



RCSI

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

Annual Report
2011/2012

Key Statistics

3,909
Number of Students
and Trainees

859
Number of Staff

20,666
Alumni since 1784

We are
responsible for setting
the highest standards in
surgical care and training
in Ireland and are an
internationally recognised
medical school with a 228
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 reporting period for the
Annual Report 2011/2012 is
1st July 2011 – 30th June 2012

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.

Numbers of students and trainees by Faculty

430	Surgical Trainees
2,786	Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
23	Faculty of Dentistry
98	Faculty of Radiologists
562	Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
10	Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine RCPI & RCSI

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Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

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

RCSI Noble Purpose

RCSI is a premium provider of healthcare education and training. The following pages illustrate how these world-class standards are supported through our initiatives and achievements across research and training, staff, students and community engagement.



RCSI



1 The RCSI Research Institute is one of Ireland's foremost research centres. Research at RCSI focuses on a number of core areas including neuroscience, neurodegeneration, stroke, epilepsy, heart disease, breast cancer and respiratory conditions such as Cystic Fibrosis

2 RCSI is responsible for the regulation of surgical training in Ireland and for setting and supporting the highest standards of surgical practice. The College is home to the National Surgical Training Centre and has earned a reputation for excellence throughout the world in the education and training of high-calibre surgeons.

3 The annual Research Day provides RCSI scientists with the opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings and highlights the importance of research within the College. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. John Gleeson, Dr. Tanya Levingstone and Professor Fergal O'Brien all from the Bone and Tissue Engineering Research Group.

Research and training

New discoveries translated to patient treatments

We bring together scientists and clinicians from teaching hospitals and research laboratories so that new discoveries are translated as quickly as possible into improved diagnoses and treatments for the benefit of patients and the community. We provide leadership in surgical education and training and continually strive to enhance the quality of surgical care for patients.



Community

Making a difference locally and globally

We are committed to enhancing the standards of health, education and life chances among our local and international communities.



1 Pictured is Dr. Mark Adams instructing transition year students on cardio pulmonary resuscitation at Waterford TY Mini Med School.

2 Over two decades, RCSI researchers have coordinated major international scientific projects to demonstrate solar disinfection of drinking water (SODIS) with millions of people worldwide living healthier, safer lives, as a result of this simple innovation. Pictured with their SODIS bottles are Villagers in Makondo, Uganda where RCSI continues to advance research into SODIS.

3 60 staff and students volunteered their time for the Annual REACH RCSI Sports Day. The annual event aims to raise awareness and promote life-long recreation and community health among local primary school children. Pictured (centre) is Sports Day volunteer and RCSI medical student Abdulrahman Alroomi with participants Adam McGrath and David Tierney.





1 Pictured is Dr. Maria Morgan, Lecturer in Molecular & Cellular Therapeutics. Maria is also Academic Director of the RCSI REACH programme and Co-director of RCSI's Mini Med School Open Lecture Series.

2 The Dean's Award scheme was created as a way of acknowledging the diverse and essential contributions of all RCSI staff members. Pictured (l-r) are the 2011 Dean's award recipients: Support Award winner, Peter Kellaghan, Department of Anatomy and Academic Award winner, Dr. Marc Devocelle, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry.

3 Pictured is Emeka Okereke, Department of Surgical Affairs, at the November Conferring Ceremony where he graduated with an MSc in Healthcare Management.

Our Staff

Engaging in knowledge and challenging understanding

RCSI is committed to investing in and developing our people.
We strive to inspire and support our staff as leaders in healthcare
education and research.



Our Students

A life of opportunity

An outstanding student experience inspires our students as the future world leading healthcare providers and innovators.



1 RCSI boasts some 70 clubs and societies with many of these committed to raising funds for charity in Ireland and abroad. RCSI students raised €41,000 in the past academic year with more than a dozen charities benefitting including, Irish Red Cross, Pieta House, the Pharmacy Benevolent Fund, the Irish Cancer Society, Breast Cancer Ireland, St Vincent De Paul, Islamic Relief, Aid Africa and Unicef.

2 Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague pictured with Sami Backley, winner of the First Lord Mayor's International Student Prize, at the Mansion House in Dublin. Sami, who is currently studying medicine at RCSI, was chosen as the International student who best engages with Dublin City.

3 Pictured are RCSI students performing at International Night 2012. The annual event celebrates the diversity of cultures within the student body at RCSI.

4 Pictured at the annual graduation ceremony in June were Jack Woods and Emer O'Connor. 240 students from RCSI were conferred with medical degrees and postgraduate awards at the ceremony which took place in the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

4



President's Review

Professor Eilis McGovern



RCSI has navigated its way through another challenging year, with many successes and positive developments to report. The past year has seen the College embark on some exciting new initiatives and partnerships while our established programmes continue to go from strength to strength.

Academic activities

RCSI, under the leadership of Professor Paul Gallagher, was successful in a competitive tendering process to establish the Irish Institute of Pharmacy for the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. The responsibilities of the Institute will include the oversight and accreditation of all professional development activities and the development of an evidence base for the scope of practice of the profession in line with national policy. The Institute was formally launched in Dublin Castle by An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, TD, in February 2012.

Ongoing discussions between RCSI, NUI Maynooth and Dublin City University culminated in the launch of a joint partnership, with the umbrella title of “3U Partnership”, in June 2012 in the Aviva Stadium. This unique collaboration will be a major force in Irish higher education and will result in the delivery of an enhanced range of outputs across the areas of education, research, innovation and internationalisation.

The undergraduate medical programme has undergone a successful accreditation process by the Medical Council. The feedback was extremely positive, with the external panel referring to RCSI as a “5-star” medical school.

The graduate-entry medical programme has also received unconditional accreditation until 2017 following a recent Medical Council monitoring visit. In addition, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland accredited the national Masters in Pharmacy Programme run through RCSI.

Our overseas medical schools continue to thrive. In Bahrain, the second graduating classes of doctors and nurses were conferred in June this year. The student intake for the past academic year has been the highest ever, and the King Hamad University Hospital, which will be the major teaching hospital for the medical school, was formally opened by the King of Bahrain in February 2012.

In Malaysia, the 12th graduating class has been conferred in Penang Medical School, and the first intake of 61 students commenced their course in Perdana University Medical School. The formal opening in September 2011 was attended by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Datuk Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

In 2012, the Medical Council conducted successful reviews of both our programmes in Malaysia at Penang Medical College and Perdana University.

Our undergraduate students continue to demonstrate their excellence in academia and beyond. A wonderful team of third year medical students, Eoin Kelleher and Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn, won the Grand Final of the Irish Times Debating Competition, bringing the prize to RCSI for the first time since the founding of the competition in 1963. Pharmacy student, Alice Holton was awarded first prize across all pharmacy Schools in the UK and Ireland in the Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association (PLEA) competition and final year medical student, Alisha Gabriel, was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to undertake an MSc in Public Health at the Department of Public Health, Oxford University.

Department of Surgical Affairs

During 2012, RCSI continued its critical involvement with the National Surgery Programme under the leadership of Professor Frank Keane and Mr Ken Mealy. The rollout of initiatives to reduce average length of stay, maximise day case surgery levels as well as operating theatre efficiency models have been a focus of the programme this year.

One of the highlights of 2012 was the inauguration of the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) in May by the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, TD. NOCA is funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and located in RCSI.

NOCA will design, develop and implement National Clinical Audit Programmes in order to improve patient outcomes and promote patient safety in hospitals.

The first audit stream under development is the Irish Audit of Surgical Mortality. This confidential, independent, peer review audit will provide documented, critical analysis of the outcomes of surgical care. It will allow for the detection of system issues and emerging trends and will enable Irish clinicians to benchmark clinical outcomes against international standards.

During its first year of operation, RCSI's Professional Competence Scheme enrolled a large number of practitioners across Surgery, Emergency Medicine as well as Sport & Exercise Medicine, enabling them to manage their professional competence requirements. This critical initiative as well as the introduction of a Professional Development Programme for surgical NCHD's has enabled RCSI to significantly broaden its reach and influence among Irish based practitioners.

The College underwent a rigorous accreditation process by the Medical Council, in order to gain approval to continue to deliver surgical training in Ireland. The application was successful, and the feedback complimented the excellence of the submission and the specialty training programmes.

RCSI continues to work with and through the Forum of Postgraduate Training bodies to continually address the many shared issues and challenges in training and to efficiently interact with shared stakeholders. This year saw the College introduce both a new Basic Specialty Year in Basic Surgical Training (BST) as well as the introduction of a new BST programme in Emergency Medicine.

The Department continues to progress the recommendations of the 2010 Strategic Review, which emphasised the importance of engagement with our Fellows and Members, and, as part of this initiative, the department hosted the first out-of-town Fellows' meeting in Waterford in May to coincide with the launch of our new Fellows and Members programme and the launch of a new monthly electronic newsletter called Surgical Bulletin.

RCSI collaborates closely with its sister Royal Colleges of Surgery in Glasgow, Edinburgh and England, and one of the current priorities is an International Intercollegiate Fellowship examination in surgery, to be jointly delivered by all four colleges. Plans are at an advanced stage to hold the first diet of this exam in Dubai later this year.

Governance

The governance review process continues its progress. The regulatory implications of the College Charter mean that all but the most basic changes to RCSI structures will require a complex legal approach. The Governance Review Committee, chaired by the Vice-President Mr. Paddy Broe, has been meeting regularly over the past year and updates from the committee have been a standing item on the Council agenda.

The performance of the two new boards introduced in early 2011 is now due to be reviewed. The Medicine and Health Sciences Board was introduced to oversee the activities of the undergraduate School of Medicine (including the graduate-entry programme), 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.

A range of reserved matters that were identified continue to be the remit of Council. This year, for the first time, two external members have been invited to attend Council meetings.

Giving back

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 standards of healthcare which exist in higher income countries. 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. It is also developing programmes for non-medically qualified healthcare workers. These Clinical Officers will be trained in the common surgical and obstetric procedures which can be delivered in areas remote from larger urban hospitals. Professor Ruairi Brughá recently commenced a 5 year EU funded project COST-Africa, that aims to demonstrate the health impact and cost-effectiveness of training these Clinical Officers to carry out surgical procedures at the district hospital level in Malawi and Zambia.

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

Conclusion

Council elections were held in June this year, and we welcome four new Council members, Mr. Michael E. O'Sullivan, Mr. David Moore, Professor Kevin Conlon and Mr. Keith Synnott. I would like to wish our new President, Mr. Paddy Broe, the new Vice-President, Mr. Declan Magee, and the new Council every success in their coming term, and would like to thank them, the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team for their dedication and support during the past year.

Council Members



Professor David J. Bouchier-Hayes
Retired Professor of Surgery
and Consultant
Surgeon (Vascular)
RCSI and Beaumont Hospital

Mr. Frank McManus
Retired Consultant Surgeon
(Orthopaedic)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Mr. Gordon Watson
Retired Consultant Surgeon
(General)
Waterford Regional Hospital

Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood
Consultant Surgeon
(Cardiothoracic)
Royal Victoria Hospital,
Northern Ireland

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

Professor W. Arthur Tanner
Retired General/Upper GI
Surgeon
Retired Director of Surgical
Affairs, RCSI

Mr. Declan J. Magee
Consultant Surgeon (General)
Blackrock Clinic

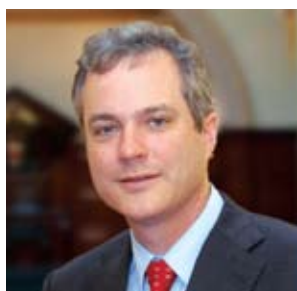
Mr. Joseph P. Duignan
Retired Consultant Surgeon
(General)
St. Michael's Hospital, Dun
Laoghaire

Mr. Patrick J. Broe
Vice-President, RCSI
Consultant Surgeon (General)
Beaumont Hospital

Professor Thomas F. Gorey
Consultant Surgeon (General/
Breast/Thyroid)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Mr. Parnell Keeling
Consultant Surgeon (General)
Bon Secours Hospital,
Glasnevin

Mr. Kevin O'Malley
Consultant Surgeon (General/
Vascular)
Mater Misericordiae Hospital



Professor Eilis McGovern

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

Mr. Joseph O'Beirne

Consultant Surgeon
(Orthopaedic)
Waterford Regional Hospital

Professor Ronan O'Connell

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

Mr. Kenneth Mealy

Consultant Surgeon (General)
Wexford General Hospital

Ms. Laura Viani

Consultant Surgeon
(Otolaryngology)
Director of National Cochlear
Implant Programme
Beaumont Hospital

Professor H. Paul Redmond

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

Professor Michael J. Kerin

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

Professor Frank Keane

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

Professor Michael J. Earley

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

Senior Management Team



Dr. Terry McWade
Deputy Chief Executive



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



Professor John Kelly
Director of Research



Ms. Jennifer Cullinane
Director of Finance



Mr. Barry Holmes
Director of Human Resources



Mr. Eunan Friel
Managing Director of Surgical
Affairs



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 gives me great pleasure to update you on the activities within the College over the past year and to share with you the RCSI Annual Report for 2011 – 2012.

This year we undertook the development of a new strategic plan for the College for the period 2012 to 2016. Much of the groundwork has now been done and the strategy will be launched towards the end of 2012. This distinct plan will contain clear and measurable objectives for us all to work towards and to measure our success in achieving our aims by 2016.

The strategic plan will provide an opportunity to enhance the College and our reputation in the Health Sciences arena.

I am greatly indebted to the staff of RCSI for their active engagement, support and invaluable input into the process. I look forward to sharing this strategy with you in due course.

Despite the continued economic challenges, the past year has seen the College grow both as we continue to look for additional revenue streams and to expand our core activities of education, training and research in the Health Sciences .

In September 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, we welcomed the first group of students to the new Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine. 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; all due for completion in 2014.

Change continues apace within the Department of Surgical Affairs as we strive to ensure excellence in surgical education and training and to sustain RCSI's contribution to safer and more effective surgical practice. A central focus for the Department this year was to take a more active leadership role to support the practice of surgery in Ireland. Key elements of this included the provision of lifelong learning programmes, Professional Development Programmes, the Professional Competence Scheme, the establishment of a National Office for Clinical Audit, the development of policies and standards in support of surgical best practice and the support of surgical research, which all serve to enhance the delivery of surgery and surgical training in Ireland.

In November and February, we held two leading surgical meetings. The Millin Meeting in November focused on the rationalisation of the hospital service and surgical training and at the Charter Day Meeting in February the meeting focussed on new developments and issues in surgery.

In May, Minister for Health Dr James Reilly T.D. launched the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA). NOCA will design, develop and implement National Clinical Audit Programmes in order to improve patient outcomes and promote patient safety in hospitals. NOCA has been established through the collaboration of the HSE's Quality and Patient Safety Directorate and Clinical and Strategy Programmes Directorates together with RCSI and the College of Anaesthetists, with RCSI being responsible for the administration and operation of NOCA on behalf of the HSE.

In order to re-engage with our Fellows and Members, we extended our benefits and services and established a dedicated Members and Fellows Office to engage directly with Fellows and Members. In addition to the FRCSI or MRCSI designation, Fellowship or Membership confers a number of unique privileges, professional and personal benefits and I would encourage those of you that are a Member or a Fellow to re-connect with us so that we can better serve the surgical community in Ireland.

In the area of research, we are strongly committed to delivering on our translational research agenda.

Key to our mission is the engagement of clinicians in research which we strongly encourage and support through research and training activities.

This year we received funding for 80 research proposals to the value of €10.4 million. Although funding levels are below previous years, this is due to the low levels of national funding support currently available, however we have been very successful in pursuing international funding opportunities. Key international awards include the APODECIDE consortium which secured €3 million under the EU Framework 7 Health Innovation Scheme, the establishment of the European Molecular Imaging Doctoral School (EMIDS) through funding from the EU Commission and funding from the National Institutes for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, USA for research in the area of epilepsy.

This year also saw the launch of the Centre for Systems Medicine. The centre aims to develop new prognostic tools for targeted

treatments for patients with colorectal cancer, brain tumours, melanoma, stroke, neurodegenerative disorders and diabetes and aims to inform clinical decision making and improve patient care.

The standing of RCSI research is clearly evident by the high impact of journals in which RCSI was published. RCSI research was published in Nature Medicine, Journal of Neuroscience, the New England Journal of Medicine and Cancer Research, to name just a few.

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) has continued to perform above international metrics, with the evaluation of 21 invention disclosures, the filing of 10 new patent applications, the execution of seven commercial licence agreements and the set up of two campus companies; SurgaColl™ Technologies Ltd and KelAda Pharmachem Ltd. SurgaColl™ was established to commercialise a number of research outputs from the laboratory of Professor Fergal O'Brien in the field of bone and cartilage / osteochondral tissue regeneration, and KelAda Ltd is focused on the commercialisation of medicinal chemistry opportunities arising from research activities of Professor Mauro Adamo. Market research reports estimate that most TTO's can take up to 10 years before any royalties are earned, however the RCSI TTO generated its first royalty stream within 30 months of beginning operations. As such, the College's TTO and commercial strategy have demonstrated a significant and timely return on its investment in research and technology transfer.

In June, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. together with Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn T.D. announced the details of a major collaboration between RCSI, NUI Maynooth and Dublin City University (DCU). The partnership is called the 3U Partnership and it brings together the complementary strengths of our three institutions to establish a new force in higher education.

This new formal partnership builds on existing successful collaborations between the three institutions and it will see significant developments in academic programmes, research, education and internationalisation.

Also in June, Professor John Kelly announced his decision to retire from his position as Director of Research. As the former Head of Research and Chief Scientific Officer at Elan Corporation and founding Chief Executive of the Irish Medicines Board, John brought extensive experience to the role, particularly on the commercialisation of research and clinical trials. I am indebted to John for the role he has played in the College over the past 11 years, both in his role as Director of Research and in the establishment of School of Pharmacy in 2001.

In terms of postgraduate activities, we continue to enhance the quality framework for our higher degree researchers. This year saw the second highest number of PhD (28), MD (17), MCh (1) and MSc (by research) (3) graduations in the history of the College, with a total of 49. It has also seen the first graduations of the HRB Structured PhD Programme in Diagnostics & Therapeutics for Human Disease, the first co-Tutelle PhD graduation and the launch of a new structured programme on BioAnalysis and Therapeutics (BioAT) in partnership with 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.

As part of our successful degree awarding status accreditation in 2010, the College was tasked with establishing a central Registry function, which will manage and coordinate all activities relating to our students' academic life. Over the past number of months, we have been working to define the scope, shape and processes for this new function, which will be called Student, Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA). SARA will encompass current activities from within the existing Examinations Office, Student Affairs and Faculty Centre offices in St. Stephen's Green and Beaumont, as well as delivering additional academic support through the establishment of a dedicated Regulations & Records team, and a new Curriculum Innovation function. Work on the establishment of SARA is currently underway and we plan to transition to SARA in advance of the next academic year.

As the leading provider of medical education in Ireland, we continually strive to ensure our educational programmes are an essential offering to our students and that our students receive the highest quality education both on our main campus on St Stephen's Green and for those studying in our main teaching hospitals.

To that end, in 2010 the Quality Enhancement Office was established following our successful degree awarding status accreditation. Quality reviews are a key component of the quality assurance measures introduced into the Irish higher education sector by the Universities Act 1997. The role of the QEO, as the executive arm of the RCSI Quality Committee, is to support the implementation of the RCSI quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) strategy. This year, reviews of the Student Services Office, the School of Physiotherapy and the Institute of Leadership took place and we were delighted to have input from very experienced external panel members for each review. The next stage of the process is the submission of a report by each of the panels and the development of a Quality Improvement Plan by each of the units.

In January, the RCSI School of Pharmacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) Pharmacy Department. The agreement will greatly enhance the teaching and clinical practice of pharmacy for our students.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Thomas Farrell from the Department of Anatomy. Dr. Farrell won an award at the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) Awards. The awards aim to recognise higher education teachers who demonstrate outstanding dedication to their teaching and have made an exceptional impact on student learning.

In June, Professor Fr. Michael Kelly, Jesuit and internationally renowned expert on HIV / AIDS was awarded the second RCSI Honorary Doctorate to recognise the outstanding contributions he has made in the area of HIV / AIDS and education.

As a leading institution in healthcare, medicine and research, we endeavour to advance the health and well-being of people worldwide and continuously seek ways to further our humanitarian goals. We greatly support and salute the efforts of many of our staff, students and fellows who volunteer their time and skills on a continued basis to improve the standards of health, education and life chances for those among both our local community and internationally. Our participation in community and educational programmes both in Ireland and overseas continues to go from strength to strength.

Our local outreach & access programme (REACH RCSI) continues to promote and support the participation of those from lower socio-economic groups in education and promote lifelong health in the local community of South East Inner City Dublin.

Key initiatives for the programme this year included one to one tuition at Junior and Leaving Certificate Homework and Grinds Clubs, Summer Course for Primary School Teachers, Bursary for College, Work experience placements, "Debating Science Issues" Competition and free health checks, to name just a few.

Internationally, the RCSI/ College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa Collaboration Programme (COSECSA) continues to grow. This year 102 candidates are registered for the COSECSA surgical exams, which is more than double the numbers from last year. Additionally, research in the area of solar water disinfection (SODIS) in rural Uganda is still progressing at pace. In February, the International Conference on the Global Health Workforce, which was hosted and co-organised by RCSI with the Irish Forum for Global Health attracted a high level of delegates and researchers from Africa.

I am always extremely proud of our students in their achievements and their willingness to participate in humanitarian and charitable initiatives, and this year was no exception. This year our students raised a staggering €41,000 for a host of worthy causes and charities.

Our students and staff also gave generously of their time to assist in many outreach programmes including the REACH Sport's Day and Homework Club for local school children and the Mini Med programme for students in Transition Year in school.

In November, our students hosted the first International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (ICHAMS). This two day conference which was organised by our students for students with the support from Faculty staff saw more than 150 undergraduate healthcare students from countries such as the United States of America, Sri Lanka, the Ivory Coast, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom travel to Ireland to attend the conference. The conference provided students with the opportunity to develop their research skills and expand their networks in an international setting.

Alisha Gabriel, a final year medical student was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University. Alisha has been accepted at Hertford College where she will undertake an MSc in Public Health at the Department of Public Health, Oxford University. This is a tremendous opportunity and we wish Alisha and all her classmates every success in the future.

This year, in RCSI Bahrain we made a number of new appointments at management level. Professor Thomas Collins was appointed the third President of RCSI Bahrain in September. Professor Sameer O'toom, the former Dean of the School of Medicine was appointed to the post of Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Professor Martin Corbally was appointed Head of Surgery. The School of Medicine successfully went through an assessment process by the Bahrain Quality Assurance Authority and the University as a whole, successfully gained recognition from the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

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.

This year we embarked on a major refurbishment project of our campus accommodation with the aim of creating a home away from home for our new students. The bulk of this work is now completed and will be ready for the beginning of the 2012/2013 academic year. In March, we were very pleased to open a new Anatomy preparation room. This new state of the art facility will greatly enhance the learning experience for our students.

In February this year, we were greatly saddened by the death of Professor Gerry O'Sullivan, former Council member and President of the College (2006-2008). Gerry was an internationally renowned surgeon, a distinguished clinician and a world authority in the field of cancer research, but also a wonderful friend and colleague. He is greatly missed.

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

I would like to thank the staff of RCSI. The success of our activities could not be achieved without our staff's energy and dedication. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Senior Management Team. I am indebted to them for their hard work, advice, support and commitment which has played a major role in helping us work towards our goal to become one of Europe's leading Health Sciences institutions. Finally, I would like to thank Professor Eilis McGovern in her role as President for the past two years and I look forward to working with Mr. Patrick Broe and his new council as we work towards the future successes of the College.

2011-2012 Milestones and Achievements

Launches and partnerships

Perdana University (PU) was officially launched in Kuala Lumpur by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The new university is home to the PU-RCSI School of Medicine which received its inaugural class of first year medical students this academic year.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between RCSI's School of Pharmacy and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Pharmacy Department in January. This new partnership will greatly enhance the teaching and clinical practice of pharmacy in Ireland.

An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D. launched the new **Irish Institute of Pharmacy**, with

institutions over the last number of years, the new formal partnership will see significant developments in academic programmes, research, education and internationalisation.

Research

A new **Centre for Systems Medicine** launched at RCSI in January aims to develop novel systems biology tools to predict treatment responses in patients with conditions such as colorectal cancer, brain tumours, melanoma, stroke, neurodegenerative disorders and diabetes.

The **first malaria vaccine clinical trial** to be carried out in Ireland got underway at RCSI in 2012.

Over 300 researchers attended **Research Day 2012** in April, which provided RCSI scientists with the opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings and emphasised the importance of research within the College.



the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), the pharmacy regulator, on 2nd February. The Institute will be operated by RCSI and will oversee continuing professional development (CPD) as well as implement a new best-practice pharmacist education system for pharmacists in Ireland.

In May 2012, the RCSI Institute of Leadership signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sharjah**, setting out the intention of the two organisations to collaborate in the development of education and research in the areas of professional development, leadership and academic development.

An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D., together with Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairi Quinn T.D., launched the **3U Partnership** - a major collaboration between NUI Maynooth, Dublin City University (DCU) and RCSI. The partnership was announced at an event in the Aviva Stadium on 26th June. Building on the success of collaborative work between the

BioAnalysis and Therapeutics (BioAT), a collaborative structured PhD programme, funded under PRTL I Cycle 5 and involving RCSI, DCU, NUI Maynooth and IT Tallaght, was launched in October.

Surgery

In July, **'Surgery Now'**, a magazine style surgical podcast designed to help surgeons keep up to date with the very latest developments in surgery and fulfil their Continual Professional Development requirements was launched.

Rationalisation of the hospital service and rationalisation of surgical training were the two topics explored at the annual **Millin Meeting** which was held at RCSI in November. Professor Richard Reznick was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI at the meeting.

The annual Charter Day meetings in February brought more than 50 leading national and international speakers to give lectures on a wide range of surgical topics over the three day event. The meetings culminated with the Charter Day Dinner when Honorary Fellowships were conferred on Dr. L. D. Britt and Dr. Patrick J. Gullane.

A Professional Development Programme for non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs) working in the fields of surgery and emergency medicine commenced at RCSI in 2012.

Minister for Health **Dr. James Reilly T.D.** launched the new **National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA)** in RCSI on 16th May. NOCA will design, develop and implement national clinical audit programmes in order to improve patient outcomes and promote patient safety in hospitals.

Teaching and Learning

In September, the College welcomed 450 new students to study medicine, physiotherapy and pharmacy during **Orientation Week**. This year's undergraduate intake of 373 medical students, 48 pharmacy students and 29 physiotherapy

More than 500 students from second-level schools throughout Ireland got a taste for life as a medical, pharmacy and physiotherapy student at the **Annual Open Day** on 4th January.

College Events

More than 200 medical graduates and their guests travelled to Dublin from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Ireland, Malaysia, Northern Ireland, Norway, South Africa, UK and USA to be stimulated, entertained, revisit old places and renew acquaintances at the **Alumni Weekend** 2011 in September.

Papers belonging to **Dr. Emily Winifred Dickson, the first female Fellow the College** were donated to the College by her family in March 2012. Items donated included certificates, medals, testimonials, correspondence and photographs dating from the 1880s-1920s.



students came from Ireland and 28 other countries across Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Dr. Thomas Farrell from the Anatomy Department was recognised as exemplifying excellence in teaching at the **annual NAIRTL awards ceremony** which took place in November. The National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) awards recognise higher education teachers who demonstrate outstanding dedication to their teaching and have made an exceptional impact on student learning.

The Graduate Entry Programme (GEP) Open Days, which took place at Connolly Hospital in November 2011 and January 2012. The format of the days was based around small group interactive sessions which provided the participants with the opportunity to experience 'a day in the life' of an RCSI GEP Student. The theme of this year's open days was cardiology.



Mr. Patrick Broe was elected as the 168th President of the College. Mr Broe took up office following the **College's biennial council elections** on 6th June. Mr. Declan Magee, a Consultant General Surgeon at Blackrock Clinic was appointed as the new Vice-President. Four new members of Council were also elected. These are Mr. Michael E. O'Sullivan, Mr. David Moore, Professor Kevin Conlon and Mr. Keith Synnott.

1 Pictured at the launch of Perdana University are (l-r) Tan Sri Dr Mohan Swami, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Perdana University and YAB Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Malaysian Prime Minister

2 Pictured at the launch of the 3U Partnership are (l-r) Professor Cathal Kelly, CEO of RCSI; Professor Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth; An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny; Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn; and Professor Brian McCraith, President of DCU.

3 Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Kevin O'Malley, RCSI Council Member with Dr. L.D Britt, Past President of the American College of Surgeons who was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI at the Charter Day Dinner.

4 Pictured at the launch of the National Office of Clinical Audit are (l-r) Mr. Ken Mealy, Consultant General Surgeon and Clinical Lead of the National Office of Clinical Audit; Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI; Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly; and Dr. Philip Crowley, HSE National Director for Quality and Patient Safety.

5 Pictured at the RCSI Open Day is 6th Year secondary school student, Erica Hughes.

2011-2012

Milestones and Achievements

Conferring Ceremonies

Approximately 250 healthcare professionals were conferred at the **July and December Postgraduate Conferring Ceremonies**. These included Fellowships of RCSI in Cardiothoracic Surgery; General Surgery; Neurosurgery; Ophthalmology/ Ophthalmic Surgery; Otolaryngology; Paediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery; and Urology. Memberships of RCSI including Ophthalmology were awarded as well as Fellowships and Memberships of the Faculties of Dentistry; Radiologists; Sports and Exercise Medicine and Nursing & Midwifery.



The first PhD graduates in the structured PhD programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease were among those who graduated at the **November Conferring Ceremony**. With 717 students awarded undergraduate degrees and postgraduate awards at three conferring ceremonies, this was the largest number of students to graduate from the College in one day.

240 students were conferred with medical degrees and postgraduate awards at the **Annual Graduation Day** in the National Concert Hall, Dublin which took place on 6th June.

Also at the June Conferring, **Professor Fr. Michael Kelly**, Jesuit and internationally renowned expert on HIV/AIDS was awarded the second RCSI Honorary Doctorate to recognise the outstanding contributions he has made in the area of HIV/AIDS and education

The **annual RCSI Bahrain graduation ceremony** took place on 11th June. A total of 201 graduates were conferred – 60 from School of Medicine; 75 from School of Nursing; and 66 Masters Graduates.

Community

In July, primary school teachers from around Ireland participated in RCSI's **'Come to Your Senses'** summer course, which supports teaching of the primary science curriculum by developing teachers' enthusiasm for teaching science. The initiative is a component of the REACH RCSI programme.

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

A series of free public lectures, the **RCSI Mini Med School Open Lecture Series**, took place on five evenings between October and March. The series covered a broad range of health topics including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, diseases of the thyroid and sports emergencies.



150 students from 86 schools across Ireland attended the **RCSI Mini Med Transition Year programme**, which was held in RCSI and Beaumont Hospital in January. In February, 120 Transition Year students from the South East took part in the **Waterford RCSI Transition Year Mini Med programme**. The week long interactive programmes gave the students the opportunity to experience first-hand what it is like to train and work as a doctor.

Over 100 boys and girls from St. Enda's Primary School, Whitefriar Street, Dublin and Presentation College, Warrenmount, Dublin took part in the **Annual REACH RCSI Sports Day** which took place on 28th March. The event enables school children aged seven to ten years of age, to develop and brush up on their sports skills.



Student Activities

The first **International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (ICHAMS)** took place in November. Organised by undergraduate medical and healthcare students, this conference 'for students by students' was attended by over 150 healthcare students from across the globe.

Over €5,000 was raised at December's **Chocolate Ball** which was organised by the Caribbean-African Society (CAS) and aimed to raise funds for the charity Aid Africa as part of World Aids Day.

A team from RCSI were crowned victors of the prestigious **Irish Times Debate** final in February. The team comprising 3rd Year Medicine Students Eoin Kelleher and Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn won their debate on the motion 'That This House Would Abolish Prisons'.



On 25th February over 600 students attended the **College Ball**, where awards were presented to the hard working Student Societies. The big winner on the night was the Islamic Society, who won the 2012 Society of the Year Award, the 'On Campus Event of the Year' for their Charity Week which raised over €10,000 and the Societies Person of the Year 2012 Award.

In March, students from the College launched the 5th edition of the **RCSI Student Medical Journal (RCSImj)**. The journal aims to promote student authorship and to foster research, innovation and student participation with healthcare issues.

International Night was held in the Mansion House, Dublin in March. Students and staff took part in this celebration of the College's cultural diversity with a spectacular evening of drama, dance and music from all corners of the globe.

The **79th Biological Society Inaugural Meeting** was held on 9th March. The Biological Society is the oldest student society in the College and the keynote speaker at the event was Mr Justice Peter Kelly, a renowned High Court judge.

The **116th Boston Marathon** took place on 16th April which saw eleven undergraduate students competing in the world's oldest and largest marathon.

Over 300 students attended the third **Careers Symposium** for medical students on 21st April. Speakers were invited to inform the students about opportunities for post graduate training opportunities in the United States, Far East, Malta, Australia, United Kingdom and Ireland.

President Michael D. Higgins attended the 5th anniversary of the launch of the **'Please Talk' initiative** on 27th April. 'Please Talk' encourages students to talk about their challenges, be it at home, in college, or in their private lives.



1 Professor Fr. Michael Kelly (seated), who was awarded the 2nd RCSI honorary doctorate, is pictured with Professor Cathal Kelly, CEO; Professor. Hannah McGee, Dean and Mr. Patrick Broe, incoming President of RCSI.

2 Pictured at the REACH RCSI Sports Day (clockwise from back left) are Hasan Albanni, RCSI medical student; Conn Healy; Aoibheann Yataki, RCSI pharmacy student; Jerry Weng and Aimee Cloake.

3 Pictured (l-r) are Aine O'Keefe, Sharon Sutton, Martin Lanigan, Rachel Cuddihy, Aoife Forde and Katie O'Neill, RCSI Pharmacy Society, who were winners of the 'Off Campus Event of the Year' award at the College Ball.

4 The Irish Times editor Kevin O'Sullivan presents the Irish Times Debate final 2012 team trophy to RCSI medical students Eoin Kelleher and Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn.

5 President Michael D. Higgins speaks at the "Please Talk" 5th anniversary event held in the College

A final year medical student was awarded a prestigious **Rhodes Scholarship** to attend Oxford University. **Alisha Gabriel**, was accepted at Hertford College where she will undertake an MSc in Public Health at the Department of Public Health, Oxford University.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin presented medical student Sami Backely with the first **International Student Award** at a ceremony in the Mansion House in May.

In 2012 undergraduate students from Pharmacy Schools in the UK and Ireland took part in the **Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association (PLEA) bioethics competition** for the first time. RCSI senior cycle pharmacy student Alice Holton was awarded first place in the competition.

Surgical Affairs



206

Higher Surgical
Trainees

189

Basic Surgical
Trainees

35

Basic Specialist
Trainees in
Emergency
Medicine

375

Professional
Development
Programme
participants

A Professional Development Programme for Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) in surgery and emergency medicine, commissioned and funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE), got underway at RCSI this year. Pictured at a technical skills session are (l-r) Zeeshan Razzaq and Muhammad Ali Kiani, Kerry General Hospital.



Pictured is Professor Oscar Traynor, Director of the National Surgical Training Centre, RCSI at the launch of the Surgery Now Podcast



Pictured (l-r) at the Millin Meeting are Professor Ellis McGovern, President; Mr. Fraser Smith, Division of Surgery in the Department of Surgery and Cancer, St Mary's Hospital, London; and Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive. Mr. Fraser Smith delivered the 34th Millin Lecture entitled 'Rectal Cancer in the Era of Radiochemotherapy'.



Mr. Eunan Friel
Managing Director of Surgical Affairs

The year ending July 2012 was another exciting year in the Department of Surgical Affairs with a number of significant milestones achieved in both surgical training and surgical practice as we continue to implement the strategic priorities identified in our 2010 strategic review.

Our continued focus on excellence in training was supported this year by our first ever Medical Council accreditation process which provided a very valuable and positive external perspective on our training programmes. We continue to foster an open and positive partnership relationship with the Health Service Executive's (HSE's) Medical Education & Training (MET) Unit and work with them to support improvements to our training and development programmes.

With the current severe economic pressures, the healthcare delivery model is facing unprecedented challenges, with obvious implications to both training and service. Our close partnership with the National Directorate for Clinical Strategy and Programmes on the delivery of the National Surgery Programme is enabling the College to play a key role in reshaping our surgical service model to improve quality and access for our patients as well as the cost of the service in these challenging times.

This year witnessed the Medical Council recognition of RCSI to deliver a Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) for the specialties of Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Sport & Exercise Medicine as required under Section 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2011. We also saw the development and roll out of a Professional Development Programme to support the PCS needs of Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHD's) in both Surgery and Emergency Medicine. These initiatives are allowing our College to play a greatly enhanced role in the professional lives of both Surgical and Emergency Medicine practitioners.

We are extremely grateful to the ever enthusiastic staff of our Department for continuing to rise to the challenge and deliver these much valued initiatives to both our trainees and our practicing clinicians.

Surgical Training

2011 saw the Medical Council's first assessment of postgraduate training bodies under part 10 of the Medical Practitioners Act. RCSI was among the first training bodies to be assessed under the Medical Council Accreditation Standards for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training. Under the leadership of Professor Oscar Traynor, the assessment involved a detailed written submission and a Medical Council Accreditation Team visit in October 2011. Following the review, RCSI and its specialty training programmes were fully accredited. We received several commendations as well as recommendations which will heavily inform our improvement agenda as we move ahead.

This year saw the introduction of both a new Basic Specialty Year in Basic Surgical Training (BST) as well as the introduction of a new BST programme in Emergency Medicine.

In all, we have over 200 trainees enrolled in our higher training programmes across the specialties as well as over 220 trainees on our BST programmes. We have an expanded faculty, upgraded our training laboratory and invested in a Learning Development Manager to better structure and integrate our training modules.

RCSI continues to work with and through the Forum of Postgraduate Training bodies to better meet the many shared issues and challenges in training and to efficiently interact with shared stakeholders.

With challenges in the service delivery model we are very concerned about the impact on training and continue to seek new ways to support the learning needs of our trainees. A key focus going forward will be an examination of both the structure and duration of surgical training and we hope to bring recommendations forward soon to ensure continued excellence in our training programmes in a rapidly changing landscape.

Surgical Practice

The enhancement of our relevance and support for surgical practice continues to be a major strategic focus for our department and this year we have taken great strides to drive this agenda.

Undoubtedly, our leadership of the National Surgery Programme under both Professor Frank Keane and Mr. Ken Mealy, continues to place the College in a central policy position to shape the future delivery model. Significant progress has been made in rolling out the



Pictured at the December Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony are candidates conferred with Membership of RCSI (l-r) Mr. Niall Kelly, Ms. Anna Walsh and Mr. John Sullivan.

elements of the elective surgery component of the programme with very positive results on the ground. More recently, the programme is focusing on tackling the issues in the delivery of acute surgical services.

The launch in RCSI in May 2012 of the National Office for Clinical Audit (NOCA) represented a major milestone for both RCSI and the Surgery Programme in supporting best practice and driving a culture of continuous learning.



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2

1 Pictured to mark the Professional Development Programme for NCHDs in surgery and emergency medicine getting underway at RCSI are (l-r) are Kieran Tangney, Associate Director, Surgical Affairs; Ciara Mellett, Medical Education and Training, HSE; Professor Sean Tierney, Director, Professional Development and Practice; Professor Ellis McGovern, President; Eva Doherty, Senior Lecturer; Professor Oscar Traynor, Director, National Surgical Training Centre; and Eunan Friel, Managing Director of Surgical Affairs to mark the Professional Development Programme for NCHDs in surgery and emergency medicine getting underway at RCSI.

2 Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Ken Mealy, Consultant General Surgeon, Wexford and Clinical Lead of the National Office of Clinical Audit and Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly TD; at the launch of the new National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) at RCSI. NOCA will design, develop and implement national clinical audit programs in order to improve patient outcomes and promote patient safety in hospitals.

NOCA will design, develop and implement frameworks to facilitate sustainable national clinical audit programmes in agreed specialties. Initially NOCA will house an Irish Audit of Surgical Mortality, an Irish Orthopaedic Register, a National Intensive Care Audit as well as the reporting function from elements of the National Surgery Programme.

The establishment of a Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) to support the professional competence needs of Surgical, Emergency Medicine and Sport & Exercise Medicine practitioners has been a major development in RCSI this year. During its first year of operation the PCS scheme, under the leadership of Professor Sean Tierney, successfully enrolled a large percentage of practitioners enabling them to manage their professional competence requirements.

The development of a new curriculum covering both clinical and behavioural learning as well as an expanded faculty were requirements to support the launch of the new Professional Development Programme for NCHD's. This innovative programme is supported by the HSE's MET unit and is designed to deliver the required external learning credits to enable NCHD's meet their PCS requirements.

Working closely with both the Medical Council and the HSE, both these initiatives support the need for continuing professional learning and development and have greatly expanded the reach of RCSI within our clinical community

This year also saw the re-launch of our Fellows and Members Programme with an exciting menu of benefits for our alumni including a new electronic newsletter, Surgical Bulletin. It is hoped that this initiative will enable us to better connect with and understand the needs of our Fellows and Members around the World.

Research and Education

We continue to be focused on the provision of broad-based surgical educational offerings.

Our taught Master of Surgery (MCh) programme continues to go from strength to strength and the introduction of a part time, two year programme this year has enhanced the flexibility of the programme making it more attractive.

In all, approximately 50 candidates are enrolled in this programme. This course has facilitated the collaboration between many of the RCSI faculties and departments, and we remain deeply appreciative of the co-operation of our colleagues across the College for their incredible input into this course.



Pictured at the Charter Day celebrations are (l-r) Mr. Kevin O'Malley, Council Member; Dr L.D. Britt, Honorary Fellow; Professor Ellis McGovern, President; Dr Patrick Gullane, Honorary Fellow; Ms Laura Viani, Council Member; and Mr. Joseph Duignan, Council Member.

The leadership of RCSI in the delivery of Human Factors education has been further enhanced with the success of our MSc/ Postgraduate Diploma in Human Factors and Patient Safety. This is an important recognition for RCSI's pioneering work in this critical area of medical training.

With the help of industry funding, we continue to support research fellows within the Department who have produced valuable learnings to inform the structure of future surgical training modules. Our research agenda will continue to be focused on supporting our educational agenda and how to better deliver training.

Surgical Innovation Services

The Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) was an innovative venture set up within the College to provide innovation, assessment and evaluation services for the medical device industry, for innovators and for surgeons. CIST quickly became the benchmark service provider in its space and attracted strong support from both industry as well as government agencies. Late this year, we made the strategic decision to transfer the assets of CIST to a new external company (i360 Medical) to better enable the attraction of needed external investment to support continued growth.

International Programmes

The Department of Surgical Affairs has a significant international presence. At Penang Medical College in Malaysia, we deliver Intercollegiate Basic Surgical Skills training courses and Membership examinations to candidates from countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. Membership examinations are offered also in other markets including Bahrain, Cairo and Jordan. We intend to increase the Department's profile in these centres and actively recruit new partners in other regions in coming years. In 2013, the first overseas Intercollegiate Fellowship Examination (in General Surgery) will be offered collectively by all four surgical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland at a venue in the Middle East. It is anticipated the number of specialties for which this exam is offered will increase over time.

In 2010, RCSI entered into a Collaborative Agreement with the High Committee of Medical Specialties (HCMS) in Cairo, Egypt. This Agreement committed the Department to a programme of activities that included the assessment of HCMS's surgical curricula, training and examinations, the delivery of 'Train the Trainer' and 'Train the Examiner' courses, and the provision of surgical skills training programmes to HCMS trainees. We have fully discharged our commitments under the terms of the 2010 Agreement and a potential successor to that Agreement is now being discussed.

RCSI is also working with other Irish postgraduate training bodies to expand the breadth of services that we can offer in overseas markets.

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 for which it was founded.

Awards 2012

RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship Award

Mr. Brian Devitt

RCSI Surgical Travel Grants 2011 Incorporating the Gussie Mehigan Scholarship

Ms. Claragh Healy

Joint ACS/RCSI resident Exchange Programme

Mr. Tom Gallagher

RCSI/Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants

Ms. Zenia Louise Martin

Mr. Brian Devitt

Ms. Olivia Flannery

Ms. Claragh Healy

Mr. Michael Leonard

Mr. Timothy Martin Murphy

Mr. Kieran Power

Mr. James Walsh

RCSI-Anthony Walsh/Ipsen Urology Travelling Fellowship

Mr. Kevin O' Connor

Irish Travelling Fellowship, RCSI/RSM Section of Coloproctology

Mr. Desmond Toomey

The Millin Lecture

Professor J Calvin Coffey

Research



340

Research staff and students

80

Research proposals funded

€10.4m

Research funding income 11/12



Pictured (centre) is AngioPredict EU project coordinator Dr. Annette Byrne, Department of Physiology and Medical Physics & Centre for Systems Medicine, with members of her research team (clockwise from left) Alice O'Farrell, Liam Sheils, Phil O'Halloran, Rhys Evans and Monika Jarzabek.

Research Highlights at RCSI

86

postdoctoral researchers



First Malaria Vaccine Trial being carried out in Ireland



Motor Neuron Disease research may lead to new therapies



204

students registered for higher degrees by research



*Professor Sir Robin Murray
President of the Schizophrenia
International Research Society
presents the Society's inaugural
Basic Science Award to Professor
John Waddington (pictured right)
for outstanding achievement during
his 30-year career.*



Professor John Kelly
Director of Research

At RCSI we are strongly committed to delivering on our translational research agenda, which we support with research training programmes, infrastructures and resources that meet the needs of our researchers, create a stimulating environment, support competitive multidisciplinary research and offer professional development opportunities.

Key to our mission is the engagement of clinicians in research which we encourage and support through research and training activities that promote interdisciplinary interaction. To date, the RCSI research strategy has been proven to be very successful. Over the past ten years the population of RCSI research staff and students has grown to 340 researchers, 32 per cent of which are postgraduate students. Since 2007, we have published 2000 papers in peer-reviewed journals and our competitiveness in leading large collaborative research programmes has been evidenced by our increasing success in securing substantial European and national funding awards.

There were many research achievements this year and we include some highlights of these as follows:

International awards

The APODECIDE consortium led by Professor Jochen Prehn has been successful in securing funding (€3M) under the EU Framework 7 (FP7) Health Innovation scheme. The consortium includes academic partners from Queens University Belfast (UK), Paris Descartes University, the University Hospital of Frankfurt and small to medium enterprises from Ireland and Israel. The APODECIDE research programme will develop systems medicine tools that predict treatment responses in colorectal cancer patients to 5-FU-based

chemotherapy and anti-EGFR therapy, based on a systems analysis of apoptosis (cell death) and EGFR signalling pathways. Ultimately the goal of APODECIDE is to deliver new clinical decision making tools that enable personalised medicine approaches and 'smart' clinical trials design in the future.

The EU Commission approved funding for the establishment of the European Molecular Imaging Doctoral School (EMIDS), an Erasmus network coordinated between Professor Brian Harvey, RCSI and Universities in Belgium, France, Netherlands, Italy and Greece. EMIDS will involve RCSI staff across several departments and, over a four year period, will provide doctoral training in molecular imaging having an impact on the development of future drugs and diagnostic imaging agents.

Professor David Henshall has received an RO1 grant from the National Institutes for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, USA. The study entitled "MicroRNAs as molecular effectors of epileptic tolerance" will be carried out in collaboration with Professor Ray Stallings and Professor Roger Simon in Atlanta, USA.

An international drug discovery research partnership initiated by Professor Mauro Adamo with the Institute of Crystallography of the Italian CNR in Bari, the Department of Pharmaceutical and Toxicological Chemistry of the University of Naples "Federico II", the AIRI (the Italian Association for Industrial Research), the Gianni Benzi Pharmacological Research Foundation, and the Italian Consortium DFM scrl was successful in securing funding (€570k) from the Italian Foundation "Fondazione con il Sud" to support a multidisciplinary research programme in the area of MicroRNA therapeutics applied to the treatment of Neuroblastoma. The three year programme will bring together experts in drug design (biocomputing, molecular modelling and structural biology) and synthesis (organic and oligomer synthesis).

RCSI has been awarded major European funding for research to improve the treatment of epilepsy.

The research aims to explore how individual patients react to different epilepsy drugs on the basis of their DNA so that the most effective medication can be prescribed safely to treat them.





1

RCSI is one of 15 partner institutions from eight countries to receive almost €6 million funding from the European Union FP7 programme to investigate this genetic basis of responses to antiepileptic drugs as part of the EpiPGX Consortium. Dr. Norman Delanty and Dr Gianpiero Cavalleri will lead the RCSI genetics team.

National awards

The COSYST-MCH project led by Professor Ruairi Brugha was awarded funding (€0.9M) under the Irish Aid HEA Round 3 research grants scheme. The funding award will support RCSI and DCU researchers to carry out a 3 year project to study the community linkages across Health, HIV and Nutrition among young children in Malawi and Zambia, and to design and roll out distance learning modules on community research in Africa.

Professors David Cotter and Richard Costello are the recipients of the very prestigious HRB (Health Research Board) Clinician Scientist Awards. These outstanding successes, which are jointly supported by RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, will enable Professors Cotter and Costello to increase their time commitment in research and to maximize the benefit of their engagement in translational research projects in psychosis and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease respectively.

Building on a long standing collaboration, Professor Fergal O'Brien and Professor John O'Byrne secured funding (€1.3M) under the HRB-SFI (Science Foundation Ireland) Translational Research Award (TRA) scheme. This is a very prestigious award, which in 2012 was conferred to only three Irish translational teams. The RCSI award will support a project where the clinical expertise of Professor O'Byrne will guide from preclinical studies into the clinical trial, ChondroColl, a material developed by Professor O'Brien's group, for use in the regeneration and repair of cartilage and the underlying bone.

The HRB made an Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement funding award (€1M) to fund The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing - TILDA. This new HRB award will enable applied health research and implementation science to rapidly translate policy relevant findings from the cardiovascular domain into policy and practice. Within TILDA, the award will support a large team of researchers from Trinity College Dublin, University College London, the Health Service Executive and RCSI (Professor Tom Fahey) to study the role of autonomic function in the development of cardiovascular disease in adults thereby creating new biomarkers and opportunities for intervention.



2

1 The first malaria vaccine clinical trial to be carried out in Ireland got underway at RCSI's Clinical Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital. Pictured (l-r) are Professor Samuel McConkey, Principal Investigator and Head of the Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine; Ann Collins, Research Nurse; Liz Fogarty, Research Nurse; Kerrie Hennigan, Research Assistant; and Dr. Eoghan de Barra, Research Fellow.

2 The AIB Seed Capital Fund, co-managed by Enterprise Equity Venture Capital, completed an €500,000 equity investment in a new RCSI spin-out, SurgaColl Technologies Ltd, to commercialise breakthrough tissue regeneration technology developed by the Tissue Engineering Research Group at RCSI. Pictured (l-r) are Professor Fergal O'Brien, Project Lead of the Tissue Engineering Group; John O'Dea, Manager High Potential Start Ups - Industrial, Enterprise Ireland; Eric Reed, Partner, Enterprise Equity Venture Capital; and Dr. John Gleeson, Project & Business Development Manager.

New insights into
vitamin D and
cardiovascular
disease link



Study finds hearing
voices could be a
marker for serious
mental illness in
adolescents



Research
demonstrates
how cannabis use
during adolescence
affects brain regions
associated with
schizophrenia



RCSI hosts inaugural
BioAnalysis and
Therapeutics
Research Day

Honorary Awards

This year Professor John Waddington (MCT) received the inaugural Basic Science Award of the Schizophrenia International Research Society by the Society President, Professor Sir Robin Murray, FRS. This award was made in recognition of Professor Waddington's outstanding achievement during his 30-year career.

New Developments

A new 'Centre for Systems Medicine' was launched this year. The centre aims to employ mathematical and statistical models in combination with large-scale data gathering to develop novel systems biology tools to predict treatment responses in patients with conditions such as colorectal cancer, brain tumours, melanoma, stroke, neurodegenerative disorders and diabetes.

The centre also aims to develop new prognostic tools for more 'targeted' treatments for these patients, and aims to inform clinical decision making and improve patient care

The RCSI Research Staff Association (RRSA) was officially re-established with a meeting and the election of its committee members, and chair, Dr. Isabella Bray. The main aim of the RRSA is to positively influence and enhance the research staff experience by representing research staff in a range of activities including interactions with institutional management and administration; informing institutional policy; facilitation of career development activities; and providing overall support for fellow researchers. The RRSA also has representation on the Irish Research Staff Association (IRSA).

Impact and Breakthrough

The standing of RCSI research is also demonstrated by the high impact of the journals in which it was published. A selection of those published in high impact journals are as follows:

A ground-breaking new study led by Professor David Henshall was published in Nature Medicine. The study, involving a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and scientists from RCSI, Beaumont Hospital and the Cajal Institute in Madrid, shows that patients with epilepsy have much higher levels of microRNA-134 in the part of the brain that causes seizures. The study also shows that a new type of drug-like molecule called an antagomir can almost completely prevent epileptic seizures in models of epilepsy. This study identifies for the first time a completely new gene target underlying epilepsy and shows the potential of a new therapeutic approach to epilepsy.

Research led by Professor Jochen Prehn and published in the Journal of Neuroscience has discovered how Angiogenin protects motor neuron cells from degrading.

This is the first time that the mechanisms behind these protective qualities of the protein have been understood, which may lead to new therapeutics for the treatment of Motor Neuron Disease.

A study carried out by a clinicians and scientists team led by Professor Gerry McElvaney and Dr. Catherine Greene published in the New England Journal of Medicine, shows for the first time that oestrogen promotes the presence of the mucoid form of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the lungs of women with Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Mucoid *Ps. aeruginosa* is more difficult to treat and causes significant lung inflammation, explaining, in part, why females with CF, have a worse outcome. This study opens the way to new understanding and potential therapeutic approaches in CF. It is also the first report describing an effect of a gender hormone on infections and, as such, has major implications for conditions extending beyond CF.

Dr. Jean McBryan from Professor Leonie Young's Endocrine Oncology Research Group published a paper in Cancer Research that shows that metastatic progression with resistance to aromatase inhibitors is driven by the steroid receptor coactivator SRC-1. Cancer Research is the most frequently cited cancer journal in the world.

Dr. Oliver Schubert, Dr. Melanie Focking, Professor David Cotter, and Professor Jochen Prehn are the authors of a review published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry that assesses the role played by clathrin-mediated endocytosis and clathrin-dependent protein trafficking in the pathophysiology of psychotic disorders. The reviewers propose that targeted pharmacological manipulation of the clathrin interactome may offer fruitful opportunities for novel treatments of schizophrenia. Molecular Psychiatry is the highest impact journal in the field of Psychiatry.

Dr. Caroline Jefferies, Claire Wynne and Rowan Higgs published an article in Nature Reviews in Immunology which presents evidence for the involvement of TRIMs in autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions and highlights a role for these TRIM proteins as emerging targets in autoimmune and inflammatory disease.

Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri, Christopher Whelan, Dr. Saud Alhusaini, Professor Norman Delanty and their international collaborators published the article 'Identification of common variants associated with human hippocampal and intracranial volumes' in Nature Genetics.

Research of Dr. Aine Behan, published in Neuropsychopharmacology has shown physical changes to exist in specific brain areas implicated in schizophrenia following the use of cannabis during adolescence. Senior authors in this study include RCSI Professors David Cotter, Mary Cannon and John Waddington.

The papers highlighted above are just a small selection of the many outstanding publications that demonstrate the impact of RCSI research. Great credit should also be given to the many outstanding researchers at RCSI whose publications are not included in this report but nonetheless are worthy of recognition and pride.

Centre for Systems
Medicine launched

RCSI to embark on
major study to help
personalise care in
epilepsy treatment



Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning

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RCSI welcomed more than 500 second level students to its Open Day where the students were given advice on studying medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy. Picture shows Mikaela Forde, 6th Year student from Yeats College, Galway viewing some x-rays at the Open Day.



New undergraduate students are welcomed to the College by Faculty staff at the White Coat Ceremony.



Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences



Professor Hannah McGee
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

This was our first full academic year as an independent degree awarding institution, and the legislation coupling RCSI and the National University of Ireland (NUI) was enshrined in Irish law in June 2012.

Our independent degree awarding status requires us to evolve our governance to achieve best practice consistent with similar institutions and we made significant strides forward on our quality agenda over the last year.

We currently offer more than 60 undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, mapped to the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), in Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Nursing and Healthcare Management.

Our ongoing commitment to quality saw the creation of a new Awards and Qualifications Committee (A&QC), to oversee the process for RCSI programme accreditation, from application through to approval and continuation by RCSI's Medicine and Health Sciences Board (MHSB) and the NUI Senate.

In addition, the A&QC oversee a rolling cycle of accreditation for all RCSI programmes which offer qualifications or awards on the NFQ and which fall under the governance of the Medicine & Health Sciences Board (MHSB). I am grateful to Professor Paul Gallagher for taking on the role of Chair of this important committee in addition to his busy schedule as Head of School of Pharmacy.

Alongside our own internal reviews, we are subject to external reviews and accreditations. In November 2011, the Medical Council reviewed the undergraduate and graduate entry medical programmes. Following a fantastic effort by the whole Faculty and staff in a number of our teaching hospitals, we were delighted to receive unconditional approval for the programmes for five years, the highest level of approval. In 2012, the Medical Council also conducted successful reviews of our programmes in Penang Medical College and Perdana University, Malaysia. Furthermore, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland accredited the national Masters in Pharmacy Programme run through RCSI.

Significant progress has been made on the commitment given within DAS to develop a registry function for RCSI, and the new Student, Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA) team will come into being in the next academic year.

Our primary purpose within the Faculty continues to be to create a desire for, and to share our knowledge with, our students.

We aim to nurture, to challenge and to motivate our students to realise their full potential, not just as undergraduates, but by creating life-long learners.

The quality of our Faculty was recognised externally with Dr. Tom Farrell (Anatomy), winning a National Academy for Integration in Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) award in 2011. We are delighted that Professor Kevin Nolan (Chemistry) has been selected as a NAIRTL awardee for 2012. We are proud of our diverse and international group of students, who come from over 50 countries. In 2012, we were pleased to see Sami Backley, medical student, win the inaugural Dublin Lord Mayor's award for Best International Student. This year's conferring ceremony was even more special than normal, as we quietly celebrated the first graduate from our Traveller Access Programme.

We are committed to providing support to all our students, and we welcome Clodagh Ní Ghallachoir and Aidan Healy, Student Welfare Officers to the Faculty; working with Dr. Orna Tighe as Vice-Dean for Student Affairs, they have made a positive and noteworthy impact on the health and well-being of our student body.

RCSI is committed to the continuing development of staff and I am pleased to announce that we have re-opened our Academic Promotions Process this year, with applications invited from staff in autumn 2012. In parallel, we wanted to acknowledge the significant involvement that many clinicians and other colleagues in our affiliated teaching sites provide to the education of our students and to the wider RCSI research community. We have launched a new Honorary Appointments and Promotions process, to recognise their substantial contribution.

Since 2011, RCSI is delivering its undergraduate medical programme on three continents.

*Recognising the increasingly complex
and international nature of our
organisation, we will hold our first
International Education Forum in July
2012.*

The week-long event of discussions, forums and symposia are designed to share best practice and develop our expertise across our Dublin, Bahrain and Malaysian campuses. We will be joined in Dublin by 12 colleagues from Malaysia and 12 from Bahrain, which will no doubt, lead to many lively discussions on the contemporary issues in medical education and creating opportunities for future collaborations across three continents.

We extend our best wishes to a number of Faculty-related retirements this year including Mr. Alan Howard, HR Liason; Ms. Elizabeth Doyle, Student Welfare Officer, Beaumont Hospital; and Ms. Denise O Meara, Faculty Centre.

Conclusion

A final thanks to our excellent Faculty, supported by the hardworking Faculty Executive, for all of our shared achievements in the last year; their collective 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.



RCSI Students Chelsea Garcia and Omar Eldishish pictured at the launch of the world's first 3D surface anatomy guide for medical and physiotherapy students, surgical trainees and artists. Professor Clive Lee, Head of Anatomy was the RCSI lead on the project which was funded by RCSI and Science Foundation Ireland.



Dr. Tom Farrell, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy (left) is presented with National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) Award by Mr. Ruairi Quinn, T.D., Minister for Education and Skills. The awards recognise higher education teachers who demonstrate outstanding dedication to their teaching and have made an exceptional impact on student learning.



Pictured at the launch of the Irish Institute of Pharmacy at Dublin Castle are (l-r) Professor Paul Gallagher, Head of the School of Pharmacy, RCSI; Paul Fahey, PSI President; Carola van der Hoeft, Congress Director FIP; An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny; Ton Hoek, CEO FIP; Minister Roisin Shortall; Dr Ambrose McLoughlin, Secretary General of the Department of Health; Eoghan Hanly, PSI Vice-President; Marian Shanley, Chair of National Forum; Professor Ellis McGovern, RCSI President, and Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Register, RCSI.

School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy had its largest graduation in November 2011 with 51 graduates in the BSc (Pharm) programme, 150 graduates in the MPharm programme and 25 graduates in the MSc (Industrial Pharmaceutical Science) programme.

Also in November, for the first year, undergraduate students across all pharmacy Schools in the UK and Ireland were asked to participate in the Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association (PLEA) competition for the best bioethics essay. The 2012 First Place winner was RCSI pharmacy student, Alice Holton. In addition to the School of Pharmacy securing first prize, two other students of the School were listed in the top 10. The success of RCSI students in this competition was a strong external validation for the teaching of bioethics in RCSI.

In January 2012, a new and exciting collaboration was inaugurated with the signing of a historic 'Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)' between the School and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) Pharmacy Department.

The agreement will greatly enhance the teaching and clinical practice of pharmacy in Ireland.

RCSI's undergraduate pharmacy students will, as a consequence of this MOU, receive structured-placement based pharmacy education at MMUH which will facilitate greater contextualisation of their clinical knowledge.

In February, An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, TD and Professor Ellis McGovern, President of RCSI, launched the Irish Institute of Pharmacy. The role of the new Institute will be to oversee the management and delivery of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for pharmacists, which is now mandatory under The Pharmacy Act 2007 and to put in place a quality assurance system around CPD. RCSI has been awarded a four-year contract to operate the Institute and Dr. Helena Kelly has been appointed operational manager.

The first ever International Cardiovascular Infection Symposium (ICIS2012) was held in the spring in The Convention Centre Dublin. The ICIS2012 was held in conjunction with the biannual meeting of the Society for General Microbiology (SGM) and jointly attracted 1500 delegates from all across the world. Dr. Steve Kerrigan School of Pharmacy and Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics was Chair of the symposium organising committee. ICIS2012 provided for the first time, a platform for world leaders, scientists and next generation postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers in the fields of infection, microbiology, vascular biology and platelet biology to meet and discuss results.

The 2012 Hennessy Symposium on 'Thalidomide in Ireland: history and legacy 50 years on' took place in May 2012. This important event in the College annual calendar was co-organised by the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics. The speakers in this symposium considered how thalidomide still continues to sculpt how we understand developmental biology, the challenges of medication during pregnancy, the approval of drugs and the role of the media and investigative journalism in scrutiny of such events.

In 2011-2012 the School had its largest graduation of PhD research students who have gone on to take up prestigious academic post-doctoral, industrial research scientists roles and senior professional roles.

The School and the Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry continue to support the RCSI Research Institute through the Drug Design, Synthesis and Delivery Core. Along with academic collaborations, the School has further enhanced its clinical and industrial research collaborations this year and has been an active part of RCSI's 3U Partnership including supporting the BioAT PhD programme and a number of successful Translational Research Hub (TRH) applications. These research collaborations have been further bolstered by a recently awarded EU ITN application led by Dr. Andreas Heise (DCU) on which the School is an associated partner.

Notable research successes this year include a significant number of high impact publications in the biomedical, pharmaceutical and clinical literature; Invention Disclosure Filings to RCSI Technology Transfer Office (TTO); KelAda Ltd, the spin-out company of Professor Mauro Adamo's; and a number of research prizes including Ziga Ude, a PhD student supervised by Dr. Celine Marmion (Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry) who was awarded first prize for best oral presentation in the 'Bioinorganic Chemistry' section at the 64th Irish Universities Chemistry Research Colloquium 2012. Dr. Sally-Ann Cryan and Dr. Steve Kerrigan's work were both highlighted in this year's Health Research Board (HRB) Picture of Health and Dr. Cryan has recently been awarded a HRB Health Research Award to carry out the pre-clinical development of an innovative treatment for Tuberculosis in collaboration with Imperial College London. At a national level the School of Pharmacy is a key part of the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)-funded Strategic Research Cluster (SRC) Irish Drug Delivery Network (IDDN) and at an international level has established new research collaborations in 2011-2012 with Imperial College London (UK), Utrecht (Netherlands) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (USA).

School of Physiotherapy

To meet national and international standards in physiotherapy education, the School of Physiotherapy underwent a quality review in May.

Following submission of a Self-Assessment Report, a site visit was conducted by a Peer Review Group (PRG) comprising two external and two internal members. The PRG met with academic and clinical staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, alumni, physiotherapy managers and representatives from academic and support services departments. This process was overseen by the Quality Enhancement Office and the contribution of all stakeholders was invaluable. The PRG report is awaited and we look forward to implementing its recommendations.

In November 2011, a milestone was reached with conferring of the 10th cohort of graduates from the BSc Physiotherapy programme.

Research

During the past year, staff presented their research findings at the Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society Annual Conference, the World Congress on Active Aging, the Association for the Study of Medical Education and the American College of Rheumatology Annual Conference. Sarah Rand (RCSI Physiotherapy Graduate 2003) was awarded a Young Investigator Award at the European Cystic Fibrosis Society Conference in June for her research on the development of an incremental field exercise test for children with cystic fibrosis.

The Physiotherapy Clinical Education Team, led by Ms. Aileen Barrett, was awarded an educational initiative grant from the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL). The project involved the development of an online assessment skills module which was informed by best practice in both clinical education and online learning principles. Designed to address current issues in clinical assessment, the module is currently in pilot phase and will be completed in early September at which time it will be available to all physiotherapy educators nationally.

There was also grant success at undergraduate level with the award of Summer Student Research Grants from the Health Research Board and the RCSI Summer Student Research programme for a variety of projects including pulmonary rehabilitation, gait and hip osteoarthritis and pain management.

School of Postgraduate Studies

The last academic year has seen the second highest number of PhD, MD, MCh and MSc (by research) graduations in the history of the College.

It has also seen the first graduations of the HRB Structured PhD Programme in Diagnostics & Therapeutics for Human Disease, the first co-Tutelle PhD graduation and the launch of a new structured programme on BioAnalysis and Therapeutics. The School was again delighted to run a highly successful Transition Year Mini Med School while the Postgraduate Students Union organised a number of entertaining academic and social events. The Peer Review Group report on the quality of the School deemed it to be 'a team of committed, enthusiastic and talented individuals who engage in a wide and complex variety of activities to the benefit of RCSI and the wider community'.

Graduations 2011-2012

In the last year there were 28 PhD, 17 MD, 1 MCh and 3 MSc by research graduations. These included the first graduates of the HRB funded structured PhD programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease. Another significant landmark was the graduation of the first Co-Tutelle PhD carried out between RCSI and the University of Montpellier. This programme involves the student spending time in both institutions working under joint supervision while the Thesis Committee includes members of both institutions.

BioAnalysis & Therapeutics (BioAT) – a new structured PhD Programme

The last year saw the launch of BioAT, a collaborative structured PhD programme, funded under PRTL Cycle 5 and involving RCSI, DCU, NUIM and IT Tallaght.

BioAT is aimed at equipping young researchers with relevant expertise and knowledge to prosper in the emerging biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries in Ireland.

A total of 29 scholars commenced the programme in October 2011.

Transition Year Mini Med School

As part of its outreach activities, the School is delighted to run the annual Transition Year Mini Med School. This year we hosted 150 students from 86 schools around the country at the St. Stephen's Green and Beaumont Hospital campuses. During the week the students gained first hand insight into medical school training. They attended lectures on topics such as 'A Tour of Human Anatomy', 'Chemical Chaos', 'Why did I get a heart attack?' and 'Cystic Fibrosis' to name but a few. They also carried out clinical skills assignments and observed two live operations. The efforts of our clinical and non-clinical academic and technical staff ensured that the students enjoyed an unforgettable experience.

Postgraduates Students Union (PGSU)

The Postgraduate Students' Union (PGSU) represents postgraduate students in all aspects of graduate life including highlighting graduate issues, lobbying for improvements and providing support. In the past year the PGSU with the School organised a Postgraduate/Postdoctoral Careers Seminar, which involved speakers from the Health Research Board, Science Foundation Ireland, Science Recruitment Ireland and Pfizer. This successful event was attended by delegates from RCSI, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth, the University of Limerick, NUI Galway, and University College Cork. The PGSU also organised a welcome reception for new postgraduates as well as movie, ice skating, race and quiz nights which raised funds for chosen charities.

Quality Review

In order to meet National and European objectives, the School underwent a quality review in May 2011, the first RCSI unit to do so. This was overseen by the Quality Enhancement Office and was carried out by an International Peer Review Group.

The report of the Group included comments such as 'The School is a team of committed, enthusiastic and talented individuals who engage in a wide and complex variety of activities to the benefit of RCSI and the wider community'.

Another comment was 'The universal opinion of all stakeholder groups interviewed was that the SPGS [School of Postgraduate Studies] staff delivers an excellent service'. The School is engaging with the Quality Enhancement Office in implementing recommendations in the report.



1 Research postgraduates at the June Conferring ceremony pictured with the Dean, Professor Hannah McGee; Professor Kevin Nolan and Dr. Helen McVeigh, School of Postgraduate Studies; and Dr. Stephen Keely, Molecular Medicine.

2 Pictured at the launch of the BioAT programme are (l-r) Professor Brian MacCraith, President, DCU; Professor Philip Nolan, President, NUI Maynooth; Mr. Ruairi Quinn T.D., Minister for Education and Skills; Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive, RCSI and Dr. Christine Loscher, BioAT Programme Coordinator.

Future Initiatives

In order to sustain its activities the School with the Admissions Office is embarking on increasing its intake of non-EU students. The School is represented on the High Level Group on Irish Education Co-operation with Brazil and has visited the country for 'Salao do Estudante 2012' in Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre and for meetings with representatives of Brazil's funding agencies in Brasilia. It is also actively recruiting in Iraq, Jordan and Malaysia.

Acknowledgement

Professor Kevin B. Nolan would like to thank Dr. Helen McVeigh, Postgraduate Programmes Manager; Ms. Cliona Lyes, HRB PhD Programmes Administrator; Ms. Bernadette Kearney, School Secretary; all postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers and their supervisors; the School of Postgraduate Studies Committee and the Postgraduate Students Union for making the last year such a successful one for the School.

Institute of Leadership

This year has seen the continuing development of the Institute of Leadership in response to the increasing demands for the postgraduate development of health professionals. Most professional bodies now require their members to engage in continuing professional development and improving one's leadership and management capability is increasingly seen as integral to this.

A survey this year of our graduates revealed that 96 per cent had learned to apply leadership and management principles to new situations, 93 per cent rated their university experience as very worthwhile and 91 per cent had gained the confidence to try out new ideas. Speaking about the Institute's Masters programmes, one Irish hospital CEO said:

"The change in our staff who are taking these programmes is extraordinary. Individuals, who would never have previously stepped up to take the lead in solving problems, are now looking for opportunities to do so. The impact of having a critical mass of mid-line managers, who are undertaking this education, on the organisational development of the hospital cannot be overstated."



Pictured are Institute staff with the Quality Enhancement Office site visit team who were Professor Niamh Moran, Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics; Mr. Paul Murphy, Deputy Librarian; Dr. Norma Ryan, Director of Quality Promotion, University College Cork; and Professor John Burgoyne, Professor of Management and Leadership, University of Lancaster.

This year we conferred Masters degrees in Healthcare Management; Leadership and Management Development; and Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management on 153 health professionals in Dublin, Dubai, Bahrain and Jordan.

This year also saw the further development of the Institute's two new programmes, the MSc in Leadership and Health Professions Education and the MSc in Organisational Change and Leadership Development, the latter run jointly with Dublin City University and Beaumont Hospital. The Hospital was recognised for this unique initiative by the Irish Institute of Training and Development at its awards ceremony in March. Further development also took place in the range of our consultancy and short programmes.

Institute staff continue to share their expertise and skills within RCSI and beyond. We continue to collaborate with the School of Pharmacy on the MPharm programme, with the Department of Surgery on the MCh programme, and with the School of Postgraduate Studies on research. We provide academic accreditation for the Irish Hospice Foundation's MSc in Bereavement Studies and Diploma in Children and Loss.

Externally, we continue to develop our relationships with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (Senior House Officers Personal Professional Development Programmes); the Irish College of Psychiatry (Introduction to Leadership); the Irish College of Psychiatrists; the UCD Faculty of Medicine (Train the Trainer for Clinical Trainers); RCSI Bahrain Faculty; and we are planning a new collaboration with the College of Anaesthetists to provide a professional development programme for Basic Specialist Trainees.

Guest speakers this year included Mr. John O'Brien, former Chief Executive at St. James's Hospital, Dr. Maura Pidgeon, Chief Executive Officer of An Bord Altranais, Mr. Tony O'Brien current Chief Executive of the HSE and Dr. Alan Smith, Director of Performance Improvement at the Special Delivery Unit, Department of Health. In March 2012, Mr. Ruairi Quinn, TD, Minister for Education and Skills visited the Institute, met with staff and addressed a group of Masters' students on leadership and the Irish education system.

The Institute undertook two significant quality reviews: a major internal/external review in collaboration with the RCSI Quality Enhancement Office and a major external re-licensure review by the Commission for Academic Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates. The Institute also joined the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), a non-prescriptive management framework that is widely used in public and private sector organisations throughout Europe and beyond. Plans are at an advanced stage to appoint a Director of Quality and Accreditation.

This year also saw the launch of a new research initiative on child protection and self generated content on the internet. The programme is a collaboration with a number of police forces including Interpol, the London Metropolitan Police and the Garda Síochána as well as a number of law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Faculty of Dentistry



Professor Gerard Kearns
Dean, Faculty of Dentistry

The past year has been a busy and fruitful period for the Faculty of Dentistry. I am grateful to the Board and Committees members who generously give their time and in many instances, travel long distances to attend the College.

In particular to Dr. John Walsh, Vice Dean; Dr. Christine McCreary, Chair of the Education Committee; Dr. Gerry Cleary, Chair of the Finance and General Purpose Committee; and Dr. Chris Lynch, Honorary Editor for the Faculty. Dr. Peter Cowan continues in his role as CEO at the Faculty and Mr. Sean Sheridan serves as International Post Graduate Advisor with an ever increasing workload.

Overseas Programmes

The Overseas Programmes continue to expand. The MFD (Membership of the Faculty Dentistry) and MGDS (Membership in General Dental Surgery) programmes in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation (KIMS), under Director Dr. Essam Zaatar remain successful with increasing numbers of graduate students enrolling.

The MFD Examinations are conducted in a number of other centres in the Middle East including Jordan, Bahrain and Ajman. I am grateful for the hospitality shown to RCSI by the Faculty in these centres, and acknowledge the contribution of Professor Ahd and Professor Elham in Jordan University of Science and Technology; Professor Kifah Jamani and Dr. Darwish Badran in the University of Jordan; Professor Salem Abu Fanas and Dr. Sam Thomas in Ajman; Professor Robin O'Sullivan, who is a tireless worker for the Faculty; and Dr Alberto Quinto in Bahrain.

The recent Faculty collaboration with Sudan is in large part due to the efforts of Dr. Nadia Ahmed Yahia and Dr. Osama Omer who have been instrumental in developing and consolidating these links. The MFD Part I Examinations are now held regularly in Sudan and the Faculty looks forward to our continued and increased involvement in the programme.

The RCSI/New York University International Oral Surgery programme graduated the first cohort of Residents in June 2012, when the FFD (Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry) Examination was held in New York. The development of this programme is due to vision of Dr Brendan O'Connor, Attending Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at New York University (NYU). The support of Professor Charles Bertolami,



Pictured (l-r) are Professor Gerard Kearns, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry; Ms. Caoimhe McVeigh, Dental Student Queens University Belfast and Recipient of the McGimpsey Prize; Mrs Pippa McGimpsey; and Dr. Peter Cowan, CEO, Faculty of Dentistry.

Dean, NYU College of Dentistry and Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI and Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs, is integral to the success of the programme.

Academic activities in Dublin

There was an excellent academic programme for the Annual Scientific Meeting which was held in October 2011 with the theme of "Prosthodontics and Endodontics" under the stewardship of Dr. Sean Malone and preceded by an endodontic course run by Dr. Hal Duncan.

The monthly postgraduate Saturday morning lecture series continues with a diverse lecture schedule designed both as a preparation for the MFD and also for provision of appropriate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits to those attending.

The course carries credits for both dental and medical CPD.

The recent College conferrings were marked by the awarding of FFD (By Election) to the eminent Professor David Bouchier-Hayes and Professor Vincent McLoughlin who have both made significant contributions to the Faculty of Dentistry over many years.

2012 marked the presentation of the inaugural Professor John McGimpsey Prize. John was a hugely liked and respected Dean of the Faculty and a Consultant Oral Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast. The Prize is awarded to a final year dental student at Queens University and the inaugural recipient was Ms. Caoimhe McVeigh.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the role of Dr. John Marley, Professor Donald Burden and Mrs Pippa McGimpsey and her family for their role in this award.

Finally, 2013, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Faculty of Dentistry. We are planning a number of academic and social events around this occasion. I would like to invite all Fellows, Members and Licentiatees to be involved, and welcome any suggestions and ideas.

Faculty Board

Professor Gerard Kearns
Dean

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Vice-Dean

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Mr. Sean Sheridan
Professor Duncan Sleeman

Faculty of Radiologists



Dr. Adrian Brady
Dean, Faculty of Radiologists

It has been a busy year for Faculty Board members, Committee members, trainers, trainees and office staff who have dealt with a vast range of issues on behalf of our specialties, in times of increasing pressures and anxieties about the ability of our health services to cope with demand.

Accreditation

We have been successful in achieving the maximum-possible five-year accreditation by the Medical Council for our activities as a training body and for our Diagnostic Radiology training programme.

National Radiology Programme

Under the leadership of Drs. Niall Sheehy and Peter Kavanagh, the National Radiology Programme has been working in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other clinical programmes to represent the interests of radiology and to evaluate if and how we can improve the services we offer our patients. Programme priorities include establishment of performance measurement metrics, collation of national data on resources and capacity, development of GP direct-access protocols, and integration with other programmes to facilitate delivery of their priorities where possible.

This programme is the principal means by which we can feed our experience, knowledge and understanding of our specialty into central HSE planning and expectations.

Professional Competence

The Faculty-run Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) has been running since May 2011. The scheme has achieved almost-100% participation of the expected registrants at the time of writing, and we have successfully completed the required audits and reports to the Medical Council at the end of the first year of the PCS.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Much of the focus of the Radiology QA programme in recent months has been on the need to put in place an IT infrastructure which will allow practising radiologists record many of the recommended elements of QA, without interfering excessively with their day-to-day work and report departmental QA data into the central repository.

We have recently secured Department of Finance approval to go to tender for a national IT support system, with a view to beginning implementation later in 2012.

In the meantime, many individuals and departments have been implementing those elements of QA which are possible on a manual basis.

Relations with HSE and MET

We have now completed the second year of our formal agreement with HSE Medical Education and Training (MET), covering our responsibilities in delivering training and the supports made available to the Faculty by MET for our training activities. We maintain a very positive relationship with our contacts in MET and we anticipate a third annual agreement by late summer.

RCSI Governance

Our financial and HR relations with RCSI are now on a more-formal footing, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with RCSI officers in 2011. This has brought significantly more clarity to our operations in these areas.

RCSI governance structures have changed in the past two years and the Faculty Dean now sits on the College Surgery and Postgraduate Faculties Board. This Board has been a useful means of sharing knowledge and experience among the different bodies housed within the College.

Radiation Oncology

The Radiation Oncology training programme is changing this year from being based in St. Luke's Hospital and UCH Galway, to a national programme, under the direction of a single National Training Coordinator with local coordinators in the participating centres. An additional part-time Faculty office staff member has been recruited to provide the necessary administrative support.

Information Technology

In the past year, we have upgraded and enhanced the IT infrastructure of the Faculty office, and have commenced the process of moving our Fellowship exams to a digital format. A project to digitise the office files commenced in July 2012.

Validation

Assessment of applications to the Medical Council for Specialist Registration remains a very important Faculty function, carefully managed by the Validation Committee. We continue to have complex, but generally positive relations with the Medical Council on this matter.

Forum

The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies (PGTB) is a very-helpful central body representing all PGTBs in areas of common interest with the HSE and Medical Council. Membership has proven very useful on a number of occasions in recent years; for example, many of the details of the Professional Competence Schemes have been homogenised across all PGTBs through the Forum.

Office staff & space

Our office staff complement has more than doubled over the past few years, under the direction of our Executive Officer, Ms. Jennifer O'Brien, to whom we are indebted for the continued smooth running of our activities

The Faculty has outgrown its current accommodation. In the past few months, we have re-modeled our existing offices to provide sufficient workspace for our staff and we are in active negotiation with RCSI to acquire additional space for our administrative and educational activities.

Faculty Board

Dr. Adrian Brady
Dean

Dr. Peter Ellis
Vice-Dean

Dr. Barry Kelly
Honorary Secretary & Dean Elect

Professor Dermot Malone
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Dr. Clare Faul
Dr. Eoin Kavanagh
Dr. Peter Kavanagh
Dr. Maeve Pomeroy
Dr. Max Ryan
Dr. Niall Sheehy
Dr. Declan Sheppard



1 Pictured at the December Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony are (l-r) Dr. Leo Galvin, Fellowship in Radiodiagnosis; Dr. Adrian Brady, Dean, Faculty of Radiologists; and Dr. Sarah Barrett, Fellowship in Radiodiagnosis.

2 Pictured at the Faculty of Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting and Honorary Conferring Ceremony are (l-r) Dr. Clare Faul; Dr. Jane Barrett; Mr. Paddy Broe, Vice-President of RCSI; Dr. Adrian Brady, Dean of the Faculty; Professor Andr s Palk ; Dr. Burton Dayer; Dr. Barry Kelly; and Dr. Niall Sheehy.

Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Nursing



Ms. Edna Woolhead
Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and
Midwifery



Professor Seamus Cowman
Head of the School of Nursing

From its foundation and inauguration in 1974, the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery has sought to maintain the highest standards in education and training for 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 were 649 students registered with the Faculty and School. The programmes are delivered on a part-time basis at bachelors, masters, postgraduate 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.

Research Achievements

In order to meet the needs of a continuously changing health care environment and maintain best practice, nursing research is essential. The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery continues to engage in collaborative national and international research projects. Faculty staff have successfully played a leading role in research and development both nationally and internationally.

The number of MSc research and PhD candidates are growing annually with students from Ireland and Bahrain currently enrolled.



Pictured at the 31st Annual Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery International Conference are (l-r) Bernie Carpenter, Mater Hospital; Helen Walsh, National Maternity Hospital; Edna Woolhead, incoming Dean of the Faculty; Dr Aine Colgan, former Dean of the Faculty; Professor Regina Cusson, Plenary Speaker; and Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of Department.

A three-year Health Research Board (HRB) funded study, led by Professor Cowman, to develop, implement and evaluate best practice for day surgery in Ireland is progressing well. There are currently two MSc research students engaged in further research arising out of the project and one MD student recently completed their work on the study. Some of the study findings were accepted for oral presentation at the British Association for Day Surgery Conference in Leeds in 2012, and were awarded the Brendan Devlin prize at the Waterford Surgical Meeting.

Other projects include a European study of current practice in management of violence in psychiatry. This project is in partnership with the European Violence in Psychiatry research group and includes Professor Seamus Cowman, Dr. Georgina Gethin and Mr. Eric Clarke. In May, members of the RCSI wounds research group were invited to present their current research at the 22nd Conference of the European Wound Management Association in Vienna. The International eDelphi study of research and education priorities in wound healing and tissue repair have been published in the Journal of Clinical Nursing.

Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, International Nursing and Midwifery Research & Education Conference

Each year the Faculty hosts an international nursing and midwifery research and education conference. This year the conference celebrated its 31st year, with over 210 national and international delegates in attendance. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Karen Morin, the 2009-2011 President of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International; with plenary presentations from Professor Michael Traynor, Professor Regina Cusson, Ms. Paddie Blaney and Ms. Maureen Flynn.

Challenges for the Future

The Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 will have a major impact on the requirement for nurses and midwives to demonstrate ongoing competence development and maintenance. It will be a challenge to meet this requirement as nurses and midwives work in an ever changing health service, meaning that demands on competency are ever present. Changing population demographics, an ageing population, increasing expectation on the health service, in tandem with severe fiscal constraints means the service delivery has to respond accordingly.

The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Nursing actively support change, occurring within an environment cognisant of patient safety and improved clinical outcomes.

In doing so, the Faculty and School are supporting the profession to lead cost effective efficient healthcare services, in increasingly challenging clinical environments

Faculty Board

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Dr Áine Colgan
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Council Representative

Professor Seamus Cowman

Professor Marie Carney
Ms. Catherine Clune-Mulvaney
Ms. Mary Jacob
Ms. Mary MacMahon
Ms. Eileen Maher
Ms. Mary Murray



1 Pictured at the 31st Annual Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Conference are (l-r) Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of Department; Professor Eilis McGovern, President; Dr Áine Colgan, former Dean of the Faculty; and Ms Elizabeth Adams, who was awarded an Honorary Fellowship.

2 Professor Seamus Cowman, Head of Department and Mary O'Neill Programme Director (pictured centre) with BSc (Hons) Bridging graduates (l-r) Susan Abraham, Jessie Baby and Ushas Devasia.

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI and RCSI



Dr. Joseph Cummiskey
Dean, Faculty of Sports and Exercise
Medicine, RCPI and RCSI

I am honoured to have been appointed Dean of the Faculty in November and I would like to congratulate the previous Faculty Deans and past and present Board Members for their dedication and work they have done for the specialty. We are now on the eve of our ten year anniversary which will take place later this year and we will be celebrating with representatives from both colleges, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and RCSI.



Pictured (l-r) are Professor Karim Miran-Khan, Honorary Fellow; Dr. Philip Carolan, Former Dean of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine; and Professor Donal O'Shea, Honorary Fellow, at the September 2011 Annual Scientific Conference.

The past year has also been marked with the election of five new Board Members and the appointment of a new Faculty Administrator. We have completed our first year of the Professional Competence Scheme under the leadership of Vice-Dean Dr. L. Joe Conway and we will be embarking on a re-accreditation process as a Postgraduate Training Body with the Medical Council over the coming months.

Postgraduate Training

The Dean represents the Faculty on both the RCSI Surgery and Postgraduate Faculty Board and the RCPI Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies. The Faculty's proposed HST (SpR) programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine and the Medical Council re-accreditation process are high on the Faculty's agenda for the past year and will remain so for another year. We have been finalising our curriculum, the programme and its delivery and we will be meeting again with the Health Service Executive's Medical Education and Training Unit (HSE MET) unit over the coming weeks.

International Activities

We have strong connections with the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (UK), and we are actively committed to our International affiliates of EFSMA (European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations) and FIMS (Fédération Internationale de Médecine du Sport). EFSMA is the chosen European group of the UEMS, MJC, SM in Europe where Sports Medicine is about to become a recognised speciality.

Fellows and Members

We value the support that our Fellows and Members have shown us over the years and recently began a process of re-evaluating what we can offer them. The process began with an online survey to our Fellows and Members this Spring and their feedback will be reviewed over the coming months. We are proposing alterations in our standing orders to allow a larger number of young investigators and doctors from other specialties to be part of our Faculty.

We have increased our communications by e-mail and are regularly updating the Faculty website (www.rcsi.ie/fsem). We are also planning to hold regular professional meetings and journal clubs around the country.

Events

Another successful Annual Scientific Conference was held in RCSI last September with an increase in delegates attending again this year. This is the biggest annual event for the Faculty, and I would like to thank our Organising Committee, especially our Chairman Dr. Mary Archer, for organising a very interesting meeting. Honorary Fellowships were awarded to Professor Karim Miran-Khan (Canada), and Professor Donal Brendan O'Shea (Ireland).

We have participated in the RCPI Masterclass in Sports and Exercise Medicine which was held in the RCPI to a live audience of 100 in June and was also broadcast live to more than 25 hospitals nationwide. We would like to thank Dr Diarmuid O'Shea for his invitation to run this Masterclass at RCPI.

Education

The Faculty runs the Diploma in Musculoskeletal Examination and Injury Management jointly with the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and we are currently finalising details of a new "Standard Principles of Resuscitation and Trauma in Sports (SPoRTS) Immediate Care Course".

This annual report marks the ten year anniversary of the Faculty, and we look forward to continuing to support our elite athletes, promote physical activity for the health of the individual and the community and start to train the next generation of sports and exercise medicine specialists for many years to come.

Faculty Board

Dr. Joseph Cummiskey
Dean

Dr. John O'Riordan
Honorary Secretary

Dr. L. Joe Conway
Vice-Dean

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Mr. Paddy Broe
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Professor John Crowe
President, RCPI

Mr. Frank McManus
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Professor N. G. McElvaney
Representative of RCPI Council

Dr. Alan Byrne
Dr. Philip Carolan
Dr. Bill Cuddihy
Dr. Eanna Falvey
Dr. Nick Mahony
Professor Michael Molloy
Professor W. Arthur Tanner
Dr. Michael Webb
Dr. Rod McLoughlin
Representative of Irish Institute of Sport

Dr. Nick Webborn /
Prof. Mark Batt
FSEM UK Representatives

RCSI International

*Undergraduate medical
students at the new
Perdana University
(PU)- RCSI School in
Medicine in Malaysia*





Pictured (left) is Professor Tom Collins, President of RCSI Bahrain, presenting graduates with their certificates at the conferring ceremony in June 2012.

RCSI International Projects

In 2011/2012, RCSI continued to deliver premium medical and healthcare programmes in the Middle East and Asia, with the new medical school at Perdana University, Malaysia, now up and running.

RCSI Bahrain

Over the past year, the RCSI – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) developed and adopted a new five year strategic plan which will guide the development of the University up to the year 2017. The plan is built on three pillars: Teaching and Learning, Research and Community Engagement. It envisages an increase in student numbers of about 40 per cent over the duration of the plan; the development of a number of key research clusters around four research themes; a broadening of the range of programmes especially at postgraduate level and the establishment of an active Community Engagement and Outreach programme. The plan also envisages some significant structural changes in the management of the institution and in supporting its commitment to quality and student-centred learning.

The year was marked by a number of new appointments at management level in the University. Professor Thomas Collins was appointed as the third President of RCSI Bahrain in September 2011 replacing Dr Faisal Al-Mousawi. Professor Collins is President Emeritus of NUI Maynooth and is former Professor of Education there. Professor Sameer Ootom, the former Dean of the School of Medicine, was promoted to the post of Vice President for Academic Affairs. Professor Martin Corbally replaced Professor Niall O'Higgins as Head of Surgery. Dr Kathryn Strachan joined RCSI Bahrain as the first Head of Quality Enhancement. Mohammad Abdulla was promoted to Head of Estates and Ms Julie Sprakel was appointed as the first University Community Engagement Officer.

Work is due to be completed by mid-September 2012 on a new Library and Resource Centre on campus. The refurbishment will yield an additional 1250 square metres and will free up existing space for teaching and examination purposes. Furthering its commitment to student-centred learning, the University will open its Learning Drop-In Centre in September of this year. The Centre will be staffed by two full time tutors who will support students in basic sciences and in English language skills. It will also provide a range of additional learning supports for the purposes of self-directed, problem based learning.

King Hamad University Hospital was opened in February 2012. The Hospital is a 220 bed state-of-the-art tertiary facility. Along with Royal Medical Services Hospital and Salmaniya Hospitals, it will provide facilities and supports for clinical placement of medical and nursing students and internship opportunities for our graduates. The University has two joint appointments with the Hospital: Professor Martin Corbally, Head of Surgery and Professor Eamon Tierney, Anaesthesiology.

The annual graduation ceremony took place on June 11th. A total of 201 graduates were conferred: 60 from the School of Medicine; 75 from the School of Nursing; and 66 Masters Graduates. This latter group included 27 graduates who were the first to receive the MSc in Nursing, not only within this University, but within the GCC gulf region.

All the University's programmes are currently being assessed by the Bahrain Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training (QAAET). The School of Medicine has already successfully come through this process. RCSI Bahrain also successfully gained official recognition from the United Arab Emirates and Jordan this year.

Perdana University – RCSI School of Medicine, Malaysia

The first academic year for Perdana University (PU)-RCSI commenced in September 2011.

A total of 70 students sat the end of year examinations. The fantastic results achieved by these students can be attributed to the highly qualified and dedicated faculty, the quality of the teaching facilities, the intensive staff to student ratio, excellent student attendance and professional student and academic support.

Professor A J Cunningham, Dean, leads the academic and administrative team at PU-RCSI, consisting of staff seconded from RCSI and local appointments and supported by a Programme Office in Dublin. In their first year, this team have successfully gained accreditation for the undergraduate medical programme from the National University of Ireland (NUI), the Irish Medical Council and the Malaysian Medical Council. Graduates of the PU-RCSI medical programme will receive the MB BCh BAO degree of NUI.

Critical to success in Malaysia is the support provided by RCSI faculty through Mr. David Gallagher and Ms. Marguerite Harvey in the Programme Office.

Support structures for PU-RCSI students include their own unique Medical Humanities and Complementary Skills, English Language Support, Communication and Professionalism programmes. Student life has been enhanced at the Perdana University campus with the establishment of a number of clubs and societies.

Demand for places for the new academic year has been strong, with over 400 applicants. The Dean and his team continue to build on the achievements to date and look forward to the challenges ahead for 2012-2013 and beyond.



1

Penang Medical College

RCSI and University College Dublin (UCD) jointly operate a programme at Penang Medical College (PMC) in which students undertake their pre-clinical training in Dublin and their clinical training in Penang. Graduates are awarded the MB BCh BAO of the NUI and the Licentiates of the RCSI and RCPI. PMC graduates are immediately registrable on the Irish and Malaysian medical registers. On 17th June 2012, the 12th cohort of 108 PMC graduates was conferred.

In November 2011, the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education awarded PMC a 6 Star (Distinction) rating in its Malaysian Quality Evaluation System (MYQUEST) for Private Colleges. PMC was one of only three Private Colleges in Malaysia to gain the highest grading.



2

1 Pictured at the launch of the PU-RCSI School of Medicine in Malaysia are (l-r) Professor Anthony Cunningham, Dean, PU-RCSI School of Medicine; Professor Eilis McGovern, President; Dr. John Donohoe, President, RCPI; Dr. Jeanne Moriarty, President College of Anaesthetists of Ireland; and Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

2 Graduates from Penang Medical College pictured with (l-r) Dr. Maurice Manning, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences; Mr. Paddy Broe, Vice-President, RCSI; Professor Bill Powderly, Head of the School of Medicine and Medical Science, UCD, Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive.

In February 2012 the Irish Medical Council paid an accreditation visit to PMC. In May, it approved the PMC programme for a period of five years under the terms of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. PMC is currently the only medical school in Malaysia fully approved by the Irish Medical Council to conduct a programme that leads to the award in Malaysia of an Irish medical degree.

The College was delighted that, following his election, President Michael D. Higgins, graciously consented to being the Patron of PMC.

PMC looks forward to graduating its 1000th doctor in June 2013. The joint RCSI/UCD/PMC programme continues to be highly regarded in Malaysia and 150 students entered the programme in September, with 75 students going to RCSI and 75 to UCD.



Professor Ciaran O'Boyle, Director of the Institute of Leadership, addresses an Alumni event in Dubai.

Institute of Leadership - International Activities

The Institute of Leadership continues to expand its international activities.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Institute achieved re-licensure and the number of students taking the MSc courses continues to grow. A highly successful inaugural RCSI Dubai Alumni meeting was organized in Dubai in November to further develop relationships with Alumni throughout the Middle East. The Institute also organized an international workshop on Quality of Life in January in Dubai.

In May, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Sharjah setting out the intention of the two organizations to collaborate in the development of education and research in the areas of professional development, leadership and academic development.

The Institute continued its development in Bahrain with the appointment of a new programme director and the launch of a new recruitment drive to increase student numbers on the MSc and Diploma programmes. Increased collaboration with RCSI Bahrain is planned and this was inaugurated with a Train the Trainer programme for Clinical Faculty, delivered by Institute personnel.

The partnership with the University of Yarmouk in Jordan has been in place since 2003 and continues, with increasing student numbers taking the MSc in Health Services Management.

Institute staff contributed programmes for government health regulators and service providers in the Middle East, specifically the Supreme Council of Health, Qatar, SEHA, the Abu Dhabi Health Services Company and the Central Board of Accreditation for Healthcare Institutions, Saudi Arabia. A significant contribution was also made to the RCSI-COSECSEA project in sub-Saharan Africa. Six "Train the Trainer" courses were delivered in July for leading surgeons in Rwanda (Kigali), Zambia (Lusaka) and Zimbabwe (Harare and Bulawayo). Participants completed the Institute's on-line Train the Trainer course and then attended a one day training programme.

The coming year will see an increase in student numbers in Dubai and Bahrain as well as new initiatives in Sharjah, Vietnam and Malaysia.

International Alumni, Fellows and Members

RCSI prides itself on being a truly international organisation with its Alumni, Fellows and Members spanning the globe and playing key roles in the delivery of healthcare.

One of the major events in the College calendar is Alumni Weekend. In September 2011, 225 alumni from the four corners of the world returned to the College to celebrate special reunions, to renew friendships and to strengthen their ties with RCSI.

The North American Chapter of Fellows meeting took place in October 2011 in San Francisco. The meeting was hosted by Professor Eilis McGovern, President and was held during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Clinical Congress with over 40 Fellows, Graduates and Council Members of the College and the Presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and Royal College of Surgeons in England attending the event.

UAE based alumni organised an inaugural Chapter event which provided alumni in the region with opportunities to develop relationships and to network socially and professionally.

The event organised by Dr. Mohammad Al-Redha and Dubai-based alumni, was attended by senior members of RCSI including Professor Eilis McGovern, President; Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive; Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences; Professor Tom Collins President, RCSI Bahrain and Professor Ciaran O'Boyle, Head of the Institute of Leadership.



Pictured at the Alumni Weekend are Sidel Gedde-Dahl Alme and Gunnar Alme (Class of '76)

Development Office



1 Pictured are RCSI PhD students from RCSI Irene Babina and Katie O'Brien launching the 'Be Breast Aware: Have a Feel Day' campaign by Aviva Health Insurance and Breast Cancer Ireland.

2 Pictured in the RCSI Library is medical student, Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn.



RCSI's Priorities

2012-2015

The College is currently in consultative phase with all of its stakeholders and below are some of the initial aspirations for future fundraising needs for 2012-2015

The Student Experience

With the proposed redevelopment of York Street as a significant part of the RCSI Campus Community, we will be providing students with state of the art innovative new facilities including;

- A state of the art modern **Library Learning Resource Centre**: A modern, spacious, welcoming environment with flexible spaces for single study, group work and social interaction, equipped with the latest on-line resources and technology. In addition we will create an enhanced **Language and Communication Skills Centre** supporting our international communities, enhancing their language proficiency, learning and study skills for third level study within an Irish tertiary context
- **The Colles Institute**, a world leader in the development and delivery of surgical training based education, training and assessment with the capacity to provide for a Centre for Research and Development (CR&D) which will provide clinical research services and facilitate clinical research by surgeons and by industry in Ireland and internationally.
- An **Educational Resource** which will accommodate modern teaching practices across a range of disciplines and provide enhanced facilities for annual conferring and large conference settings
- An **Exhibition and Interactive Space** that will pay tribute to the medical leaders of the past, present and future innovators

Research – People and Programmes

Research at RCSI will have particular emphasis on the following core areas:

- Neuroscience
- Neurodegeneration & Stroke
- Epilepsy
- Cardiovascular
- Cancer – Breast
- Respiratory/Cystic Fibrosis

Community Access – A College without Walls

Providing access and services to those in need through the following programmes:

- REACH (Recreation, Education and Community Health)
- RCSI Programme RCSI/ COSECSA (College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa) Collaboration Programme aims to improve the standards of surgical care, education, training and examinations in various regions of Africa.

Breast Cancer Research at RCSI

*Breast Cancer Ireland raised in excess of
€1.65M for RCSI-led breast cancer research
and advancement in the past year.*

With the generous support from donations and seed funding from Aviva Health, Breast Cancer Ireland has created the first collaborative initiative within the eight designated cancer centres in Ireland. With specialist breast research nurses in each centre, tissue and serum samples from all breast cancer patients diagnosed nationally can be collected, profiled and collated, giving researchers access to a larger sample resource, ultimately helping to speed up discovery and affect more positive treatment options.

The RCSI breast cancer research team have uncovered a significant breakthrough in predicting the severity of breast cancer in patients diagnosed. The team have identified “biomarkers” in a patient’s blood that will highlight potential for disease recurrence, and thereby allow for the development for more personalised / individualised treatment.

Educational Awareness campaigns during the year included the “Have A Feel Day Campaign” in collaboration with Aviva Health targeting 20-40 year old women to become more breast aware.

Highlights of fundraising events during the year included the inaugural Great Pink Run in September which raised €90,000 and the Breast Cancer Ireland Golf Classic at Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort in May which raised €35,000 for Breast Cancer Research.

Community

1 Pictured at the REACH RCSI Sports Day are (l-r) Raluca Buda, Avnie Kali Tyagi and Michid Byambajav.

2 Pictured are Transition Year (TY) students Melissa Nolan, Mark Milner and Ruth Kearney at the TY Mini Med Programme.





1 Pictured (l-r) at the 'Come to your Senses' Summer Course are Primary School Teachers Fiona De Brún, Eimear Sally and Mary O'Sullivan with Dr. Kenny Winser, Department of Physiology and Medical Physics.

As a leading institution in healthcare, medicine and research, RCSI endeavours to advance the health and well-being of people worldwide. The College recognises the significance of education and health management in both the life of an individual and a community and is committed to finding ways in which to give back to our communities both in Ireland and overseas. We support and salute the efforts of many of our staff, students and fellows who volunteer their time and skills on a continued basis.

Community Initiatives in Ireland

REACH (Recreation Education And Community Health) RCSI is the College's community outreach and access programme. Established in 2007, the programme continues to promote and support the participation of those from lower socio-economic groups in education and promote lifelong health in the local community of South East Inner City Dublin. The REACH RCSI programme works closely with DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools in the Dublin 2 and Dublin 8 areas.

Participants of the REACH RCSI programme during 2011 /2012 benefited from participation in initiatives such as:

- Free one to one tuition at Junior and Leaving Certificate Homework and Grinds Clubs
- Bursary for College
- Work experience placements at RCSI
- Guidance and support with college applications, grant applications and CV preparation
- Kiran Pathak Scholarship in Pharmacy
- Sports Day at RCSI Sports Grounds
- Free Health Checks provided annually by the staff at Mercer's Medical Centre

A highlight of the REACH programme this year included RCSI hosting the National Final of Debating Science Issues competition for the first time on April 19th 2012. This cross border debating competition brought together students from 40 secondary schools to engage in debate on the cultural, societal and ethical implications of advances in biomedical science. Funded by the Wellcome Trust, the workshop series and debating competition is a collaboration between nine science research and discovery centres throughout Ireland. Prior to the Round One debates, facilitators from RCSI visited four local DEIS

schools for workshops on the topic of vaccination. The programme is managed within RCSI by Dr. Maria Morgan, Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics and Ms. Maria Kelly, REACH programme. Several members of RCSI staff acted as judges for the early round debates and Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy Chief Executive, judged the All-Ireland semi-final.

A participating teacher commented:

"The competition got the students to think about biology in a different light and has improved their understanding of biomedical issues, their English literacy, their scientific vocabulary and their self-confidence."

Primary Science for Teachers Initiative

Primary school teachers from around Ireland participated in the 'Come to Your Senses' summer course which took place in July 2011. The Primary Science for Teachers Initiative is a component of the REACH RCSI programme. The course uses the theme of the human senses to enable primary school teachers to develop their interest and enthusiasm for teaching science with direct relevance to the primary science curriculum for Social Environmental and Science Education (SESE).

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 RCSI MiniMed School Open Lecture Series, presented by leading health professionals and academics from RCSI, provided an informative and entertaining series of free public lectures. The lectures took place monthly from October 2011 to March 2012, with two lectures taking place at each session on a range of healthcare topics including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, diseases of thyroid and sports emergencies.

150 Transition Year students from 86 schools across Ireland attended the week-long TY MiniMed Programme held in RCSI and Beaumont Hospital 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.

Global Initiatives

Mr. Declan J. Magee

Chairman, RCSI OUTREACH,
Committee for International Cooperation

RCSI is committed to advancing the health and well-being of people in the developing world by sharing knowledge and providing training and expertise in medicine, research, healthcare and surgery. 2011/2012 saw the strengthening of programmes in Africa in particular and links to programmes in Asia continue to evolve also. The review and coordination of these diverse activities is under the auspices of RCSI OUTREACH, Committee for International Cooperation.



1 RCSI/ COSECSA Train the Trainer course in Arusha, Tanzania facilitated by Mr. Dermot O'Flynn and Professor Ciaran O'Boyle from RCSI's Institute of Leadership.

2 Yvonne Chaka Chaka, South Africa Singer, UNICEF and Roll Back Malaria Ambassador and UN Envoy for Africa at the Irish Forum for Global Health Conference, RCSI.

The **RCSI/COSECSA (College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa) Collaboration Programme** continues to grow and is currently the biggest charitable intervention involved in training surgeons in Africa. The Programme is supported by Irish Aid. 102 candidates are registered for the COSECSA exams in 2012, more than double the 42 who sat in 2011.

In the first six months of 2012, the Programme provided a professional administrative volunteer in Tanzania who worked with COSECSA on building and improving the record keeping systems, budgeting and auditing systems and fundraising. In May, Surgical Training Faculty were brought from Ethiopia to Dublin on a Faculty Educational Exchange visit. A Fellowship level seminar took place in Kenya and in Uganda, Basic Science Faculty and Trainees courses were held.

The RCSI/COSECSA Programme has now equipped and supplies internet connection to 24 surgical training IT labs in nine countries. Services provided by the Programme include supplying and customising information systems; operational support and training; and creating and distributing training and marketing materials. Surgical research is also conducted and facilitated.

The Programme provides the only comprehensive online surgical training portal where African trainees learn from African case studies.

Global Health activities in the Division of Population Health Sciences kicked off in July with a launch workshop in Blantyre, Malawi, for **COST-Africa (Clinical Officer Surgical Training for Africa)**. This is a new 5 year EU-FP7 RCT (randomised controlled trial) that aims to demonstrate the health impact and cost-effectiveness of training Clinical Officers to carry out surgical procedures at the district hospital level in Malawi and Zambia. Clinical Officers are a cadre of health worker that is unique to Africa; so COST-Africa could contribute to solving the health worker brain-drain.

The major Irish global health event in 2012 was the international conference on the global health workforce '**Irish Forum for Global Health Conference**', hosted and co-organised by RCSI with the Irish Forum for Global Health. Minister of State for Trade and Development, Mr. Joe Costello T.D.; Professor Cathal Magee, CEO, Health Service Executive (HSE); and Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI; opened the event, which attracted high level delegates and researchers from Africa.



Teachers at a Ugandan primary school proudly display their harvested rainwater which has been set out for solar water disinfection (SODIS).

RCSI (Professor Ruairí Brugha, Dr Elaine Byrne and Aisling Walsh) was awarded one of the new Irish Aid HEA Round 3 research grants in May 2012. **'Community Systems Strengthening for Equitable Maternal and Child Health' COSYST-MCH** is a three year project, in collaboration with Dublin City University (DCU), to research the community linkages across health, HIV and nutrition among young children in Malawi and Zambia, and to design and roll out distance learning modules on community research in Africa.

Research in the area of **solar water disinfection (SODIS)** in rural Uganda is still progressing at pace. Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Department of Physiology and Medical Physics is supervising Ugandan PhD students Jacent Asiimwe and Rosemary Nalwanga who are studying the impact of SODIS on (i) primary school attendance and (ii) harvested rainwater in the Makondo district of Uganda as part of the "Water is Life – Amazzi Bulamu" project which is funded by the HEA.

Preliminary analysis of the research indicates that children using SODIS at their primary school are less frequently absent due to waterborne illness compared with students who do not use SODIS.

A recent survey has shown that the primary school students are acting as SODIS technology ambassadors within their village communities. In addition, faecal coliforms in harvested rain water are completely inactivated by SODIS. Since harvested rain water tends to be less turbid (cloudy) than water from unprotected water sources, some of the more entrepreneurial participants are now selling solar disinfected harvested rain water to neighbours as an additional source of income for their households.

The Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine, under the leadership of Professor Sam McConkey, continued to conduct **major research into vaccines** and other studies relevant to the developing world.

Malaria causes 1.2 million deaths a year, mostly of children in Africa and *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite that causes malaria, is a major focus of two pieces of research. RCSI is conducting a novel Phase I clinical trial in Dublin of new vaccines that will protect against malaria. This is the first clinical trial of its kind to be conducted in Ireland. The trial is funded by European Vaccine Initiative, which in turn is generously funded by Irish Aid. The College is also setting up and evaluating a new national surveillance system in Gambia to indicate where, when and in who, malaria is occurring. This study was funded initially from a Health Research Board (HRB) global health grant, with follow-on funding from The Global Fund.

Other research work in the Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine looks at health and screening of asylum seekers in Ireland, a clinical trial of new and simplified interventions for HIV, and at HBV vaccines. The guiding principal is that new knowledge and new technologies are essential to achieve better global health. The department presently supports three doctoral students during their research.

Among the global initiatives affiliated to RCSI is **Operation Childlife (OCL)**, for which 2011-2012 has been a significant year with new projects beginning in Vietnam and full transition to a registered charity. OCL currently sends 40 to 60 volunteers who give of their time freely to travel to its areas of operation each year. OCL also brings doctors and nurses to Ireland for additional training.

With support from RCSI, the Christina Noble Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, OCL has continued to provide a tertiary level, educational and training resource to Children's Hospital # 2 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Since the Open Heart Project began there in 2007, OCL has trained three paediatric cardiac surgeons who, together with nursing and anaesthesia staff trained both by OCL (Professor Mark Redmond) and in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, have operated on over 350 children with major congenital cardiac conditions from the Southern areas of Vietnam. In addition, Dr. Paul Ozlislok, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist and Dr. Mark Ryan, Consultant Interventional Radiologist have brought new diagnostic and interventional skills to Hospital # 2 both in cardiology and more general conditions. OCL is now committed to help Hospital # 2 with a new paediatric oncology program, which will run for the next three years.

OCL continued its work in Tanzania in surgical oncology and with the assistance of Children in Crossfire are bringing surgical, anaesthetic and nursing skills to the paediatric oncology ward of Mhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam. A new Masters program run by Dr. Trish Scanlon, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist, offers an exciting strategy to improve local standards and build capacity in this under-resourced area.

The RCSI OUTREACH, Committee for International Cooperation has also engaged with the Institute of Orthopaedics to evolve a response strategy for global health emergencies and cooperated with the College of Anaesthetists on their initiatives in Africa.

Finance





Ms. Jennifer Cullinane
Director of Finance

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

The activities of the College comprise those activities that are core to the organisation's mission, education and training, and those which provide a valuable source of revenue such as that generated from its endowment portfolio and fundraising activities. These activities are carried out in Ireland and overseas. From an accounting perspective, the extensive reach of the organisation requires financial statements to be compiled under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), Irish GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) and for the first time US GAAP to meet the requirement of the US Federal Aid programme for student loans.

2011 saw the economic challenges of 2010 continue with limited liquidity in the market place, recessionary market conditions and falling property values offset somewhat from a low interest rate environment. Despite these challenges, management and staff worked closely and diligently to continue to implement the financial strategy adopted over the last number of years of growing income and tight management of costs while maintaining service levels. The result of this strategy has seen the organisation's operating financial performance improve year on year.

Review of the Year

RCSI had a good financial performance in the year ended 30 September 2011. Overall in 2010/11 the organisation reported a surplus and a strengthening of its net asset position. Progress made in the previous year of growing core income, maintaining pay costs and reducing overheads continued, resulting in an improved operating surplus in the year.

The organisation strengthened its net asset position through this strong performance and the benefits from a reduction in the pension deficit and improved investment valuations.

Cash management continued to be a key focus for the organisation. Cash generated is needed to fund investment in core education programmes, infrastructural investment and servicing of debt. The strong operating performance resulted in a positive cash flow in the year. We took particular care to diversify cash holdings across a number of institutions and currencies given the volatility in financial markets.

Despite this strong performance, the College recognises the challenges it faces around debt levels, falling property values and a large pension deficit. Like many organisations, the College faces an underfunded defined benefit pension scheme which has seen significant volatility over the last number of years. A funding model agreed between the College, the Trustees and Members of the Scheme has recently received Pension Board approval. This is expected to eliminate the deficit over the next number of years.

Activities in Ireland

The College continued its dual strand approach to improving financial performance through income generation and cost management. This programme has contributed to a significant improvement in the year in the overall financial performance of the organisation.

Income levels in the core activities grew by almost two per cent as student recruitment targets continue to be met and new sources of income generated. Good progress was made in the year in maintaining income levels on endowments and fundraising given the current economic climate. Operating costs fell by over seven per cent with a continuation of the pay freeze and crystallisation of work done over the last number of years to reduce costs. Over a two year period operating costs have fallen by 12 per cent.

Overall an operating surplus of €18m was generated in the year, an increase of €10m over the previous year. We recognise the key role played by staff, who have worked together to deliver this performance.

The strong financial performance in the year was capable of absorbing the effects of a non-cash property impairment of €16m, as required under accounting standards following independent valuations. Like many organisations the College has seen property values fall by almost 60 per cent on their peak values. Given the prime location of these properties, their values are expected to recover in the medium to long term.

The net assets of the College grew by €16m to €34m in the year. This improvement was as a result of a strong operating performance in the year, an improvement in the pension deficit as a result of more favourable bond yields at year end and uplifts in the valuation of some properties in the College portfolio despite the impairment on others. The College continues to maintain its capital investment programme which is focused around improving the educational infrastructure and amounted to a spend of €2m in the year.

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	2011 € MILLIONS	2010 € MILLIONS
Income		
Core Activities (Education, Research, Surgery)	103	101
Endowments & Fundraising	11	11
Total Income	114	112
Expenditure		
Operating Costs	(96)	(104)
Operating Surplus	18	8
Property Impairment	(16)	-
Net surplus	2	8
Balance Sheet		
Net Assets	34	18

Activities Overseas

The College operates education programmes in a number of overseas locations including Malaysia, Dubai and Bahrain. In Bahrain in 2011, the Medical University of Bahrain saw its second year of medical graduates. Despite the challenges faced from political unrest, the operation has performed in line with business plans as a result of the commitment of management and staff in both Ireland and Bahrain.

In Malaysia, work commenced on the establishment of a medical education programme in conjunction with Perdana University in Kuala Lumpur, for the student intake in October 2011. The College increased its shareholding in Penang Medical School, along with University College Dublin. In Dubai, the Institute of Leadership continues to see increased student numbers and an expansion of the range of healthcare management courses offered. In Africa, the College supports education and training activities, with the assistance of funding through the Irish Aid programme.

Prospects for the Future

As Finance Director of the College, I am charged with overseeing good financial stewardship of an organisation established in 1784. As the organisation operates primarily a self funding model, we continually need to generate sufficient resources to support quality education programmes across the College while recognising the financial boundaries that exist.

We acknowledge the progress made in delivering improved financial performance over the last number of years, but also the challenges

faced both internally and externally, in local and overseas markets. Risk management continues to be an underlying theme in light of these challenges. The organisation monitors the key business risks of market competition, interest rate and currency risks, inflationary pressures and ensuring regulatory compliance. We strive to work to reduce where possible the volatilities in the funding model and build contingencies in light of the uncertainties in the world in which we live.

The organisation has a number of strategic financial priorities for the coming year including:

- continuing to deliver on the financial plans with a structured approach to assessing new opportunities
- refinancing of the organisation's loan facilities and continuing to meet its banking covenant obligations
- implementation of the approved funding model for the defined benefit pension scheme so that it can be put on a more sustainable footing
- management of property assets and infrastructural developments to support quality education programmes

I wish to acknowledge the support of the finance team and all of the staff in the organisation who have worked hard to deliver new income sources and improvements in the cost base to ensure that the financial model can support the organisation's objectives of delivering quality education programmes to our students. We look forward to another busy and exciting year ahead.





RCSI

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