical Education and Training (MET) office of the HSE, based on a formal signed agreement covering funding and provision of postgraduate training. MET have confirmed that the Faculty has met all its obligations under the first year's agreement, and we look forward to continued mutual good relations.

### NATIONAL RADIOLOGY PROGRAMME

After completing his term as Dean, Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide has continued as National Clinical Lead for the National Radiology Programme. The programme has developed a number of initiatives through a difficult time of change, increasing demand and accumulating pressure, and continues to engage productively with other clinical programmes.

### ACCREDITATION

The Faculty has volunteered its training programmes in Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology for accreditation by the Medical Council this year; we expect this process to be completed by the end of 2011.

### RADIOLOGIST WORKLOAD

The Faculty's document "Measuring Consultant Radiologist Workload in Ireland" was published in March 2011, and has been widely circulated to Fellows, Hospital Managers and the HSE. This exercise has shown that Irish Consultant Radiologists' workload is well in excess of international benchmarks. The method used has been endorsed by the National Radiology Programme, and the HSE National Programmes Office, and should form the basis for measurement of radiologist workload in the future. This is a major advance on the pre-existing situation where old-fashioned and frequently inappropriate methods of measurement were used. Through the National Programme, the HSE now plans to re-run the data collection to obtain the most up-to-date data possible, and we will use every means possible to advocate for the resources which the available data show are needed to allow radiologists do their work safely and to the highest possible standards.



*Pictured at the Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony in July 2010 are Dr Risteárd Ó Laoide, Former Dean, Faculty of Radiologists; Mr. Matt O'Shea and Dr. Victoria Chan, Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists.*

## VALIDATION

Validation issues (relating to candidates seeking entry to the Specialist Register) have become increasingly complex and busy and the role of the Faculty has evolved to meet these needs in recent years, with increasing engagement with the Medical Council. All advice provided to the Medical Council by the Faculty on Validation applications is based on sound, valid, fair evaluation of submissions, using methodologies supported by legal opinion.

## FACULTY GOVERNANCE

The Faculty has entered into a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the President and Chief Executive/Registrar of RCSI, detailing how relations between the Faculty and the College will be conducted in future, with particular reference to matters of finance and human resources. This is a very significant positive step, and should give certainty and clarity to these aspects of our affairs. We're grateful for the positive engagement we have had with RCSI officers through this process.

The Faculty is also represented on the new Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board of RCSI; this body is proving to be an imaginative and very useful forum for sharing information and debate on issues of common interests among the postgraduate arms of the College, and we welcome its formation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the great commitment and hard work of all Faculty Board members through the past year. The volume of work undertaken by the Faculty necessitates wide sharing of the load, and every Board member has played a full, dedicated role. Particular thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Barry Kelly, Honorary Treasurer, Professor Dermot Malone and the Vice-Dean, Dr. Clare Faul, each of whom has shouldered extensive responsibilities with great skill.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of the full-time professional Faculty staff, Ms. Jennifer O'Brien and Ms. Karen Milling. They are, in many ways, the key workers who keep the Faculty ship afloat, and I am deeply indebted to them for their help, support and advice through the past year.

This Annual Report marks the end of the Faculty's first half-century; we all hope that the Faculty will continue to grow and develop into our second 50 years.

## FACULTY BOARD

**Dr. Adrian Brady**  
Dean

**Dr. Clare Faul**  
Vice Dean

**Dr. Barry Kelly**  
Honorary Secretary

**Professor Dermot Malone**  
Honorary Treasurer

**Dr. Peter K. Ellis**

**Dr. Peter Kavanagh**

**Dr. Ian Kelly**

**Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide**

**Dr. Maeve Pomeroy**

**Dr. Niall Sheehy**

**Dr. Max Ryan**

**Dr. Ronan S. Ryan**

**Dr. John Stack**

**Dr. William Torreggiani**

*"The Faculty's document "Measuring Consultant Radiologist Workload in Ireland" was published in March 2011... The method used has been endorsed by the National Radiology Programme, and the HSE National Programmes Office, and should form the basis for measurement of radiologist workload in the future."*



## Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Nursing



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



PROFESSOR SEAMUS COWMAN  
HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

*“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.”*

From its foundation and inauguration in 1974, the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery has sought to maintain the highest standards in education and training for health 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 clinical specialities. The programmes range from certificate level to PhD, with a close alignment to clinical practice. 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

During the year there was 448 students registered with the Faculty. The programmes are delivered on a part-time basis at bachelors, masters, higher diploma, postgraduate diploma, and diploma and certificate levels of learning. All of our education programmes are compliant with the Bologna principles and the National Framework of Qualifications and are approved through the National University of Ireland (NUI) and An Bord Altranais. The programmes are based on a modular system, incorporate accreditation of prior learning, and facilitate flexible pathways to NUI educational awards. In accordance with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, educational awards are offered at level 8 (bachelors), level 9 (masters), and level 10 (PhD). Students may study for major, minor and supplemental awards. In addition, a number of stand-alone modules are also offered which focus on particular areas of clinical practice. Successful interdisciplinary education collaboration continues with the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy and the Department of Surgical Affairs.

The Faculty is currently delivering its education programmes through blended learning. Blended learning involves online computer-mediated teaching combined with face to face teaching. Combining these two learning strategies, using the benefits of each, has resulted in greater accessibility to learning, for students. Our aim is to continue to be innovative in our educational approach and we are currently working towards the development of an exclusive e-learning model of educational provision for some of our education programmes.

In support of health policy and in collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and individual hospitals a number of new education programmes to prepare Advanced Nurse Practitioners have been developed with academic and professional accreditation and validation from An Bord Altranais and the NUI:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing/ Midwifery (Advanced Practice), RGN (Advanced Practice) Gastroenterology Care: Colorectal Screening and Disease Management
- MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) (Additional Strand Gastroenterology Care: Colorectal Screening and Disease Management)

### RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

In order to meet the needs of a continuously changing health care environment and maintain best practice, nursing research is essential. Faculty staff have successfully played a leading role in research and development both nationally and internationally. Since its launch in 2007, the Faculty Research Centre has been proactive in the development and conduct of multidisciplinary, multiagency research and in supporting MSc, MD and PhD students in the conduct of research. A Health Research Board (HRB) funded, 3-year study to develop, implement and evaluate best practice in day surgery is being conducted in collaboration with ESRI and HSE. The role of the nurse in radiation oncology and the clinical nurse specialist in cancer care has been evaluated in collaboration with St. Luke's Hospital, Rathgar. This work is important in the context of professional development and reconfiguration of cancer

*Pictured at the 30th Annual RCSI International Nursing & Midwifery Conference are (l-r) Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of Department, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery; Dr. Janet Pettit, California, USA; and Professor Roger Watson, University of Sheffield.*



care services. Prevalence of lymphoedema among persons with diabetes attending vascular and wound management clinics is being investigated in collaboration with AMNCH Tallaght. A Pan-European eDelphi study of management of violence in psychiatry has commenced across 22 countries and in ten languages. Currently, there are seven students registered for MSc, MD and PhD within the department.

Dr. Zena Moore and Professor Seamus Cowman received a Highly Commended Honour for their work on economic analysis of pressure ulcer prevention, at the Wounds UK 2011 Awards. These awards recognise the outstanding achievements of those who are improving standards in wound prevention and management, through research, clinical audit and practice development.

In April 2011, Dr. GERALYN HYNES returned to the Faculty following research leave. Her research focus was palliative chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) care for which she was funded through a HRB fellowship. Alongside this, she undertook an Irish Hospice Foundation-funded research project that examined the experiences of carers of people with advanced COPD. Since her return to the Faculty, she is

continuing to develop her role in respiratory education while also developing research interests in both palliative care in advanced chronic illness and action research as an approach to developing practice.

Ms. Catherine O'Neill submitted her PhD work on practitioner perspectives on patient autonomy at the end of life. Ms. Mary O'Neill also continues her PhD work on integrated care in stroke services. Ms. Catherine Clune-Mulvaney has been successfully awarded a place on the PhD scholars programme at the RCSI, and will commence in September 2011.

Each year the Faculty hosts an international nursing & midwifery research & education conference. This year the conference celebrated its 30th year, with over 200 national and international delegates in attendance. The key note address was delivered by Professor Paul Trueman, Professor of Health Economics, Health Economics Research Group, Brunel University; with plenary presentations from Dr. Patricia Grocott, Reader in Palliative Wound Care, King's College London; Ms. Janet Pettit, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Neonatology, California, USA; and a guest presentation from Professor Roger Watson, Editor of the Journal of Clinical Nursing.

## CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The opportunity to bridge the theory practice gap is often fraught with difficulty, with organisational and environmental factors exerting a significant influence on how care is provided. In today's health care climate, it is likely that these factors will continue to influence practice, challenging the professional ideals of nursing/midwifery. The Faculty continues to actively support and facilitate nurses and midwives to develop their clinical and professional competence, through innovative approaches to education development and delivery. In doing so, the faculty is supporting the profession to lead cost effective efficient healthcare services, in increasing challenging clinical environments.

## FACULTY BOARD

**Dr Áine Colgan**  
Dean

**Ms. Edna Woolhead**  
Vice-Dean

**Ms. Louise Johnston**  
Honorary Secretary

**Ms. Maureen Duff**  
Honorary Treasurer

**Dr. Anne Marie Ryan**  
An Bord Altranais

**Professor David Bouchier Hayes**  
Council Representative

**Professor Seamus Cowman**

**Ms. Catherine Clune-Mulvaney**

**Ms. Mary Jacob**

**Ms. Mary MacMahon**

**Ms. Eileen Maher**

**Ms. Mary Murray**

**Ms. Helen Walsh**



*Pictured at the 30th Annual RCSI International Nursing & Midwifery Conference are Ms Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children, who delivered the opening address; Dr. Aine Colgan, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery; and Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI.*

## Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI



DR. PHILIP E. CAROLAN  
DEAN, FACULTY OF SPORTS AND  
EXERCISE MEDICINE, RCPI AND RCSI

In May 2011, Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 came into effect, which requires all doctors to register with an appropriate Professional Competence Scheme. The Medical Council recognised the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI, as the body to run the Scheme for Sports and Exercise Medicine and Dr. L. Joe Conway is the Manager of the Scheme on behalf of the Faculty. The Faculty is due to be assessed for Accreditation as a Training Body and provider of Higher Specialist Training by the Medical Council in 2013.

### POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

The Dean represents the Faculty on the newly established RCSI Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board. He also represents the Faculty on the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and is currently working with the Forum Executive on an application to the Medical Council and HSE Medical Education Training and Research (METR) office for approval and funding for a Postgraduate Training Programme.

*Sports Journalist and Author, Mr Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, delivers the opening address at the Annual Conference of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine 2010*



### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Faculty is represented at Council meetings of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine UK, which provide a valuable opportunity to meet colleagues in the UK and to share experiences on opportunities and challenges within the specialty of Sports and Exercise Medicine. The Faculty is also a member of the European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations (EFSMA), the main goal of which is to achieve recognition of Sports Medicine as a specialty within the European Union.

In September 2010, the Dean delivered a lecture on Sports and Exercise Medicine in Ireland at the European College of Sports and Exercise Physicians Conference in London.

### ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

A successful Annual Scientific Conference was held in RCSI in September 2010 which provided a forum for Postgraduate Trainees and established doctors to present their material. During the Conference, the Faculty conferred Honorary Fellowships on Professor Peter Fowler, a renowned Orthopaedic and Sports Surgeon from London, Ontario, and on Mr. John Treacy, Chief Executive of the Irish Sports Council, in recognition of his contribution to Irish Sport.

I wish to thank the committee, especially the Chairmen Dr. Joe Conway and Dr. Martin McConaghy, for organising a very interesting event.

### JOINT DIPLOMA IN MUSCULOSKELETAL EXAMINATION

The first cohort of 24 practitioners graduated with a Joint Diploma in Musculoskeletal Examination in November 2010. The programme was conducted in conjunction with the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and it is planned to run the course again in 2011/12.

I would like to thank all Members and Fellows and the Faculty Board for their support during my three years as Dean of the Faculty. It has been a challenging but a rewarding time. I have achieved some of the goals that I set for myself and there are many more that are yet to be achieved.

### FACULTY BOARD

**Dr. Philip E Carolan**  
Dean

**Dr. John O'Riordan**  
Honorary Secretary

**Dr. L. Joe Conway**  
Vice-Dean

**Dr. Frank McGrath**  
Treasurer

**Professor Eilís McGovern**  
President, RCSI

**Dr. John Donohoe**  
President, RCPI

**Mr. Frank McManus**  
Representative of RCSI Council

**Professor N G McElvaney**  
Representative of RCPI Council

**Dr. Rod McLoughlin**  
Representative of Irish Institute of Sport

**Dr. Nick Webb/Professor Mark Batt**  
FSEM UK Representative

**Dr. Mary Archer**

**Dr. Joseph Cummiskey**

**Professor Giuseppe De Vito**

**Dr. Pat Duggan**

**Dr. Martin McConaghy**

**Professor Michael G. Molloy**

**Dr. John O'Riordan**

**Dr. Pádraig Sheeran**

**Dr. Michael Webb**



# RCSI International



WE ARE A GLOBAL PREMIUM PROVIDER OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND OUR CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION IN THIS AREA CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS PUTTING IRELAND ON THE MAP AS WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION PROVIDERS.



*Valedictorian for undergraduate medicine Dr. Sara Al Khanaizi (right) with Dr. Faisal Al Mousawi, President, RCSI Bahrain, pictured at the RCSI Bahrain conferring ceremony in June 2011.*

### RCSI INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

In 2010/2011, RCSI continued to focus on our priority of delivering high quality programmes in a number of international centres and this year saw a major expansion in Malaysia, with two exciting new ventures there.

### RCSI BAHRAIN

The second graduating ceremony of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) took place with a total of 169 graduates from postgraduate and undergraduate courses conferred. The class of 2011 consisted of 55 graduates of the School of Medicine, 100 of the School of Nursing and seven Masters graduates. Given the national political unrest in Bahrain from Spring 2011, special credit is due to Professor Sameer Otoom, Dean at RCSI Bahrain for his stewardship of the degree programmes to successful completion on the scheduled graduation date of June 13th 2011. The graduation event was a remarkable testament to the work of management and staff, and student dedication to their studies despite the challenges.

### KING HAMAD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – BAHRAIN

The King Hamad University Hospital is currently in the final stages of development and is scheduled to open on time, in the last quarter of 2011. The 311-bed facility will be the main teaching hospital for RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and will provide world-class healthcare services to the local community.

### PERDANA UNIVERSITY – RCSI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MALAYSIA

In May 2011, RCSI concluded a collaborative agreement with the Academic Medical Centre SDN BHD (AMC) for the provision of an undergraduate medical programme in AMC's newly established university, Perdana University (PU). AMC, which is a public private partnership between the Government of Malaysia and private interests, is in the process of establishing a medical school, 800 bed hospital and research facilities in Putrajaya, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Professor Anthony Cunningham, former Professor of Anaesthesia at RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, has been appointed as Foundation Dean, alongside a number of key RCSI academic staff who have chosen to be seconded to Kuala Lumpur to support him in establishing and delivering the RCSI programme. With over 600 RCSI graduates registered on our Alumni database from Malaysia, and with students already on our Dublin and Penang programmes, this latest venture provides another important RCSI link to Malaysia.

The collaborative agreement provides for the establishment of the PU-RCSI School of Medicine and a 5-year Undergraduate Medical Programme, under licence from RCSI. The Programme, which will be supported by RCSI, will lead to the awarding of the RCSI and NUI degrees, subject to the achievement of the required academic standards. AMC and Perdana will deliver the Programme with local staff and with the assistance of the senior staff seconded from RCSI. Regular reviews will also be carried out by the RCSI Quality Enhancement Office. The Programme was recently approved by the Malaysian Medical Council, the Malaysian Qualifications Agency and the Ministry of Higher Education. Perdana will also offer a Graduate Entry Medical Programme in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Medicine International.

The first intake of approximately 100 Junior Cycle 1 students will commence their studies in September 2011.

The Perdana venture is a new and innovative initiative for RCSI. It has a number of advantages including further increasing our footprint in the important Malaysian market, being in line with Malaysian Government strategy, providing further opportunities for staff, and allied to a low capital investment requirement and prudent risk management.





*Pictured (l-r) is Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI, presenting a Gold Medal to Dr. Hoo Chai Zhen at the Penang Medical College Conferring Ceremony.*

*“RCSI is a culturally diverse, truly international organisation with a highly respected Fellowship and Alumni representation of almost every country in the world.”*

### TERENGGANU, MALAYSIA

In March 2011, RCSI welcomed a delegation of Ministers and officials from the State Government of Terengganu, Malaysia, and signed an agreement for the provision of medical education in Terengganu State by RCSI and UCD.

The new agreement will involve establishing a medical college branch campus in the capital, Kuala Terengganu, which is on the east coast of Malaysia.

Following a similar model to that which we have successfully deployed in Penang, Terengganu students will come to Ireland to study at RCSI and UCD for 2½ years. The students will then return to the new medical school in Terengganu to undertake their clinical training and complete their medical degrees, which will be awarded by the two Irish colleges.

One of the main advantages of this programme is that Malaysian students undergo their clinical training in the environment in which they will later practice, while benefiting from a comprehensive grounding in the science of medicine in Dublin.

The Most Hon Haji Ahmad Razif bin Abd Rahman, Terengganu State Minister for Education, was among those who travelled to Dublin to sign the agreement which strengthens the long relationship in medical education between Malaysia and Ireland and Ireland's international reputation for training high quality, clinically skilled doctors.

### PENANG MEDICAL COLLEGE, MALAYSIA

The 11th cohort of graduates of Penang Medical College (PMC) in Malaysia, in which the College is a joint partner with University College Dublin, celebrated their conferring on 19th June 2011. 104 new doctors graduated, bringing to over 800 the total number of graduates from PMC. PMC doctors now serve in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Ireland and further afield.

The degrees awarded to PMC graduates are recognised as registrable by the Irish Medical Council and the Malaysian Medical Council. Thus, PMC graduates need not undertake any further examinations to register in Ireland. This attribute of the degree makes it particularly attractive to doctors who wish to undertake further specialist training.



*Penang Medical College (PMC), Board of Directors 2011: (l-r) (front) Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy CEO, RCSI; Dato' Lee Kah Choon, Director, PMC; Professor Bill Powderly, Head of School of Medicine, University College Dublin (UCD); Dato' Mansor Bin Othman, Chairman of Board and Deputy Chief Minister Penang I; Dato' Dr. Godfrey Geh, Director, Geh Sim Wah; Professor Eillis McGovern, President, RCSI; Dato' Rosli Bin Jaafar, General Manager, Penang Development Corporation; (back) Mr. Ching Neng Shyan, Company Secretary; Mr. Mukunden Menon, Registrar/Deputy CEO, PMC; Professor Colm O'Herlihy, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCD; Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI; Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Health Science, RCSI; Professor Amir Khir, Dean, PMC; and Mr. Brendan Lyons, President, PMC.*





*Pictured following the signing of an agreement for the provision of medical education by RCSI and University College Dublin at their Dublin campuses and by the two colleges in the State of Terengganu in Malaysia are (l-r) Dr. Hugh Brady, President University College Dublin; YB Dr Jahi A Rahman bin Mokhtar, Terengganu State Executive Council, YB Haji Ahmad Razif bin Abd Rahman, Terengganu Committee Chairman on State Education; and Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive / Registrar, RCSI.*

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AND FELLOWS

RCSI is a culturally diverse, truly international organisation with a highly respected Fellowship and Alumni representation in almost every country in the world. This year saw a number of international Alumni and Fellows meetings taking place.

The North American Chapter of Fellows meeting took place in October 2010 in Washington. The Meeting was hosted by Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI, and was held during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Meeting with over 40 Fellows, Graduates, Council Members and Trainees of the College attending the event.

*“With over 600 RCSI graduates registered on our Alumni database from Malaysia, and with students already on our Dublin and Penang programmes, this latest venture provides another important RCSI link to Malaysia.”*

RCSI Alumni based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) attended a special reception hosted by Ciaran Madden, Irish Ambassador to the UAE in Abu Dhabi in January 2011. Over 200 RCSI Alumni attended the reception, as RCSI endeavours to strengthen relations with its Alumni in the region and to create an active Alumni Association in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

RCSI Alumni based in Toronto, Canada, met for a reception in May 2011 where Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive / Registrar and Dr. Alice McGarvey, Vice-Dean for Student Career Development, updated graduates on developments in RCSI.

Alumni based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia met in July 2011 as part of a reception to celebrate the launch of the Perdana University – RCSI School of Medicine at the Irish Ambassador’s Residence, Kuala Lumpur.

The Overseas Chapter aims to foster and promote a mutually beneficial relationship between the College and its graduates and Fellows and develop a life-long relationship by keeping all involved and informed in the College, through channels such as The Surgeon Journal, the RCSI website, News Scope, Chapter’s and the Fleam Journal.



*Mr. Pat Rabbitte, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (right) congratulates Professor Anthony Cunningham, Foundation Dean of the Perdana University – RCSI School of Medicine at the announcement of the new Medical School in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was made at the annual RCSI conferring ceremony in the National Concert Hall in June 2011.*

# Development Office



*Proposed plans for new  
Library Development.*

WE FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT WITH INDIVIDUALS, TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND TO FUND PIONEERING RESEARCH PROGRAMMES.

*A team from RCSI competed in the 115th Boston Marathon to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland. RCSI Boston Marathon Team Runners: (front row, l-r) Ms. Gillian Burke, Ms. Sarah Kwan, Ms. Emily Callery, Ms. Kailyn Kwong, Ms. Sinead Maguire, Ms. Corriena Brien (Student Services Manager), (back row, l-r) Mr. Simon Clifford, Mr. Peter Tormey, and Mr. Jordan Veenstra.*



The Development Office at RCSI fosters partnerships of mutual benefit with individuals, trusts, foundations and the corporate sector. These partnerships are vital as they assist the College in its provision of excellent standards in teaching and research and a quality third and fourth level educational experience for students.

RCSI is extremely grateful to all its friends and donors over the past year for their continued and inspiring support, made all the more noteworthy in these challenging times.

### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Celebrating its 200 year tradition of learning on St Stephen's Green, the College has embarked on a redevelopment programme for the Mercer Library: the heart of campus life, learning and inquisition at RCSI.

The Library Development Project is central to RCSI's vision to provide the highest quality education and training for our students and to support lifelong learning and teamwork skills. The new development will offer a revitalised resource for our staff and students to meet the needs of increasing numbers of students and enhanced technology requirements.

The facility will support multiple learning styles and teaching practices through technology rich and multi-purpose spaces, yet still retains the highly valued silent, reflective spaces of a traditional Library.

A comprehensive fundraising campaign for the development of the Library (€4 million) is currently underway, led by Aisling Hurley, Director of Alumni and Development, that will incorporate a major gift and graduate appeal mechanism. Having commenced this project earlier this year, we have raised almost €500,000 from graduates and private donors alike – a great endorsement, in today's climate.

Philanthropy plays a key role in leveraging funding from both private sources and public bodies and we are delighted with the engagement to date, from so many.

### BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AT RCSI RAISES €1.7 MILLION FOR PIONEERING PROGRAMMES

Breast Cancer Ireland at RCSI and Professor Arnold Hill, RCSI Professor of Surgery and Director of Breast Cancer Ireland acknowledge the continuing support and generosity to their programmes this year which has resulted in €1.7 million in funds raised. This level of support, in these very turbulent economic times, is heart warming and overwhelming.

Noticeably, this year there has been a huge increase in the number of donors supporting our work, albeit at lower financial levels, but nonetheless, such nationwide support has helped in heightening awareness as to the important role that research plays in advancing treatments for breast cancer. Our goal is to transform breast cancer from often being considered a fatal disease to one that can be managed, long term, through treatment.

### NATIONAL BREAST CANCER CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

It has been an exciting year for Breast Cancer Ireland at RCSI, with the launch of the much awaited National Breast Cancer Clinical Research Programme – Ireland's first National Breast Cancer Bio Resource, created in joint partnership with Aviva.

The initiative will bring together leading national clinicians and scientists to create the country's first National Breast Cancer Tissue Bio Resource. This will facilitate collaborative research which is essential in order to gain maximum benefit from the resource to enable speedier discoveries and ultimately more effective and personalised treatments for patients.

Initial seed funding of €450,000, from Aviva, has secured the employment of Breast Cancer Research Nurses based at three of the designated breast cancer centres, with initial representation in Cork, Waterford and Limerick to facilitate the collection of serum and tissue samples and provide patient support. These nurses will not only be responsible for the delivery of high quality nursing care, but will also provide education and patient support, promoting overall breast awareness amongst patients and their families in the wider community.



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# Community



WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENHANCING THE STANDARDS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LIFE CHANCES AMONG OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

*Pictured at the 'Come to Your Senses' summer course are (l-r) primary school teachers Ms. Alice Higginbotham, Ms. Bernadette Kehoe, Ms. Catriona McEnery and Mr. Kevin Mullin with Dr. Marc Devocelle, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry.*



### RCSI IN IRELAND

The College's community outreach and access programme, REACH RCSI, aims to promote and support the participation of those from lower socio-economic groups in education and promote lifelong health in the community. Since the programme's inception in mid 2007, 2,755 individuals have been involved in REACH initiatives and 612 RCSI staff and students have volunteered with the programme. REACH RCSI works in close partnership with schools and other local groups in South East Inner City Dublin.

Participants of the REACH RCSI Programme during 2010/2011 benefited from initiatives such as: Study Skills Seminars; Bursary for College; College4U Workshops; work experience placements; guidance and support with college applications and CV preparation; "Debating Science Issues" Competition; Mock Interviews with RCSI HR staff; Science Ambassador Programme; Kiran Pathak Scholarship in Pharmacy; Sponsorship of new football kits for Aungier Celtic FC and the Liberties Club; Sports Day; and Free Health Checks provided annually by staff at Mercer's Medical Centre.

Homework Club is a core access initiative of the REACH RCSI Programme and offers free one to one tuition to local second level students on site in the College. Over 100 individuals have been supported since 2007 through involvement with the club by RCSI student and staff volunteers who not only reinforce learning at school, but also provide helpful study tips and techniques to help them succeed in their classes. The experience of being on campus at RCSI and the informal interaction with staff and students has an immeasurable positive impact on participants of the REACH Programme.

### 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 series of free public lectures. The lectures took place monthly from October 2010 - May 2011 on a range of healthcare topics including 'Life After Stroke', 'Youth Mental Health' and 'The Sense of Smell'.

160 Transition Year (TY) students attended the week-long TY MiniMed Programme which provided an opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a doctor. A further 120 Transition Year students from the South East took part in the Waterford RCSI TY MiniMed Programme at the HSE-RCSI Education Centre at Waterford Regional Hospital and at Waterford Institute of Technology.

*Pictured (l-r) are Transition Year Students Ms. Aoife Doyle, Ms. Dearbhaille Murphy, and Ms. Eabha Mulcahy who participated in the Waterford RCSI Transition Year MiniMed training programme.*



*"If I didn't understand something in class, I would come here and they would make it easy."*

**REACH Homework Club participant**

25 primary science teachers participated in the 'Come to your Senses' summer course 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 initiative is a component of the REACH RCSI programme.

The Annual Public Outreach Lecture, organised by RCSI's Research Office, was delivered by Professor Brian J Ford, a renowned research biologist based at the University of Cambridge who presented a remarkable theory that human cells can 'think' independently of the brain; a theory which may lead to a greater understanding of many disease processes.



*“It is estimated that 4.5 million people, worldwide, are living healthier, safer lives, as a result of this simple (SODIS) innovation.”*



*A SODIS training meeting where members of the local community learn about solar disinfection of drinking water.*

## GLOBAL INITIATIVES

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

As a leader in medical education, training and research, RCSI 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. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in the engagement of RCSI in the developing world and 2010/2011 has been no exception, with the College continuing to strengthen links with parts of Africa and Asia in particular. The review and coordination of these diverse activities is under the auspices of RCSI OUTREACH, Committee for International Cooperation.

The RCSI/COSECSA (College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa) Collaboration Programme, aimed at addressing the dearth of surgically trained health care professionals in sub Saharan Africa, has continued to expand, and in November 2010 Irish Aid approved a three-year funding commitment which puts the Programme on firm ground for the immediate future. By the end of 2011, the Programme will have been successfully rolled out to all nine COSECSA countries. Although housed in the Department of Surgical Affairs, the Programme has involved many departments in RCSI, and is now a truly College-encompassing initiative. The Programme is now one of the largest of its type in Africa. From a clinical perspective, increased focus has been put on blended learning through a specially designed e-learning platform, improved examination

processes and expansion of training in essential surgical skill to non-physician clinicians. Increased emphasis has also been placed on the operational and organisational aspects of COSECSA. As a result of this collaboration, 2011 will see a record number of COSECSA examination candidates, with 39 Membership and 29 Fellowship candidates due to sit examinations in December.

There were a number of significant achievements for initiatives at the Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine, under the leadership of Professor Sam McConkey. In recognition of the importance of its contribution to the malaria control programme in Gambia, The Gambian National Malaria Surveillance programme, which began as an RCSI-led Irish Aid-funded research project, is to be funded and expanded by the Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Among the significant publications during the year was the results of Hepatitis B therapeutic vaccine trials in The Gambia in the PLOS One journal. The first phase I clinical trials, which are the first trials in the world of new vaccines against malaria, are taking place at the Clinical Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital. On a sad note during the year, Fr Dr Robbie McCabe, visiting lecturer in Tropical Medicine in RCSI, passed away, after a long and inspiring career as a doctor, a teacher in RCSI, a priest, and a writer. During his career, he worked tirelessly caring for the sick and the wellbeing of others in the hot desert region of Lake Turkana, Northern Kenya and in Zimbabwe.



*COSECSA President, Dr. Frederick Mutyaba, (right) presents the Honorary Fellowship of COSECSA to Professor Gerry O'Sullivan, Past-President of RCSI (left) in recognition of his work in establishing links between the two Colleges with the objective of enhancing surgical training and standards in the East, Central and Southern African region.*



*Pictured are students of the Medical Missionaries of Mary Primary School, located next to the District Clinic in Makondo in South West Uganda, who are participating in one of the SODIS studies, which involves solar disinfection of drinking water.*



In January 2011, RCSI became a member of the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI) and Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy CEO, represents RCSI on its board. EVI is a collaborative research organisation advocating for funding, and fostering development of new effective affordable vaccines.

Dr. Alice McGarvey, a Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, has developed a new programme of student electives in Africa which is being piloted this summer. The placements have been secured via the COSECSA collaboration and an induction programme was provided by Professor Sam McConkey in May 2011.

The four-year EU-funded SODISWATER project, coordinated by Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Department of Physiology and Medical Physics, which explored solar disinfection of drinking water, concluded in October 2010. It is estimated that 4.5 million people, worldwide, are living healthier, safer lives, as a result of this simple innovation. The project has clearly demonstrated that childhood dysentery rates in Cambodia, Kenya and South African can be reduced by up to 50 per cent if solar disinfection (SODIS) practices are adhered to. A further exciting finding of the project was that children in Kenya who consumed SODIS water over a 12-month period were found to be significantly taller and heavier than children who did not use SODIS. This is the first trial of household water treatment in the developing world to show evidence of beneficial effects on childhood development. Dr. McGuigan's SODIS work has now extended to Uganda where he is supervising two Irish Aid-funded PhD students who are studying the benefit of SODIS in rural primary school education programmes and applied to harvested rainwater.

The Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine, RCSI under the leadership of Professor Ruairi Brugha, has been engaged in a number of global initiatives during the year. The FP7 EU-funded Clinical Officers Surgical Training in Africa (COST Africa) project is due to commence training of 20 clinical officers in essential surgery in Malawi and Zambia in 2011/2012. RCSI is a partner in the Irish Aid co-funded Connection Health Research in Africa and Ireland Consortium which, during 2011, completed research on human resources for health, equity and access to services; and governance of the health system in seven African countries. The Health Research Board (HRB) funded nurse migration project (2006-2010) has helped to inform health workforce planning and policy making. A project on migrant doctors in Ireland, also funded by the HRB, is currently underway. The Department is involved in two research projects which are addressing the impact of global health initiatives on the health systems of the recipient countries: the Global HIV/ AIDS Initiatives Network (GHIN), co-funded by Irish Aid, and FP6 EU-funded research consortium projects on Global Health Initiatives in Africa which aims to understand how the rise of these initiatives has impacted on development partnerships and health systems functions in five southern African countries.

Among the global initiatives affiliated to RCSI is the overseas Paediatric Exchange Programme, which has been rebranded as Operation Childlife, and is overseen by Founder and Program Director Professor Martin T Corbally, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and Associate Professor at RCSI. The Programme works with organisations such as the Christina Noble Foundation, Children in Crossfire and the Atlantic Philanthropies to perform complex surgical procedures and to upskill local paediatric surgical teams. In Vietnam, over 180 patients have been successfully treated for congenital heart lesions since the program opened in March 2010. The paediatric surgical oncology program in Tanzania, continues to educate local surgical teams in the management of paediatric solid tumours.

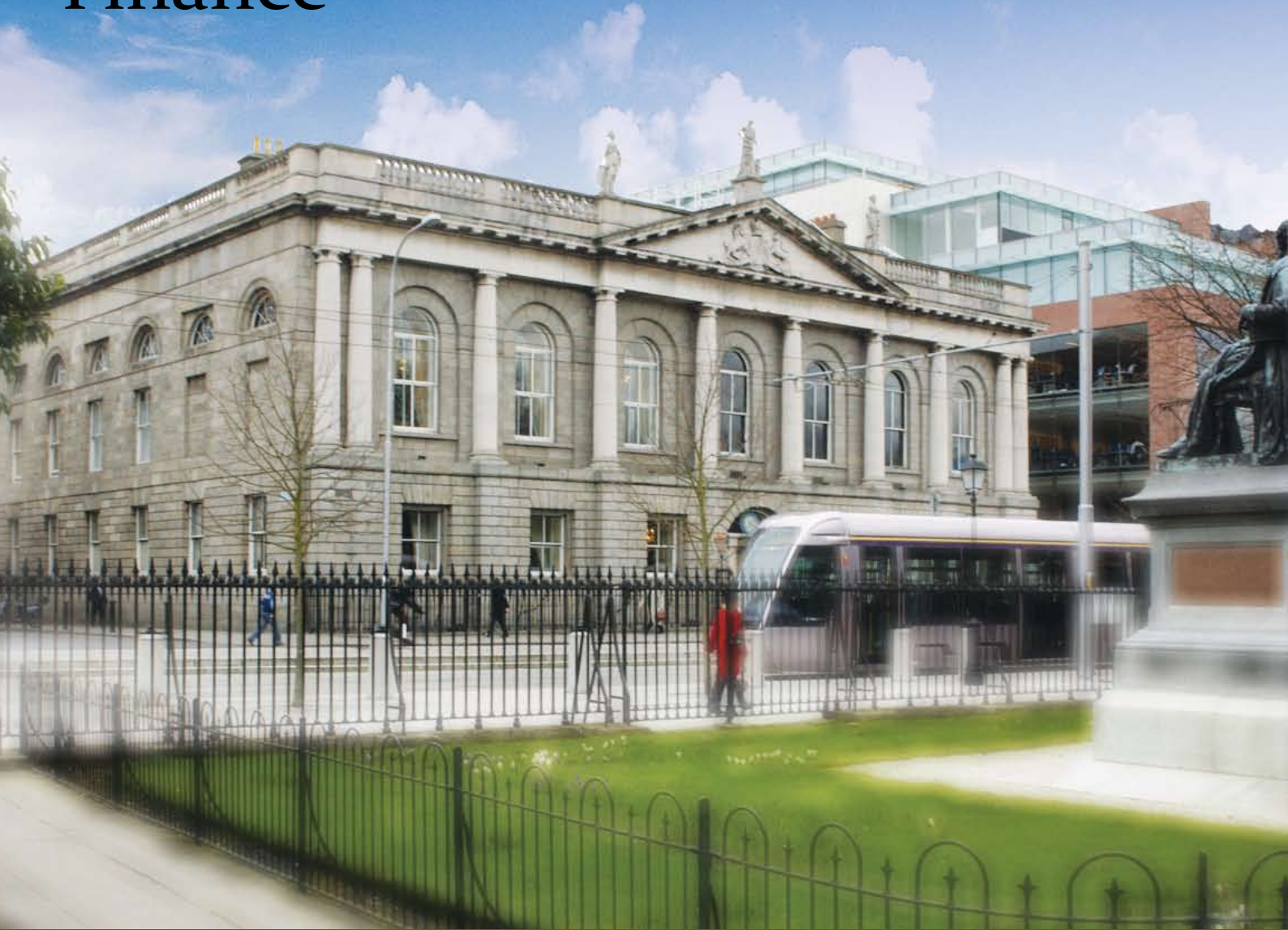
The RCSI OUTREACH Committee for International Cooperation is also engaging with the Institute of Orthopaedics to evolve a response strategy for global health emergencies, cooperating with the College of Anaesthesia on their initiatives in Africa, and liaises with other endeavours, affiliated to RCSI, such as Right to Sight.

*Pictured at the "Surgical Training in East, Central and Southern Africa - A Regional Approach" Conference are (l-r) Professor Stephen Ogendo, Secretary General, COSECSA and Dr. Diarmuid McClean, Senior Development Specialist, Irish Aid. The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) supported by Irish Aid and RCSI hosted the event which took place in London.*



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# Finance



RCSI IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC INSTITUTION WITH CHARITABLE STATUS. THE FINANCIAL MODEL WE OPERATE IS PRIMARILY SELF FUNDING AND THE ORGANISATION CONTINUES THEREFORE, TO CREATE ITS OWN FUTURE.



MS. JENNIFER CULLINANE  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

*“The dual strand programme of delivering new income initiatives while maintaining the cost base without compromising the quality of the programmes delivered, continues to be a key management objective.”*

## OVERVIEW

RCSI is a not-for-profit, independent academic institution with charitable status. The financial model operated is primarily self funding and must cover both current and capital funding requirements. The organisation continues therefore, to create its own future.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2010 was a year of unprecedented economic challenges with limited liquidity in the market place, recessionary market conditions, falling asset values, reduced State funding and with some relief from a low interest rate environment.

The organisation's financial performance improved in the year with income levels being maintained and strong management of the cost base. Student recruitment targets continue to be met in the year. Cash management was a key focus, particularly given the current environment.

The organisation successfully refinanced its main banking facilities despite the challenging financial landscape. The facilities negotiated ensured that the banking covenants signed up to were aligned with the organisation's strategy and will allow the necessary scope for future growth.

Following the application for independent Degree Awarding Status, the organisation's financial model was assessed. A recommendation regarding the allocation basis for non-pay resources will be taken on board as part of the 2011 budgetary process, following consultation with education and health sciences academic departments.

A review of pension matters commenced during 2009 and continued through 2010. Like many organisations the College faces an underfunded defined benefit pension scheme which has seen significant volatility over the last number of years. The College plans to move to a more balanced asset and liability model to help bring more certainty to the future funding levels.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The College is engaged in activities in Ireland and overseas and include both those activities that are core to the organisation's mission such as education and training and those which provide a valuable source of revenue, such as that from the endowment portfolio and fundraising activities.

YEARS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 AND 2009

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

|  | 2010<br>€ MILLIONS | 2009<br>€ MILLIONS |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                  |                    |                    |
| Core Activities (Education, Research, Surgery) | 101                | 100                |
| Endowments & Fundraising                       | 11                 | 12                 |
| Total Income                                   | 112                | 112                |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                             |                    |                    |
| Operating Costs                                | (104)              | (109)              |
| <b>Net surplus</b>                             | <b>8</b>           | <b>3</b>           |

### Balance Sheet

|            |    |    |
|------------|----|----|
| Net Assets | 16 | 29 |
|------------|----|----|



*“The organisation’s financial performance improved in the year with income levels being maintained and strong management of the cost base.”*

## ACTIVITIES IN IRELAND

### Income and Expenditure

The College continues its dual strand approach to improving financial performance through income generation and cost management. The approach has contributed to a significant improvement in the year in the overall financial performance of the organisation. The surplus in the year amounted to €8 million, an increase from €3 million in the previous year.

Income generation across the core activities of the College has grown in the year, offset by a slight fall in fundraising income in line with expectations in the current economic environment, to maintain income levels in line with the prior year levels.

The cost base continues to fall with a further decrease of 5% in the year as a result of both the maintenance of the cost management programme and the benefit of low interest rates. Staff costs have been contained and non-pay costs have reduced by a further 3% in the year.

In a service industry, staff play a key role in delivering on the organisation’s strategic objectives. Great credit is due to RCSI’s staff who have worked together to deliver on the budgetary targets set.

### Balance Sheet

Despite the improved financial performance, net asset values have fallen by almost 50% over the prior year mainly due to the reduction in the capital value of endowments at the year end and the increased pension deficit as a result of prevailing market conditions. Despite the fall in the value of the endowment portfolio, it remains income generating for the Institution.

The College continues to maintain its capital investment programme which is focused around improving the educational infrastructure and amounted to a spend in the year of almost €5 million.

### OVERSEAS

The College continues to operate its Education programmes in a number of overseas locations such as Malaysia, Dubai and Bahrain. The Medical University of Bahrain has now completed its setup phase of development and saw its first medical graduates in 2010. The local trading currency is that of Bahraini dinar which is pegged to the US dollar. The operation continues to perform in line with the business plan. Income has grown in the year with increasing student numbers and the cost base has been maintained. The organisation continues to generate sufficient cash to meet its local loan commitments which have funded the University development. The entity is forecast to turn to a surplus position in the coming year.

## PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

The College has a number of strategic financial priorities for the coming year.

In the year ahead the organisation plans to maintain the level of improved financial performance seen over the last number of years. The dual strand programme of delivering new income initiatives while maintaining the cost base without compromising the quality of the programmes delivered, continues to be a key management objective.

The focus on risk management continues in light of the challenges faced like many organisations around debt servicing, property investments and pension deficits. The organisation monitors continually the key business risks of market competition, inflationary pressures and interest rate risk. Through a general strategy of de-risking we continue to work to reduce where possible the volatilities around the funding model and build contingencies in light of the uncertainties in the world in which we all live.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the finance team led by Mr. Michael McGrail during my period of absence and the commitment shown by Mr. John O Halloran in his role as Financial Controller over the last year. We look forward to another year working together to deliver on the financial strategy, to contribute to the organisation’s objectives and to provide the necessary support to key business line owners across the College.

*“Great credit is due to RCSI’s staff who have worked together to deliver on the budgetary targets set.”*





# RCSI

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