



RCSI

UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES



RCSI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“This report on activity during 2022/2023 provides me with an opportunity to acknowledge what RCSI has achieved over the past year thanks to the extraordinary efforts and dedication of the RCSI community!”

At RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, our commitment to the SDGs is deeply embedded in our mission to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health. As a leading academic institution dedicated to healthcare, we recognise the profound impact that responsible governance, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility have on the broader global health landscape.

This SDG report for the 2022-2023 academic year highlights our efforts to advance sustainability, equity, and ethical leadership across all our operations. We have aligned our activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that our educational programs, research initiatives, community engagements and campus operations contribute meaningfully to global efforts to address pressing challenges such as climate change, health equity, and ethical governance.

Through this report, we aim to provide a transparent and comprehensive overview of how RCSI is creating positive impacts in the areas of environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and governance, reflecting our unwavering commitment to a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable world for all.

Highlights

Global impact

I was incredibly proud when in June this year, we were ranked number one in the world for UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 ‘Good Health and Well-being’ in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023. This achievement embodies who we are as Ireland’s only university solely focused on education, training and research in health sciences. We are driven by our long-term commitment to the UN SDGs as a framework for measuring and demonstrating our impact on global health and well-being. This is the second time we have achieved this number one position, reflecting the remarkable commitment of our staff and students to driving improvements in human health.

A new School of Population Health

In October 2022, we launched a new School of Population Health aimed at better understanding and addressing the complex and ever-changing barriers to better health in Ireland and globally through education and multi-disciplinary research. The School builds on the university’s legacy of impact in population and public health, which can be traced back to the 1840s when Sir Charles Cameron, former RCSI President, campaigned to improve public health in Dublin.

118 St Stephen’s Green

One of the benefits of our return to a vibrant campus life post-pandemic is being able to witness the daily progress being made on RCSI’s new €95 million building at 118 St Stephen’s Green, the next phase of RCSI’s campus development in Dublin’s city centre.

This exciting development, which is on target for completion in 2025, will become the new 'front door' of the University and will be home to the new School of Population Health, the Graduate School of Healthcare Management, a virtual reality training space for the National Surgical Training Centre, and a new public space where people will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with scientists and clinicians about how to live long and healthy lives.

Connolly Hospital Education and Research Centre

Construction is also progressing on our new Education and Research Centre at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin, which will open in 2024 and will be the University's second clinical centre of excellence in Ireland.

Planetary Health in our Curricula

On Earth Day in May 2023, the School of Medicine was ranked as the top-performing medical school in Ireland in the Planetary Health Report Card 2023, a global initiative led by the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA). The Report Card tracks institutional change and is intended to inspire higher education institutions to prioritise planetary health in their curricula and institutional practices.

International Collaboration for the SDGs

During the year, an RCSI team embarked on the SURG-Water Project with the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences to improve access to safe water for patients in maternity wards. SURGWater is funded by SFI and Irish Aid.

The Institute of Global Surgery (IGS) continued its work in collaboration with partners to improve the access of underserved populations to high-quality surgical care, a prerequisite for the achievement of UNSDG 3.

Household air pollution is the world's largest environmental source of ill health. The Smokeless Village Project is a collaboration between the University's Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, and the University of Nottingham, UK, which is working with one community in Malawi to find a sustainable solution to this public health challenge.





WHO 'Healthy University' certification

RCSI Bahrain was certified as a 'Healthy University' by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO). This certification signifies that the University has met the criteria for creating a healthy and supportive environment for students, staff and the wider community, and recognises our commitment to promoting health and well-being through various initiatives and programmes implemented on campus and nationally.

Cathal Kelly

Professor Cathal Kelly

Vice Chancellor and
Chief Executive/Registrar

SDG PRIORITIES FOR 2022/23	STATUS
Participate review by the UK Climate and Health Alliance of Net Carbon Zero in healthcare	Complete
Commit to achieving net zero carbon by 2050	Complete
Establish new Sustainability & Climate Health Committee	Complete
Develop & launch Junior Researcher Programme for local post-primary school students	Complete
Launch new Arts Strategy	Complete
Continue to work with Irish Doctors for the Environment (IDE) and Climate Health in Medical Education (CHIME) to integrate themes of sustainability, climate change and ecological instability into the health professional curricula.	Complete

Notable Sustainability Partnerships



Significant Recent Achievements



Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

<div> <div>1 NO POVERTY</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCSI reserves at least 12% of School Leaver places for students applying through the HEAR and DARE <p>Schemes every year across all our undergraduate programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCSI works in the HEA-funded PATH consortium to promote and advance equality of access to higher education for underrepresented groups and raise aspirations, particularly in relation to STEMM subjects. 	<div> <div>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded A- in the 2023 Planetary Health Report Card measured across five key indicators: planetary health curriculum, interdisciplinary research in health and the environment, community outreach and advocacy, support for student-led initiatives and campus sustainability Dr Michael Daly named Most Innovative Teacher of the Year in 2022 Times Higher Education Awards 	<div> <div>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatories of the Healthy Campus Charter Introduction of SDG Champion award as part of 2023 Vice Chancellors Awards Launch of new policy to support employees affected by domestic violence
<div> <div>2 ZERO HUNGER</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bee Well project is launched to measure the well-being impact of a biodiversity community project on individuals, their family and community Participated in the European Public Health Conference 2023; Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity 	<div> <div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSI PROGRESS Fellowship for Women in Surgery celebrated its fifth year Launched Menopause Policy and Menopause Training for Managers 'BIAS: Inequality in Women's Health and Research', tackling biases in women's health and research, developed and implemented for Science Week 2023 	<div> <div>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 patents filed 2 spin-out companies created 37 industry collaborative agreements RCSI exceeded its knowledge transfer targets as set by Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) and industry engagement exceeded targets by 48%.
<div> <div>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1 in the world in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2023 Strong health research: 10,503 publications, 337,330 views, citations (Source: SciVal 2013-2022) Audience of 7,782 for RCSI MyHealth 2022/23 series Supported Debunking the Myths: The Science behind Our Sexual Health a free expert-led series of sexual health workshops for teens • Professor Mary Cannon appointed to advisory group for Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use • Professor Edward Gregg awarded SFI funding to tackle chronic diseases • Professor Juan Carlos Puyana appointed as O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery 	<div> <div>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SURG-Water Project is launched with the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences to improve access to safe water for patients in maternity wards. RCSI PANI-WATER researchers discover that poor transparency containers can be used for solar water disinfection. This new discovery will increase the range of containers that will be used to disinfect water in resource-poor communities in low to middle-income countries. 	<div> <div>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed the HEA Anti-Racism Principles for Irish Higher Education Institutions Launched pronoun badge campaign, created by the Equality Diversity and Inclusion unit, in collaboration with the staff Pride Network and student Pride Society Race Equality training made available for all staff
	<div> <div>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% green electricity procured 40% improvement in energy efficiency (kWh/sqm) since baseline 2006 Short-listed for Excellence in Sustainability at the Education Awards 2023 	<div> <div>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023-2025 RCSI Arts Strategy launched • RCSI/ Science Foundation Ireland Junior Researcher Programme welcomed 70 students from local schools to encourage participation in STEMM RCSI Library collaborated with the Irish Men's Sheds Association to create bespoke display cabinets for the RCSI Heritage Collections Awarded Heritage Council funding for a number of outreach initiatives to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Irish surgeon and anatomist Abraham Colles



- Zero to landfill policy for waste
- No paper cups available on campus

- 100% compostable takeaway packaging from cafés



- RCSI Bahrain inaugurated its Solar Farm project, which will create approximately 65% of the annual electrical energy needed by the university

- RCSI Council established new committee on Sustainable Surgery and the wider green agenda for surgery



- All RCSI cafes and restaurants are Plastic free



- RCSI partners with Sy innovative agtech company Syngenta to develop biodegradable materials that help to protect crops.



- Professor Mary Cannon appointed to advisory group for Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

- Professor Judith Strawbridge appointed to Expert Taskforce to Support Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy in Ireland

- Open Access Resources & Activities incl Open Access Repository provides worldwide access to RCSI Research output & RCSI LibGuide

- Open Access Discovery Tools incl Library Catalogue & Heritage Catalogue



- 5,700 collaborating international research institutions worldwide (Source: SciVal 2013-2022)

- Leading Climate Health in Medical Education (CHIME) Ireland to develop a planetary health curriculum for all medical programmes across the island of Ireland

- Collaborated with the Olive Branch for Children to send student volunteers to Tanzania

- Sustainability and Climate Health Committee established

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 SDG report highlights RCSI's ongoing commitment to addressing global challenges through education, research, engagement and operations, aligning our efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in areas such as health equity, sustainability, gender equality, and global partnerships, reaffirming our leadership in advancing these critical goals.

Looking ahead, RCSI's new institutional strategy for 2023-27 will build on this progress and set new priorities to deepen our impact. This strategy will outline innovative approaches to address emerging challenges in healthcare and sustainability, ensuring that RCSI remains at the forefront of creating positive social, environmental, and economic change. As we move into the next phase, we are committed to expanding our efforts, forging stronger partnerships, and setting ambitious targets that align with the evolving global landscape.

Together, we will continue to drive progress toward a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable world.





39,542

registered for 'Science of
Health and Happiness' courses



778

specialist surgeons
graduated from
COSECSA
(cumulative)

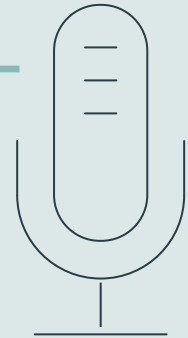


2,612

national media mentions in 2022

4,000+

downloads of new
RCSI MyHealth
podcast



17,000+

viewers of RCSI MyHealth Lecture Series 22/23

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