



RCSI

UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES

2020/21



RCSI's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. Given the unique role universities play in creating and sharing knowledge, as a community they are critical contributors to achieving the challenges set out by the SDGs. RCSI recognises that as an educator, we have a responsibility to play a central and transformational role in advancing the SDGs by 2030. This report on activity during 2020/2021 gives us an opportunity to reflect on how RCSI, its staff and students have contributed to achieving many of the SDGs throughout the year.

HIGHLIGHTS

The University remains committed to tackling issues affecting human health and well-being and global health inequity, and is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord.

CENTRE FOR POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH

In October 2020, we launched the world's first academic centre for positive psychology and lifestyle medicine. The new Centre for Positive Psychology and Health applies the scientific

principles of positive psychology and lifestyle medicine to enhance the health and happiness of people in Ireland and around the world. The Centre's free online course, 'The Science of Health and Happiness', has now seen almost 30,000 enrolments and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

UNITAR AGREEMENT

In November 2020 RCSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Global Surgery Foundation (GSF) to enhance

RCSI is working towards a 'blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all'

surgical capacity and strengthen surgical systems to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage.

HEA PATH NETWORK

In December 2020, RCSI joined the HEA PATH Network and is now part of a six-college consortium with University College Dublin (UCD), Institute of Art and Design (IADT), Marino Institute of Education (MIE), National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Trinity College Dublin

(TCD) to promote and advance equality of access to higher education for underrepresented groups.

RCSI STUDENT CONTACT TRACING

Over 70 of our senior healthcare students volunteered to train as COVID-19 Contact Tracers for the HSE over the Christmas holidays, thus providing extra capacity to the national system and giving students valuable training and skills.

CAMERON AWARD FOR POPULATION HEALTH

In February 2021, we were proud to confer the first Cameron Award for Population Health, named after Sir Charles Cameron, Professor of Hygiene and Political Medicine at RCSI, and a pioneer in his field, on Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the World Health Organization Health Emergencies Programme, an Irishman who has played such a visible role in the global response to the pandemic and in whom we take immense national pride.

NEW INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL SURGERY

RCSI is working towards a 'blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all' with a particular focus on SDG3 Good Health and Well-being. The launch of the Institute of Global Surgery (IGS) in March 2021 was a powerful demonstration of this and also of our strategic vision to inform and improve healthcare delivery through academic research, clinical expertise and insight.





#RCSIPULSECHECKCHALLENGE

Primary school students from three local DEIS schools participated in this student partnership project to promote physical health among primary school students by teaching participants how to check and record their pulse before and after set activities.

ATHENA SWAN

In 2020-2021, RCSI received three Athena SWAN Bronze School/departamental awards in

recognition of our commitment to embed gender equality at RCSI: The Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine; the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences; and the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics were all recipients.

#2 IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 3

RCSI achieved Ireland's highest position in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2021, coming joint second in the world for 'Good Health and Well-being' from a total of 871 institutions.

In 2020-2021, RCSI received three Athena SWAN School/departamental awards in recognition of our commitment to embed gender equality at RCSI

Professor Cathal Kelly
Vice Chancellor and
Chief Executive/Registrar

PROGRESS ON SDG PRIORITIES FOR 2020/21

Target	Status
Launch Institute of Global Surgery	Complete
Launch Centre for Positive Psychology and Health and MOOC on the Science of Happiness	Complete
Establish Cross-University Committee to embed SDGs in teaching, research, operations and governance	Complete
Hold Senior Leadership Group to identify priority actions for 2021	Complete
Conduct audit of existing SDG activity	In Progress

SDG PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22

- Development and launch of Race Equality Plan (SDG10)
- Achieve Beacon Status Award from the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (SDG 3)
- Begin construction on expansion project at 118 St Stephen's Green, also known as Project Connect, will enrich the student experience and provide vital infrastructure for pioneering health sciences research and innovation, as well as creating a space for local community engagement. (SDG 3 and 11)
- Embed SDGs further into RCSI curricula (SDG 3 and 4)
- Establish New School of Population Health (SDG 3, 4 and 10)
- Relaunch RCSI Engage Committee (SDG 10 and 11)



The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- **3,280** collaborating research institutions worldwide
- Partnership with Kids Operating Room on first pan-Africa **paediatric surgery e-learning platform**
- Joined PPI Ignite Network to enhance **public and patient involvement in research**

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- **Zero to landfill** policy for waste
- **Elimination of paper cups** from staff rooms
- **Single use plastic removed** from cafés

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- Free online public course on **The Science of Health and Happiness**
- Website to support **youth mental health** during COVID-19 pandemic
- **7000+** registered viewers of RCSI MyHealth public lectures

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- Fifth annual **International Citizenship Awards** in recognition of cultural and social skills for healthcare graduates

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- **Joint #2 in the world** in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2021
- **Strong health research:** 8,038 publications, 239,503 views, 181,505 citations (Source:SciVal – 2011-2020)
- First **National Preclinical Imaging Centre** to enhance medical research established

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- **€7.8m** from Higher Education Authority to expand programme delivery
- **26,000** health professions alumni across 94 countries
- **Largest clinical simulation centre** in Europe

5 GENDER EQUALITY



- PROGRESS Fellowship for **Women in Surgery** celebrates its third year
- **Athena SWAN Bronze Awards** for School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences and Department of Physiology and Medical Physics

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



- **Green Flag** for sustainability and environmental management
- **100%** green electricity procured
- **38%** improvement in energy efficiency (kWh/sqm) since baseline 2006

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- Recognised by Exercise is Medicine® creating **culture of well-being** on campus.
- Listed in 'Top 100 Companies **Leading in Wellbeing**' index by *Business & Finance* in partnership with IBEC

Proudly ranked
Joint 2nd globally
for **GOOD HEALTH and WELL-BEING**
THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2021

7,964



**REGISTERED TO
RCSI MYHEALTH
LECTURE SERIES 20/21**



RCSI Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn
123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 402 2100
Email: communications@rcsi.ie
rcsi.com