



**RCSI**

UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH  
SCIENCES

2018/19



# RCSI's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals





## Introduction

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 in Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At RCSI we recognise and embrace our

responsibility to achieving a sustainable future for all. We are committed to ensuring that our actions through our research, teaching activities, community engagement and campus operations, lead the world to better health and prosperity for all.

As a niche focused university of medicine and health sciences our priority is patient and public health and with Alumni and surgical Fellows and Members working across more than 90 countries, our perspective on local and global health challenges is both broad and unique.

At a national level here in Ireland our educators and researchers enhance human health by leveraging their knowledge and expertise to influence

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healthcare policy and bring trusted health information to the public.

Our campus operations strive to empower both students and staff to create a more balanced campus community and to reduce environmental impacts and associated costs.

Although we cannot capture all the amazing work that happens in RCSI we hope this report will highlight some of the many activities our staff and students contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

**Professor Cathal Kelly**  
Registrar/ Chief Executive  
RCSI



### The SDG Accord

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





# Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



- RCSI Institute of Global Surgery established
- **11 years** collaborating with COSESCA and Irish Aid
- **223** Health policy mentions

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- **Strong health research: 4,887** publications, **133,805 views**, **114,181 citations** (Source: SciVal – 2010-2019)
- **No. 1 Highest** overall success rate for Horizon 2020 grants awarded to Irish Institutions
- **Launch of CoMPPAS** Student Assistance Programme

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



- **19,000 health professions** alumni across **97** countries
- **Largest clinical simulation centre** in Europe
- **RCSI Library wins** SCONUL Design Award

**5** GENDER EQUALITY



- **Athena Swan Bronze** award
- **Addressing the gender gap in surgery** through research and policy changes

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- **5 million** people using solar water disinfection daily (contributed to Waterspout/PANIWATER)
- **International prize** for research technology in the development and implementation of solar water disinfection technology (SODIS) to combat waterborne diseases in Africa and Asia.

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



- **Green Flag** for sustainability and environmental management by An Taisce's Green Campus programme on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education
- **100%** green electricity procured

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- First higher education institution to achieve the **Investors in Diversity** Ireland standard

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover** waste hierarchy employed across campus
- **Zero to landfill** policy for waste
- **Saved 3,800kg** CO2 from landfill
- **Reduced annual waste** by over 3.5 tonnes annually

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- **Launch of RCSI Engage Strategy** to support health & education in the community
- **Best Education Outreach Award** at Irish Education Awards 2018
- **Annual free health checks** for local community facilitated by Mercer Medical Centre



**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](mailto:communications@rcsi.ie)  
[rcsi.com](http://rcsi.com)

