

RCSI

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2017

INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE

Technology and the future of healthcare



**ALUMNI
GATHERINGS
2017**

GOOD TIMES, AGAIN



RCSI

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



What do you want for the future of RCSI?

Leaving a legacy to RCSI, after providing for your family and friends, is the highest honour alumni can bestow on the College. For many who have done so, it was their way of remembering their time at the College and the opportunities that it brought them.

David Birnbach, Class of 1984 - *"It is my way of saying thank you for being given the chance to study medicine in Dublin. RCSI gave me so many wonderful opportunities, and I'm happy to help someone else share this same experience."*

Your gift can create opportunities too.

If you would like further information on legacy gifts you can call Aíne Gibbons on +353 (0)14028548 or email [aiegibbons@rcsi.ie](mailto:ainegibbons@rcsi.ie). If you would like to come and meet in person, Aíne would be delighted to talk to you.

LETTER TO ALUMNI

Welcome to the 2017 issue of the RCSI Alumni Magazine. With more than 16,000 alumni in 97 countries worldwide, the readership reflects a graduate network that is international, influential and diverse. We know there is a sincere desire among alumni to play a constructive role in the future of the College and we encourage you to remain in touch with RCSI and maintain your links, professional and personal, with this global network.

The theme of this issue is Leading and Learning – appropriate given RCSI’s transformational strategy for the next decade. Many of our graduates make a significant impact in the surgical and healthcare field both at home and on the global stage: this international community is recognised as a “most global network” and in the top 250 educational institutions globally. Our aim is to rise in these rankings. In the pages that follow, alumni who attended RCSI at our four international campuses in Bahrain, Malaysia, Dubai and Ireland, demonstrate the value of the education earned. Many responded to our call to 2016’s alumni survey. We greatly delighted in the affinity that alumni have expressed for their alma mater – some of the memories are shared in Asking our Alumni (page 6), and others got in touch with career news and highlights in The Great & The Good (page 12).

With the RCSI alumni network gathering momentum, please consider attending one of the events or reunions on our programme for 2017-2018 or just link in with us – visit rcsi.ie/alumni for details.

We are working to enrich the RCSI alumni experience by providing more opportunities for alumni to gather, for meaningful networking as well as to revisit friendships forged at RCSI.

AÍNE GIBBONS

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT – ALUMNI RELATIONS,
FELLOWS & MEMBERS



Aine Gibbons.

ALAN ROWLETTE



ALUMNI HUNT

To coincide with the publication of this issue, we have appointed teams representing graduates from each decade consisting of alumni, staff and students to find as many “lost” alumni as possible via a list of missing alumni published on the RCSI website. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. Please visit rcsi.ie/alumnihunt to share your details and any contact information you have regarding fellow alumni.

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Dr Jack Preger, street medicine pioneer



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The wonder of new-gen simulation



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The story of Dr Jack Preger (Class of 1971)



ON OUR COVER

A student tries out the RCSI VR (Virtual Reality) Medical Training Sim app at RCSI's National Surgical Training Centre in Dublin. Photograph by Maxwells/Julien Behal

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Your comments, ideas, updates and letters are welcome. Please contact Sonja Lee, Alumni Relations Manager at RCSI, 123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2; telephone: +353 (0) 1 402 5187; email: sonjalee@rcsi.ie. RCSI ALUMNI MAGAZINE is POSTED ANNUALLY to alumni who we have listed on our database. To ensure you receive a copy, please PROVIDE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS at www.rcsi.ie/alumni. RCSI ALUMNI MAGAZINE is produced by Gloss Publications Ltd, The Courtyard, 40 Main Street, Blackrock, Co Dublin. Copyright Gloss Publications. RCSI Editorial Board: Aine Gibbons, Sonja Lee, Louise Loughran and Jane Butler.

OUR HERITAGE

RCSI was founded by Royal Charter in 1784 as the national training and professional body for surgery. The College flourished from the very start and in 1810 moved to its present location on St Stephen's Green. In 1978, RCSI became a recognised College of the National University of Ireland and in 2010, RCSI was granted by the State, the power to award its own degrees.



DOING THE ROUNDS

COLLEGE NEWS, ALUMNI UPDATES, RCSI IN THE COMMUNITY AND ACROSS CAMPUS ...



Local Dublin children get active at the annual REACH RCSI Community Sports Day 2016.

RCSI in Top 2% in World in THE University Rankings

RCSI has significantly improved its position in the 2016-2017 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. RCSI is now ranked in the #201-250 category, moving up from its 2015-2016 ranking of #251-300.



HANDS ON

RCSI recently became the first higher education institution in the world to release a fully interactive virtual reality medical training simulator on the publicly available Oculus platform, furthering the College's commitment to exploring new technologies to enhance education. Via a mobile app, it allows users to experience emergency room management of a patient who has been in a road traffic accident. Users must assess their patient, make critical decisions in real time and perform life-saving operative procedures as real clinicians do in emergency departments every day. Download the app at msurgery.ie/vr.

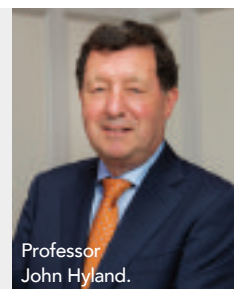
Spotlight



Dr Aran Maree, (Medicine 1993) flew in from the US for Charter Day 2017 to deliver the Johnson & Johnson Lecture, entitled "Prevent, Intercept and Cure: Our Call to Develop Healthcare Solutions for the Modern Age". After graduating from RCSI, Dr Maree became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland and trained in internal medicine and interventional cardiology in Dublin, Ireland and Sydney, Australia. He is now Chief Medical Officer of the Medical Devices (MD) family of companies at J&J, based in New Jersey, USA. In his capacity as Chief Medical Officer, he is a Member of the global Medical Device Group Operating Committee and leads the MD Medical Safety organisation. He also has responsibility for the cross sector J&J paediatric development strategy (CHILD) team. Aran has more than 20 years' experience in the world of healthcare strategy, pharmaceuticals and medical devices in Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and the USA.

A New President for RCSI

Professor John Hyland is a graduate of UCD. He trained in surgery in Ireland and at the University of Liverpool, and at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, USA. He became a Fellow of RCSI in 1976 and was awarded MCh by thesis in 1979. He was appointed a Lecturer in Surgery at RCSI in 1981 and subsequently Consultant General/Colorectal Surgeon at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin in 1982. A Professor of Clinical Surgery at UCD, Professor Hyland has been a Member of the Council of RCSI since 2002.



Professor John Hyland.

Spotlight



At the 2016 Global Health Conference, hosted by RCSI, **Professor Krikor Erzingatsian** (above right) was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI for his lifelong commitment to the creation and development of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Professor Erzingatsian was born in Ethiopia, of Armenian nationality. He completed his undergraduate medical education at RCSI in 1969, where he excelled, winning a number of prizes. He then trained in Ireland, Scotland and Ethiopia gaining his Fellowship from RCSI in 1976. He held the post of surgeon prosector from 1982 to 1984. Most of his career as a general surgeon was undertaken in Zambia, where he twice held the post of Head of the Department of Surgery in the University of Zambia. Professor Erzingatsian is the longest serving Member of COSECSA Council. As well as his current post of Registrar, he has been Vice President, President and Registrar/CEO of COSECSA.



Professor Louise Richardson.

■ Professor **LOUISE RICHARDSON**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, was awarded the inaugural Emily Winifred Dickson award by RCSI. Established in honour of Emily Winifred Dickson (FRCSI) who broke boundaries when she became the first female Fellow of RCSI in 1893, the award recognises women who have made an outstanding contribution in their field. The award was presented by the President of RCSI, Professor John Hyland.



Medical student and Rose of Tralee, Elysha Brennan visits a training hospital supported by the RCSI/COSECSA surgery initiative in Tanzania.



RCSI MyHealth Transition Year programme welcomed more than 180 16-year-olds interested in a career in healthcare to RCSI in January 2017.

RCSI MyHealth Lectures

RCSI launched a new free public lecture series in 2016 designed for people who want to learn more about health related topics from expert speakers in order to make informed decisions about their personal health and well-being. This next lecture on the topic of respiratory health takes place on 12th April. For more information see rcsi.ie/myhealth, join the RCSI MyHealth conversation at #RCSIMyHealth or subscribe to the RCSI YouTube channel, where there is extensive video content on a range of health science topics.

RCSI Facts: Did You Know?

RCSI today comprises Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Nursing & Midwifery, Postgraduate Studies, the Institute of Leadership and postgraduate faculties. In addition to RCSI in Dublin, the College now has international campuses in Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) and Dubai (RCSI Dubai) along with two Schools of Medicine in Malaysia at Perdana University (PU-RCSI) and a jointly run programme at Penang Medical College (PMC).

Est 1784

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Current Students: **1,709**
New Alumni in 2016: **285**
Total Alumni: **8,464**



Est 1974

SCHOOL OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY
Current Students: **465**
New Alumni in 2016: **453**
Total Alumni: **4,473**

Est 1999

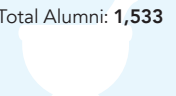
SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
Current Students: **108**
New Alumni in 2016: **36**
Total Alumni: **408**

Est 1999

PENANG MEDICAL COLLEGE (PMC), MALAYSIA
Current Students: **370**
New Alumni in 2016: **218**
Total Alumni: **1,500** – split between RCSI and UCD

Est 2002

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
Current Students: **370**
New Alumni in 2016: **218**
Total Alumni: **1,533**



Spotlight



In recognition of his outstanding clinical work on the complications of liver disease, **Dr Nezam Afdhal** (Medicine, 1981) was awarded an honorary doctorate at the recent Medicine Conferring. A former SU President, Dr Afdhal is married to RCSI classmate, Clare Tempany-Afdhal, and is Chief of Hepatology and Director of the Liver Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and the Chief Medical Officer of Spring Bank Pharmaceuticals. Dr Afdhal received the Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his world-class clinical work on the complications of liver disease, including cirrhosis and portal hypertension and his research into liver fibrosis, hepatitis B and C and liver fibrosis. Over Dr Afdhal's career, he has developed multiple new treatments for liver disease. He led the global Hepatitis C team that developed Harvoni, a treatment that can cure 97% of 200 million Hepatitis C patients worldwide within twelve weeks.

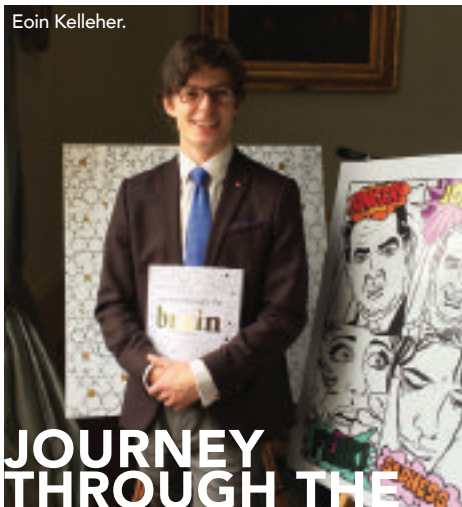
PROFESSOR JOHN WADDINGTON
 Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Molecular & Cellular Therapeutics (MCT) retired from RCSI in September 2016 after 35 years of service.

PROFESSOR AMIR KHIR
 After 19 years, Professor Amir Khir retired as President, CEO and Dean of PMC. For his service to clinical education in Malaysia, he was awarded Honorary Doctorate by the National University of Ireland, on behalf of RCSI and UCD.



ERIC LUKE / THE IRISH TIMES

■ The RCSI Art Award, in association with *The Irish Times*, was established this year to mark the connection between art and healing. **REMCO DE FOUW** ARHA was announced the winner of the 2016 RCSI Art Award. The inaugural prize, awarded to the artist for his sculpture "Random Access Memory V", was presented by Mr Declan J Magee (then President RCSI) in 2016, at a ceremony at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA).



JOURNEY THROUGH THE BRAIN Funded by the Health Research Board and created by researchers from the RCSI Department of Psychiatry, *journey through the brain*, a colouring book illustrated by alumnus Dr Eoin Kelleher (Medicine, 2014) was developed to spark young people's interest in the science of the brain and its connection to human emotion, mental health and wellbeing. The colouring book is available to download at rcsi.ie/brainjourney.



International Night is the culmination of a month-long series of events during RCSI Cultural Diversity Month which showcases culture, traditions, food, music and dance from RCSI students' home countries. Eighty-four countries are represented by the RCSI student body.

<p>Est 2004</p> <p>RCSI BAHRAIN Current Students: 1,318 New Alumni in 2016: 281 Total Alumni: 1,492</p>	<p>Est 2005</p> <p>INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP Current Students: 471 in Ireland, Bahrain and Dubai New Alumni in 2016: 179 Total Alumni: 2,222</p>	<p>Est 2006</p> <p>SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES Current Students: 299 New Alumni in 2016: 166 Total Alumni: 595</p>	<p>Est 2011</p> <p>PU-RCSI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MALAYSIA Current Students: 300 First cohort of 59 graduates conferred in September 2016!</p>
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ASKING OUR ALUMNI

We undertook a survey to quiz RCSI Dublin alumni on the people, places, and events that shaped their years at the College. This special time was, for many, a springboard for their careers, and for most, a treasured stage of their lives. Alumni feedback revealed that life as a university student in Dublin changed significantly over the decades but was always colourful, interesting, emotional and challenging. RCSI Dublin alumni recognise that their experience of a city-centre college campus was quite unique, particularly in the modern age. And, for those students whose schedule was unrelentingly demanding, any free time spent exploring the charms of our fair city made it all the more precious.



Left: The RCSI building on St Stephen's Green.
Above: Class of 2016 Conferring.

CHANGING DUBLIN

The city's unique atmosphere

We asked alumni, "What do you remember most about Dublin during your time at RCSI?" Of course, what will stand out in most students' memories, is the economic and political climate in which they began this significant development in their life and career. Now based in the UK, **DR JAMES ROY** (2005) remembers his time as a student in Dublin, "... it was like going back in time in 1999. There were no decent coffee shops and it was hard to find a healthy bite to eat. The following six years during the Celtic Tiger were a great time to be in Dublin, so much changed for the better. A lot of the good things about Dublin have stayed the same!"

DR ANTHONY O'BRIEN (1973) thinks about what has changed. "The city seemed much smaller. You could walk down Grafton Street and always bump into several people you would know, people not necessarily from Surgeons. Dublin was also quieter and duller then."

The kindness and helpfulness of Dubliners was mentioned by myriad alumni, especially by students unused to Irish culture. South African **DR FATIMA DOCRAT** (1981) recalls discovering "the beautiful city, the friendly Irish, the wonderful mix of people in the different universities, the boycott of apartheid South Africa started by the amazing Irish, the freedom to be a person of colour without the racial prejudice we were experiencing at home and the wonderful Irish who welcomed us South Africans."

"We referred to Dublin as the largest village in the world" says **DR EURIPIDES BORASTERO** (1972). "We were always likely to meet people we knew walking down Grafton Street. Rice's pub and the Toby Jug were our second homes! As a non-Irish student I was always impressed by the friendliness of Dubliners. Sitting in St Stephen's Green on a summer's day with friends, trying to catch up on reading was always a joy."

Dublin struck many alumni, it seems, as a comfortable, fun and happy place to be. One alum, **DR MICHAEL ZIEGELBAUM** (1982) described his time here: "I am from NYC. Dublin was not quite



1973: between lectures in St Stephen's Green.

into modernity in the 1970s – central heating, showers, television and other creature comforts were a bit behind. Food tasted better and life was simpler. I recall shopping daily for dinner at Buckley's and other shops. Variety was limited but so very fresh. Bewley's left out a plate of cakes and we paid for what we ate. I remember their hot cross buns, trifle and deep fried black and white puddings with fried eggs. Grafton Street was a two-way traffic street and people parked wherever they could find a niche in which to nudge a car. I have a distinct olfactory memory of peat smoke and Guinness brewing in a hazy, damp city. Believe it or not, I miss that when I return today. Dublin is now a cosmopolitan city with a more multi-ethnic culture. I miss the city of 40 years ago despite the higher living standards of today. I return often and still describe Dublin as the comfort food of my world."

WATERING HOLES

and other student haunts

Now based in Australia, **DR CYNTHIA LYE** (2008) remembers the post-exam parties and how the students went about organising them: "No planning, no invitations, everyone gathering at The Swan Bar on York Street after an exam!"

Certainly, celebrations have always been important to the Irish student, particularly those with as gruelling a schedule as a medical student. Through the years and generations of RCSI alumni, the rituals of celebrating have been emulated. Rice's (where the St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre is now), the Toby Jug (one of Dublin's oldest pubs at the time, has since been demolished), and The Swan came up frequently when we asked alumni about their experiences of student life.

Based in New Jersey, **DR JOHN PETERS** (1987) specifically recalls Rice's: "I remember the pints and craic after the exams in Rice's – most of all Bobby and Mrs Rice, weren't they lovely people!" For **DR ANDREW RYNNE** (1968), "folk music, the Abbey Tavern in Howth, O'Donoghue's on Merrion Row, The Brazen Head ... gigging in folk music and singing," are what he remembers from his life as a student.

The freedom of a city centre campus means RCSI alumni have a lot of choice about where to spend their breaks from the library, or the labs. "I recall fun times wandering along Grafton Street ... warming up with a nice cup of coffee and sticky buns at Bewley's!" says **DR BADARIAH AHMAD** (1997) from Malaysia. "I remember building snowmen one fine winter's day (probably around 1993 or 1994) in St Stephen's Green. That was the first time I had encountered snow." **DR SHEIK BASHEER** (1961) reflects, "Grafton Street was a two-way street [back then]. All the traffic, buses, cars, motor bikes and other vehicles went up and down the street. Sitting on top of a double decker bus, you could virtually shake hands with people having meals on the second floor of the old restaurant..."

DR RONALD BRYN JOHN (1970) thinks of the Toby Jug pub. "I remember drinking in the Toby Jug and the landlord, Frank Swift. He was a great friend to RCSI students – especially if they met hard times."



Post-exam gatherings took place at Rice's.



On the lawn in the "Green".



Bewley's Café.

"BEWLEY'S LEFT OUT A PLATE OF CAKES AND WE PAID FOR WHAT WE ATE. I REMEMBER THEIR HOT CROSS BUNS."

DR MICHAEL ZIEGELBAUM, CLASS OF 1982

Now in New York, **DR MICHAEL COLIN** (1971) recalls that Dublin was a great place to be a student, particularly during the years he studied. "Dublin was still struggling with entering the 20th century. "No EEC" was graffitied on many walls and buildings ... I remember going to rugby matches at the old Lansdowne Road stadium, watching Barry Bresnihan, a medical student and later rheumatologist at UCD, play fly half for Ireland. Going to the races at the Curragh on Saturday afternoon." Dr Colin also recalls being a part of moments in Irish history as a student: "I climbed up Nelson's Pillar on Easter Saturday in 1966 prior to it being blown up. I remember hearing the blast in Donnybrook."

DR MIRA AGRAWAL (1991) from Virginia, recalls "what a fun city it was, midnight drives around town to de-stress, walking Dun Laoghaire pier and along the cliffs at Howth. Waiting in the rain for the bus to Beaumont Hospital and each bus driver saying he had no idea where it was, until one said "You mean, by Beaumont House? Sure, any of these will get you there!"



Above: RCSI Library.

Right: Professor Moira O'Brien, graduate and former Lecturer in Anatomy.



TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

Emotional memories and the shock of Anatomy

Many alumni recall special memories and events that stand out. **DR SNEHLATA CHAKRABURTTY** (1962) recalls a memorable moment during her time at RCSI – her first day in the Anatomy Room. She remembers RCSI as “so busy that it took my breath away! One examination after another with no rest time in between. My first day in the Anatomy Room, alone – I remember a massive cadaver lay before me. With my little scalpel I began poking at the abdomen’s midline (just as the Anatomy textbook instructed). Nothing happened! Then came a ROAR from above. The Anatomy professor came charging down the steps, grabbed my scalpel and rammed it into the abdominal wall. He pulled the two sides of the abdomen and said “That’s how it is done, doctor!” The rest is history.”

The merit of any institution can be measured in their response to the struggle of its students, academic or otherwise. **DR AHMAD FIRDAUS YAAKOP** (2011), from Malaysia, tells us, “Many would have fond and happy memories of their RCSI days, and many of my memories are of that nature as well. However, my most memorable moment would be Saturday, 26th of February 2011, that was the day my father passed away suddenly in Malaysia, which happened to be days before my Final Year OSCE exams. Needless to say I was heartbroken, but the support showed to me by my friends and classmates, and the RCSI administration staff was heartwarming. All it took was a single e-mail from me informing of my current circumstance, and on Monday, the OSCE morning, the academic staff were waiting for me, offering their condolences and support, and even offering that I could forgo the OSCE exam. I declined, because my father would have wanted me to ace the exam. My father was the one who put me on the path to study at RCSI. He was looking forward to revisiting Dublin. My memory of Dublin is an emotional one, but is also a lovely memory as I got to experience the warmth and kindness of the people of RCSI at a time when I needed it the most, something that I truly will never forget.” Anatomy lessons seemed to be very memorable for alumni when they reminisce on their time at RCSI. Perhaps it is the sensory elements of each memory.

DR PETER SLAGSVOLD (1979), from Norway, describes what he remembers most: “Anatomy lessons ... with BP Rooney and Dr Anne Legge and Moira O'Brien. The smell of the room, the card signings and

the professor’s extremely long scissors ...” **DR JINAN DARWISH** (2004) remembers one lecturer in particular. “I remember Mr Hanson calling all the girls ‘Mary’. My classmate Mary was flabbergasted the first day he met her and called her Mary ...”

Partying can take its toll on all university students, but for those at RCSI, the busy schedule won’t allow for a lie in. **MR ANDREW HUDSON** (2012) looks back on morning-afters spent at the lab – “I remember the craic of the chemistry and pharmaceuticals labs. It was great to learn about compounding dosage forms but also to catch up on all of the shenanigans that happened the night before. Every time I reconstitute a bottle of Zineryt and get that distinct smell of solvent, I think of the countless practicals I made a complete dog’s dinner of in the fume cupboard!”

“It was a friendly city. People smiled and greeted even strangers,” wrote a graduate from 1968. “The River Liffey, Grafton Street and wonderful Bewley’s, O’Connell Street and the Rotunda Hospital. Jervis Street Hospital which has been torn down since I trained there and did my internship there. St Stephen’s Green and the ducks in the ponds and the flowers in spring and summer. The Shelbourne Hotel. Most of all, my wonderful classmates, we were a happy bunch. It was like United Nations in some ways! I also got to know many Irish families and have stayed in touch with many of them. It has been wonderful that the tradition of class reunions has been established by the College. I have been able to attend and meet my dear classmates at those meetings. In many ways my college days were the best days of my life and it’s due to RCSI.”

Some RCSI students found love at college – **DR MARKUS GOLLING** (1987) from Germany, credits RCSI for some of his best life choices, “The two most important decisions of my life were made here: I found my wife and my job. I couldn’t have asked for more, I wouldn’t have left with less. Thank you RCSI! I will always be grateful.”

THE WISE GUIDES

The pros, teachers and lecturers

To teach at RCSI is to influence a new generation of doctors, and this job can only be undertaken by a particular kind of person with particular key attributes. The lecturers, tutors and staff are remembered by RCSI alumni, for their character, knowledge and empathy towards their students.

For **DR NOELLE BRESLIN** (2012) from Ireland but based in New York, Dr Thomas Farrell is most memorable. “Tom Farrell is a character, an excellent teacher and an inspiration. He is able to teach with humour, practicality and a little smidgen of fear. His first lesson to our class began with the lower limb, specifically the femoral triangle where an example of a post-booze brawl ending with a stab wound to the femoral artery was used to teach us the anatomy as well as a life lesson ... protect the groin in an altercation!”

Frank Walker stands out in **DR JOHN HOURIHANE’S** (1988) memory. “He had an encyclopedic knowledge and caustic wit. Every tutorial or interaction left me richer and hungry to learn more. He used humorous shaming as a tool to drive study.”

First impressions are indeed often lasting impressions, particularly one’s impression of one’s lecturer. This is true at least for **DR MICHAEL ROSEN** (1970) who was very influenced by his first ever lecture at RCSI,



Above: Dr Tom Farrell, Lecturer in Anatomy.



RCSI Obs & Gynae rotation.



Former RCSI Head Porter, Terry Slattery.

led by Dr Seamus Gallen. “Dr Gallen was Superintendent of Schools at the time. The lecture, in pre Reg, was all about how to behave ourselves, now that we were medical students, and he spent most of the time lecturing us on sexually transmitted diseases, and what we should do to avoid catching one! In those days, he would refer to STD’s as VD. The late Jack Coolican’s two favourite comments were: ‘Hope is what you lot think you’re going to pass Finals on,’ and ‘I do wish you’d use something north of the coccyx.’”

DR RICHARD PETERS (1982), in New York, found the teaching manner in RCSI to be efficient and healthy. “In making us sit in alphabetical order, we couldn’t break off into little groups! Americans couldn’t sit only with Americans, nor Norwegians only with Norwegians, nor Canadians only with Canadians. It was forced integration based upon the simplest of factors, the first letter of your last name. And because of such a simple thing, we got to know each other quickly. Of course, the pub sort of hastened that experience as well! But I think one of the best memories, as silly as it seemed then, was that of some of the Irish lads flying paper airplanes in Professor Gaffney’s lecture hall. And on that first day, to this day, some 40 years later, I can recall Professor Gaffney, in her black professorial robes, intoning, “Now, children, I expect that you’ll work hard during the week, but for goodness sake, put the books down for the weekend, enjoy yourselves, and come back ready to work again on Monday!” Being at RCSI was one of the best experiences of my life, from a professional and personal perspective. For anyone I’ve come across from RCSI, knowing we were both at Surgeons is a special bond that is timeless. I consider myself so fortunate for being able to study in Dublin, to study at a virtual United Nations, and to spark friendships that persist to this day.”

MR DIARMUID MURPHY (1992), now based in Singapore, remembers Professor Stanley Monkhouse. “He made the complex appear simple, was humorous and excited interest in learning. Who else would have come to a lecture in costume and announce “I am a uterus ...” Professor David Bouchier Hayes made an impression on **PROFESSOR JAMES PAUL O’NEILL** (2001). “He was such a powerful leader of surgery. He is

“I GOT TO EXPERIENCE THE WARMTH AND KINDNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF RCSI AT A TIME WHEN I NEEDED IT THE MOST, SOMETHING THAT I TRULY WILL NEVER FORGET.”

DR AHMED FIRDAUS YAAKOP, CLASS OF 2011

incredibly intelligent and his knowledge of multidisciplinary surgery was phenomenal. He was a brilliant teacher. Inspirational.”

Dr Alice McGarvey stands out in the memory of many students, and for alum **DR CECILIE AAS** (2008), it was for “introducing us to anatomy in a great way – kind, inspiring and funny! Always made me feel at ease when stressed about remembering all the anatomical details

which seemed impossible at first, but then made more and more sense!”

Dr Tom Lynch appeared in answers to our survey as a memorable teacher for many alumni. **DR MARGARET GRACE** (1984) recalls one life lesson he taught her ... “He introduced me to the fascinating subject of Psychiatry. ‘Everyone is at least one G&T below par’ – his most memorable quote!”

DR MICHELLE DOWNES (2002) mentioned Professor Elaine Kay, “A phenomenal pathologist and teacher and completely unaware of how impressed all us Third Meds were by her intelligence and knowledge.” Dr Garrett Fitzgerald was another teacher who influenced students in a particular and memorable way. **DR CHARLES REISEN** (1978), from New Jersey, claims he “gently brought us from total ignorance to the beginnings of clinical wisdom.”

For **MS KAREN FOLEY** (1998), also in New Jersey, an important lesson she learned from Dr Parnell Keeling was to do with common versus rare. “‘What colour are my shoes? Don’t look down at them ... that’s right they’re black! Because most shoes are black. Common things are common!’” **DR PAUL O’SULLIVAN** (1996) remembers Professor Michael Lee. “Very bright. Interested in his work. Good sense of humour, and businesslike. No fecking around.”

DR MARWAN GHABRIL (1991), writing from Indiana, says she believed Professor Robert Harrison was significant as a leader. “He took a sincere interest in people despite his seniority and achievements. It was very touching to experience this personally as a student.” For **DR JOHNATHAN HANAGHAN** (1976), “Dr Carr brought anatomy and pathophysiology and imaging together all in a cloud of good cigar smoke.”

MS MARIE LOUISA POWER (2007) recalls learning from Dr Judith Strawbridge. “She opened up the world of clinical pharmacy for me

and I realised I had more options open to me than working in retail. She gave me the tools to look outside the box. Judith gave me the belief and professionalism to challenge norms, strive for excellence and ultimately be appointed the youngest Chief Pharmacist in the country.”

In Texas, **DR RONALD GARB** (1965) remembers his time at RCSI and Professor Norman Rae, who “did not stand on ceremony and made quick, accurate decisions and behaved decisively. In my case, he thought I would be a good student and inserted me into the 1959 class quite spontaneously because someone had failed to take their place on the day he interviewed me. He stopped the interview and plonked me down in the back lecture room in the middle of a lecture. He was witty, insightful and courageous. A real character trusting me before I even trusted myself. I was proud not to have let him down!”

SUPPORT AND KINDNESS

The support staff that made an impression

Those responsible for facilitating the learning and development of the RCSI students include more than just the faculty. The support staff, including the porters, reception, and those who worked in the canteen, all played significant roles in the formation of these students’ careers, and even lives. We asked our alumni what they remembered most about the support staff.

PROFESSOR JAMES PAUL O’NEILL (2001) told us, “I will always remember Johnny McPhilips from the Portering Department. He gave everything to the rugby club and we loved every minute with him.”

Johnny ‘Carpark’ Robinson is another famous character amongst RCSI graduates. To impress and endear so many busy, occupied and often stressed students is quite a feat! As **DR JOHN PETERS** (1987) put it, “Johnny Carpark impressed us all. He was the ‘main man’.” **MS AMANDA BROWNE** (1994) told us, “I will always remember Johnny Carpark saying: ‘The big wigs are having a meeting so there is no space. Really, there is none! Okay, fine, put her over there and leave me your keys.’”

DR CHARLES DUPONT (1954) remembers the sincere care for the

students the porters would show them – even after they had left. “When you qualified, the porters went out of their way to congratulate you.” **MS SHAM DASAN** (2009), from Malaysia, was also comforted by the support staff’s sensitivity. “Recently I was back in the College for a visit and I couldn’t believe it when Frank Donegan recognised me after I’d left five years previously. That brought happy tears to my eyes. It’s such a great feeling to know that someone actually does remember you.”

From Malaysia, **DR AHMAD FIRDAUS YAAKOP** (2011) explains his gratitude to “the whole IT department! Thank you for saving my MacBook countless times and rescuing all my coursework, notes and presentations. Lifesavers!”

DR DANIEL CHONG (1966) remembers “Christie O’Toole, the Head Porter. We always got a kick when he chased us from entering via the St Stephen’s Green door!” **MR TADHG O’MAHONY** (2006) recalls “Therese Mitchell, School of Physiotherapy secretary – she knew everybody!”

Touchingly, some alumni stay in contact with the members of support staff who connected with them. “Terry Slattery and Johnny Carpark. I kept in touch with Terry for years and a few years after graduation, he surprised me by showing up at my birthday party when I was living in London. There were a few RCSI grads at that party and they howled when he walked in. Great guy,” says **DR HOURIYA KAZIM** (1988) from the UAE.



“I LOVED THE CANTEEN – ANNIE WOULD GIVE AN EXTRA PORTION IF YOU PUT ON A SAD FACE.”

DR PATRICK TROY, CLASS OF 1986

Canteen ladies Annie O’Mahony and Annie Leahy.

“Jim Sherlock” says a graduate from 2007. “On the way into one of our final exams in the boardroom he managed to distract us all and calm the nerves by giving us a history lesson about Countess Markievicz in RCSI during the 1916 Rising. He showed us the bullet holes on the doors into the boardroom shot

from the Shelbourne Hotel during the Rising. I forget what exam was on but I still remember the history lesson he gave us that day!” Annie in the canteen was a familiar and comforting face for the students, famously maternal and kind. **DR STEVEN FENICHEL** (1976) describes one example of her kindness. “Once, coming up to her with my tray of food, I realised that my wallet was at my flat. She gave a warm smile and said, ‘sure not to worry. We can settle up later.’”

DR PATRICK TROY (1986) also remembers Annie’s generosity. “I loved the canteen – Annie would give an extra portion if you put on a sad face.”

RCSI Head Porter Frank Donegan.



Johnny ‘Carpark’ Robinson.



Maureen McGregor and Hajra Meer in *The Revue*.

International Night 2011.

MARKING MILESTONES

Significant events at RCSI

For the six years the students spend striving toward their goals, it is crucial to make sure each small step and every milestone is celebrated. According to alumni, RCSI consistently provided well-organised and fun events for students and staff alike, through the years.

DR MARK PUGH (1985) remembers, “the Annual Revue shows, which were always a mixture of hilarity and slight danger, in case you ended up being the subject of a barbed jibe! People had amazing talent and it was great to allow people showcase this side of their personalities.”

DR SHAMINI KIRUPANANTHAN (2006), from Canada, highlights “the very first ballad session as a First Med and the very last ballad session as a Final Med. Also, the Biological Society meeting when Mr Hickey spoke passionately as the new president. During his tenure, he also invited Che Guevara’s daughter to speak about health care in Cuba, a talk that fundamentally shifted the way I saw the practice of medicine.”

DR PADRAIG MCGARRY (1982) recalls “The first Sherry Reception – everything else paled into insignificance after that!” Now based in Australia, **DR KHALDOON ALSAEE** (2007) specifically liked “the International Nights that were held down in the basketball courts. We were allowed to bring hookahs and we smoked them on the courts without any protest! It was a hit.” **MS CAITRIONA RYAN** (2009) remembers the Pharmacy Ball the most: “The Pharmacy Ball – always amazing, it felt special with just people from that course.”

Certain events marked a change in self-perception for students. For surgeon in training **DR FIACHRA SHEIL** (2015) the Conferring Week Consultants’ Dinner is what he recalls most. “It was like a mark of acceptance into the medical profession, where suddenly tutors and professors were colleagues.”

THE CONFERRING WEEK CONSULTANTS’
DINNER IS WHAT HE RECALLS MOST.
“IT WAS LIKE A MARK OF ACCEPTANCE
INTO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, WHERE
SUDDENLY TUTORS AND PROFESSORS
WERE COLLEAGUES.”

DR FIACHRA SHEIL, CLASS OF 2015

SIGNING UP

Making time to participate in the extra-curricular

Another question we asked alumni was whether they participated in societies or clubs while at RCSI. As any university student will remember, everyone is urged from all sides to join societies during their time at college. The extra-curricular activity can be hugely beneficial for creating friendships, expressing oneself or just for pure enjoyment. For those who are not so active, there are always alternative ways to achieve these things. As **DR NIALL MACAULEY** (1987) answered, “Does Rice’s count?”

DR BRIAN BYRNES (1970) remembers his contribution: “I joined the Biological Society, and the Rugby Club. I was actually captain of the Rugby Club for at least two seasons, playing totally in the wrong leagues for our level of skill. Proudest moment was to come back from Galway after winning the Medical Schools Sevens and to give Dr Seamus Gallen the large cup we had won!”

One needn’t have been exceptionally talented to take part. **DR DAVID VANNIASINGHAM** (1990) “was secretary and subsequently captain of the Boxing Club” during his time at RCSI. “Not that I was any good, but needed the weekly workout. Had the opportunity to do some training under the boxing coach of Trinity College Dublin, Fred Teidt, who I believe was the 1956 Olympic Bronze Medalist. He told me to stick to Medicine!”

DR MIRA AGRAWAL (1991) looks back fondly on an emotional moment in the Musical Society. “We were the first class to sing at Mass for the families who had donated cadavers to RCSI, under the instruction of Stanley Monkhouse. It was a very moving experience.”

DR KHALDOON ALSAEE (2007), from Australia, was captain of the table tennis team. “We had won the Plate at Queens University in Belfast, the first time ever RCSI won in table tennis. We didn’t have funding to stay another night to collect the plate and actually never received it to this day!” Some sporting events are hard to forget, for the wrong reasons! **DR STEVEN FENICHEL** (1976) played on the RCSI Basketball team. “In 1971 we were playing for the Irish National Championship against the Galway Medical School team at Queens campus in Belfast. Heartbreak was we lost by a single basket, scored by the man I was guarding.”

MR TERRY SMEATON (2013) adds words of advice, “I tried kickboxing, otherwise I was always too ‘busy’. ‘If you don’t make time, you won’t have time’, was a lesson learned well in RCSI.” ■

READ YOUR DECADE’S SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS AT
rcsi.ie/alumnisurvey



Dramatic Society in 1947.



& THE GREAT & THE GOOD

Talent, and a love of what they do, are characteristics shared by many successful alumni. We connect with a number of graduates who are making their mark ...



DR ALAN BYRNE
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1985
LOCATION:
IRELAND

Dr Alan Byrne is senior team doctor to the Republic of Ireland soccer

team and medical director of the Football Association of Ireland. Dr Byrne is also a senior partner in the Scholarstown family practice and is a consultant in sports and exercise medicine at the Beacon Centre for Orthopedics. After graduating from RCSI in 1985, he first became involved in football medicine as team doctor at Shelbourne FC in 1993, remaining in this role for six seasons until 1999. Dr Byrne's passion for sport was combined with his love of medicine in 2000, when he completed a Masters in Sports and Exercise Medicine at UCD. In 2011, he worked for a brief period as team doctor in the English Premier League with Fulham FC. A founding Fellow of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, he was elected to the Board of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine in 2011 and is on the Specialist Register of Sports and Exercise medicine. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "There have been many, but qualifying for Euro 2016 in France – along with the success the team enjoyed there – has to be one of the most important."



DR ZUBIN J DARUWALLA
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2005 LOCATION: **SOUTH EAST ASIA**

Dr Zubin J Daruwalla is a Director in PwC South East Asia Consulting and leads the healthcare consulting team in the region, while remaining a practicing clinician with an interest in orthopaedics. With more than 20 years of experience in health prior to working with PwC, his career in healthcare provision from a surgeon's standpoint has included working in both the public and private sectors across continents, including in Dublin, Oxford and Singapore. Dr Daruwalla is also a consultant, advisor

and mentor to a number of start-ups and individuals. As well as his undergraduate degree from RCSI, he has masters degrees in Orthopaedic Surgery from RCSI and Singapore (NUS). **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "Joining PwC South East Asia Consulting as Director and Healthcare Lead while continuing clinical practice and bridging the corporate, clinical and start-up worlds."



DR JAMALUL AZIZI ABDUL RAHAMAN
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1989 LOCATION: **MALAYSIA**

Dr Abdul Rahaman led the Alumni Reunion Committee for the 2017 Malaysia Reunion in Kuala Lumpur in March 2017. After completing his internship and working as a Senior House Officer for three years, Dr Abdul Rahaman went to the National University of Malaysia to train to become a physician and later on did further training to become a respiratory physician (pulmonologist). His training took him to Western Australia, Marseille, France and Phoenix, Arizona. Together with a group of Malaysian pulmonologists, he established a new

respiratory society in Malaysia dedicated to bronchoscopy (Malaysian Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology). He is the current chairman and represents Malaysia on the World Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT: "I was appointed National Head of Respiratory Service for the Ministry of Health Malaysia two years ago and am currently working at Serdang Hospital, the main cardiothoracic centre in Malaysia."



PROFESSOR RASIK GOPAL
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1974
 LOCATION: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Professor Rasik Gopal returned to South Africa after his graduation in 1974 and pursued a career in neurosurgery. He has served as joint head of neurosurgery at University of Witwatersrand Medical School and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and started

neurosurgery departments at Rand Netcare Hospital and Lenmed Clinic. He also served as senator, convenor and examiner with the College of Medicine in South Africa. His passion for mentoring and training led to the unit producing many neurosurgeons who have gone on to practice in South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world. Whilst dedicating much of his career to teaching medical undergraduates, post-graduates and nurses, he spent long hours teaching micro-neurosurgery to registrars. His clinical work includes vast experience in treating intracranial anterior circulation aneurysms, pituitary tumours, endovascular embolisation of carotid cavernous fistulas and stereo taxis, and he was involved in the separation of four sets of conjoined twins. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “The Christiaan Barnard Memorial Award I received last year for my contribution to neurosurgery and the people of South Africa.”



MS DEIRDRE HEALY
PHARMACY, CLASS OF 2006
 LOCATION: **SWITZERLAND**

Ms Deirdre Healy is Technical Officer, World Health Organisation and is a member of the WHO Prequalification team for in vitro diagnostic medical device (IVD) assessment whose aim is to facilitate access to safe, appropriate and

affordable IVDs that meet international standards for safety, quality and performance. The team assesses the quality of IVDs for high burden diseases such as HIV, hepatitis and malaria with a focus on use in resource limited settings. Assessments are used by WHO Member States, UN agencies and other funding agencies and NGOs to make decisions on what IVDs to procure. The team also develops guidelines for manufacturers and international organisations in order to promote quality, improve access and global reach. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “To witness the impact of our work over time. Striving to change stakeholders’ perceptions to IVDs takes time. It is rewarding to see the milestone changes in testing options in countries when they gain increased access to high quality, reliable and appropriate IVDs, and to see manufacturers responding to our challenge to innovate and develop affordable, quality IVDs.”



DR JONATHAN O'KEEFFE
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1998 LOCATION: **UK**

Dr Jonathan O' Keeffe is Regional Director for Medical Services at International SOS in London. He is a consultant in health systems design for companies and other organisations, supporting employers to look after their employees by enhancing healthcare provisions so they are able to operate without a local health infrastructure.

His area of expertise is in setting up extreme remote projects into Greenland and the polar and subarctic regions where different telemedicine systems can improve the patient consultation experience in these very inaccessible locations. In 2015, Dr O' Keeffe completed an MBA at Imperial College in London. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “Being a part of the medical advisory team looking after people working in some of the most challenging environmental and communication conditions on the planet. Each project is more interesting than the last. I'm very lucky in that regard.”



DR NADEEM MOGHAL
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1989 LOCATION: **UK**

Dr Nadeem Moghal, Medical Director, Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, started his undergraduate paediatric experience at Temple Street, terrified of the speciality; the five-year-old hiding from the ward round under the iron bed frame telling the Professor to ‘feck off’ was one turning moment, he says. After graduation, he completed basic and then paediatric

postgraduate training in Scotland, England and Germany. He was appointed Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist at Newcastle University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in 1998. Leading the regional service, he transformed the systems of care including live donor transplantation outcomes. He is author of several medical and social science articles and co-author of the Oxford Handbook of Renal Transplantation. He says he neglected his family to complete his MBA, then escaped to practice leadership and leading change rooted in the science of quality improvement through his NHS Fellowship which afforded him quality improvement science expertise from the Institute for Health Improvement in Cambridge MA. The complexity of clinical leadership, rather than the complexity of the nephron, became the driver for taking on leadership roles in a number of NHS organisations to challenge thinking, rebuild teams and successfully establish unique models of care. His leadership development continued at The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He claims to have deliberately walked into fires to prove the value of engaging leadership and the impact of great teams on patient outcomes and experience. He now finds himself in his most challenging responsibility as Medical Director and part of an executive team rebuilding the culture of a large Hospital Trust in NE London. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “I was recently afforded the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland by its Faculty of Paediatrics, in recognition of my leadership in the field of paediatrics; a truly humbling experience, reminding me why Dublin is where I grew up, experienced lows, many highs, made enduring friendships and found my life partner, Gertrud Buerstedde (Class of 1989).”



MS AVRIL COPELAND PHYSIOTHERAPY, CLASS OF 2010 MS SARAH RAND PHYSIOTHERAPY, CLASS OF 2003 LOCATION: **UK**

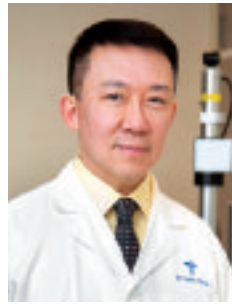
Ms Avril Copeland, CEO of Tickerfit, graduated as a physiotherapist from RCSI in 2010. While working in Beaumont Hospital, she had an idea to make it easier for patients to understand the process of their recovery and for their clinicians to be able to monitor their progress. As co-founder of TickerFit with Greg Balmer, initial funding from Enterprise Ireland allowed the company to build and trial a prototype of the technology. Recently, the company submitted a successful application to the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) in the UK to develop a solution that would help young people living with Cystic Fibrosis to manage the condition. This funding will allow Copeland and colleague Ms Sarah Rand, also an RCSI graduate, senior teaching Fellow and research physiotherapist, to research and develop the first iteration of the product with a view to commercialising the technology and scaling its delivery. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “Securing this fund which will allow us to explore how technology can be used to improve the healthcare experience for both patient and provider.”



PROFESSOR AMEEN PATEL
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1985
LOCATION: **CANADA**

Professor Ameen Patel is a Professor and Vice Chair Education in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University, Canada. He is the Department Education Coordinator and Program Lead for

the fourth year of Internal Medicine Training. His career to date included roles at DeGroot School of Medicine as Director of International Electives, at Hamilton Health Sciences as Co-Chief of Medicine for the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. He is a council member of the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine (CSIM) and CSIM liaison to the Canadian Journal of General Internal Medicine. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “I am privileged to hold the endowed William J Walsh Chair in Medical Education.”



DR JOHN CHANG
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1984 LOCATION: **HONG KONG**

Dr John Chang is Honorary Consultant in Ophthalmology at Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital, a non-profit organisation. He was trained in ophthalmology at Jules Stein Eye Institute UCLA, then did a Fellowship at UCSF and is presently the President-elect of the International Society of Refractive Surgery (ISRS). He is Past President of the Hong Kong Association of Private Eye Surgeons and is Associate Clinical Professor of The University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dr Chang is currently the Director of the Guy Hugh Chan Refractive Surgery Centre of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. He is Clinical Instructor for many refractive intraocular lenses and procedures and frequently runs courses for doctors in the region. He is on the Executive Committee of the APACRS, is on the Editorial Board of Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today and Ocular Surgery News, and is chief editor of the Chinese edition of *EuroTimes*. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “I was appointed President of the International Society of Refractive Surgery (ISRS) and will serve from 2018-2019.”



DR MOHAMMED ABDULQADER AL REDHA
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2003 LOCATION: **UAE**

Dr Mohammed Abdulqader Al Redha is the Director of the Executive Office for Organisational Transformation in the Dubai Health Authority. A graduate and post-graduate of RCSI, Dr Al Redha also completed a research Fellowship in clinical informatics at Harvard Medical School. He is a member of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Programme for Leadership – Young leaders. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “Being appointed to my current role. My team is mandated to execute the Dubai Health 2021 Strategy which includes 15 strategic programmes and 97 healthcare initiatives across the Dubai health spectrum.”



DR MIRIAM DALY
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1995 LOCATION: **IRELAND**

Dr Miriam Daly is a member of the Irish College of General Practitioners (1999) and has a Master’s in Women’s Health from the RCSI in 2005. She has been working as a general practitioner in Dublin since 1999 and is the director of the Women’s Health Programme at the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) where she is involved in running courses in women’s health for GPs. She is chair of the ICGP Reproductive and Sexual Health Committee. She is a clinical lecturer in the School of Medicine and Medical Science at UCD where she is involved in teaching undergraduate medical students. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** “Through my role at ICGP I have met many pioneering colleagues, learning from them and bringing their expertise to GPs through training and conferences.”



PROFESSOR BERNADETTE HANNIGAN PHD CLASS OF 1984 LOCATION: UK

Professor Bernadette Hannigan is Director of Research, Translation and Innovation in Public Health England, overseeing research on topics that range from Alzheimer's Disease to Zika virus. Most projects involve collaboration with universities or

other research institutions in the UK or globally. Her research directly supports the delivery of evidence for public health services and policies by providing unique research training environments. Over 120 PhD students are supervised jointly with leading universities. In Ireland, currently Professor Hannigan is a member of the Health Research Board and of the External Advisory Group for the SPHeRe programme, hosted by RCSI. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "When I was Pro Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation at the University of Ulster, leading so many colleagues to achieve our best-ever score in the UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise, ranking in the top one third of all universities."



DR MICHAEL MAHER MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1983 LOCATION: IRELAND

When Dr Maher qualified from RCSI he completed his radiation oncology training in St Luke's Hospital Dublin, the Institut de Cancérologie Gustave-Roussy and Institut Curie. He established the first private radiotherapy centre in Ireland in 1995 when he joined the Mater Private Hospital.

Dr Maher is a leader in the field of prostate seed implantation, brachytherapy, and established the first programme of its kind in Ireland. In 2010 Dr Maher was appointed as the Chairman of the Cancer Centre at the Mater Private and has oversight for the provision of cancer care throughout the hospital. Dr Maher's vision for the cancer centre is to provide personalised care to patients living with a cancer diagnosis whilst offering the most recent treatments and technology to ensure the best possible outcome. Dr Maher was pivotal in the development of Radiation Oncology services in Limerick University Hospital. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "Being responsible for the development of Radiation Oncology at the Mater Private Hospital, the expansion of services to include the successful introduction of complex techniques which have become largely routine such as IMRT, IGRT and Arc therapy. The commencement of a brachytherapy service for prostate cancer and high dose rate brachytherapy for aggressive forms of the disease; Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation (APBI) and the use of brachytherapy for gynecological and skin cancers and, in the appropriate clinical setting, for lung and oesophageal cancers."



MS SUSAN MOORE CERTIFICATE IN NURSING & MIDWIFE PRESCRIBING, 2012 LOCATION: IRELAND

Ms Susan Moore, Clinical Nurse Specialist Stoma Care at Sligo University Hospital was named *The British Journal of Nursing Stoma Care Nurse of the Year* at The Gala Awards Ceremony at The Shakespeare's Underglobe London on March 11th 2016. *The British Journal of Nursing* is the leading general clinical journal for nurses. Susan was the

only nurse from an Irish hospital to be shortlisted and nominated. The award is the culmination of 21 years' work in the area of hospital and community stoma care. In 2000, Susan established the Sligo Stoma Support Group and in 2013 she undertook a Certificate in Nurse Prescribing at RCSI in Ireland and became the first Irish stoma care nurse specialist to prescribe for ostomists. In February 2014, her poster on medication issues for ileostomists won first prize at the second Nurse and Midwife Product Prescribing Conference in Dublin Castle. On June 14th 2016 Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady, Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council held a civic reception to honour Susan's achievements. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "It is a great honour to win this award. I hope that by putting the spotlight on bowel disease and stoma formation it will help make it easier for people to discuss these issues."



DR ANTHONY (TONY) WALSH MEDICINE, CLASS OF 1980 LOCATION: IRELAND

Dr Tony Walsh is the founder of Sims IVF, Ireland's largest provider of care in reproductive medicine. The Sims group includes units at Rotunda IVF and Sims IVF Cork. After graduating from RCSI, Dr Walsh trained in General Surgery before commencing training rotations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the

Rotunda, St James', Mater and Baggot Street in Dublin; The Lister Hospital, London; and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. He is a visiting Professor at Lviv University and Harvard University/Boston IVF. He founded Ireland's first independent IVF unit at Clane Clinic in 1988 and led the team at Clane to achieve Ireland's first IVF baby. He then achieved Ireland's first twin pregnancy from GIFT procedure and introduced a sperm donation programme to Ireland for severe male factor infertility. With his colleague at Sims, Dr David Walsh, a successful treatment regime using donor eggs was developed, at first for oncology patients and then for the rising demand in voluntary delayed infertility. He continues to teach RCSI medical students. He was the national representative for Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the IMO and was a member of the committee of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at RCPI. He is the National Representative at the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of London.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT: "Establishing Sims as a recognised teaching Hospital of the RCSI is an important academic milestone for me but, helping thousands of couples to achieve pregnancy which has resulted in more than 8000 live births is, I hope, my job well done." ■

TOGETHER AGAIN

The main reasons to reunite with fellow alumni are nostalgic – a visit back to a time and place that formed an important part of your life. And then there's the networking ...

Your reunion is on the horizon and you are looking forward to it with equal parts anticipation and dread. You know you will take pleasure in reliving happy memories of college life, the shared experiences of lecturers, exams and parties and the chance to reunite with friends who now live all over the globe. But the formal reminder of time passed can present some doubts, maybe some regrets about decisions, and the prospect of hearing of others' formidable achievements might not be timely for you. But, according to RCSI alumni, anxiety about how we measure up is surpassed by the positives of being able to revisit happy memories and deeper emotions.

In August, more than 400 alumni from Medicine and Dentistry are expected to gather at RCSI in Dublin for three days from 24th-26th. They will be graduates of the classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007. Highlights of the weekend will include a Jubilee Lunch and Welcome Reception on Thursday 24th, a Scientific Meeting and Class Dinner on Friday 25th and a Gala Dinner on Saturday 26th. All alumni can attend tours of RCSI by College Porters, both past and present. This programme of events has been in place for the past number of years and has been a success with alumni, offering a mix of the informal and the formal.

As **PROFESSOR JAMES PAUL O'NEILL**, (Class of 2001) Professor of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, RCSI who attended his 15th reunion in 2016 remembers: "The highlights of the reunion were having a lovely dinner in the College, meeting friends and colleagues from other classes and bringing the celebrations onto The Swan Bar and Lounge!"

For many, like **DR CHANDHU PAKA**, (Class of 2007), Assistant Professor at Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai New York, who recently completed her Fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery from



Jubilee Lunch.



Class of 1976 Reunion.



Angie Morrow.



Gala Dinner.

"IT WAS GREAT TO BE BACK, TO SEE PEOPLE AGAIN AND TO HEAR THE OLD WAR STORIES. WE WERE BACK AS WE USED TO BE."

– **DR GENE MC KEE (CLASS OF 1961)**

John Hopkins, the prospect of getting together with old friends, a decade after graduation, is important. She is looking forward to "being reunited with some of the bestest people I know."

Celebrating his 20th reunion, **DR SAMUEL CHEW** (Class of 1997)

from Singapore is Senior Consultant Geriatrician, Changi General Hospital, Singapore & Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. He remembers his days at RCSI: "I was known by my housemates in Dublin as "Histaman" as my perennial rhinitis is a most accurate measure of when the carpets need vacuuming! In the graduation yearbook, I envisaged a life under coconut trees by the sea with a pina colada in hand. Little did I know what life had in store for me, including

working and living for over ten years in Birmingham, UK and the last six years in Singapore. Nevertheless, I wouldn't change a single thing, especially the many happy years in Dublin and at RCSI."

For **PROFESSOR TG TEOH**, (Class of 1987), a 30th reunion in August is on the cards: "I am keen to meet all my classmates and also members of the 4th Med rugby team who won the inter year trophy – the only time I won a medal at Surgeons!" Professor Teoh is Professor & Consultant Obstetrician and Divisional Director, Division of Women's, Children's & Clinical Support, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK.

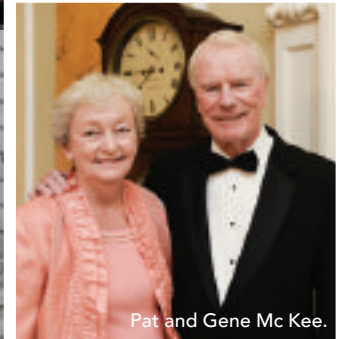
Returning to RCSI in 2017 to meet fellow alumni and celebrate 60 years since graduation is **DR EZEL ORFI** (Class of 1957) from Canada. "My graduation marked the beginning of an interesting, if not always straightforward career which continues to this day. In 1958, I returned to Cyprus and worked at the Nicosia General Hospital. After five years as a general practitioner, I travelled with my young family to the UK, to pursue post graduate studies in Radiology at the University of Bristol. The next couple of years were spent at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, as a Registrar in the Radiology Department. By 1967, it was clear the political situation in Cyprus precluded a return home, so once again we set off in search of adventure, I pioneered in the field of private radiology, establishing diagnostic imaging clinics in Toronto and other surrounding areas. I have been followed in the medical profession by my son, a cardiologist near Toronto, and my elder daughter, a dental surgeon in Buffalo, New York. My granddaughter, Clodagh Peters, started as a first year medical student at RCSI in Dublin last September. I cannot realistically hope to see firsthand where her career will take her, but I feel confident RCSI will provide her with the same remarkable opportunities as it did me."

DR ANGIE MORROW (Class of 1991) senior staff specialist in paediatric rehabilitation at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, attended her reunion in 2016 – 25 years after graduating. This experience kickstarted her intention to attend every single one from now on. "I love my old classmates more each time we get together. So much fun, from the welcome reception to dinner in the Exam Hall and of course all those pints at the Swan, sitting in the sun outside Kehoes, hitting Leeson Street to show the young folk how it's done. The Class of 1991 still knows how to party in style and I suspect always will. See you at the next reunion!"

A couple who met at RCSI and returned for their reunion in 2016 were



John and Angela Doherty.



Pat and Gene Mc Kee.

DRS JOHN and ANGELA DOHERTY (Class of 1971). After stints in Dublin, UK, and for John in the Congo, they moved to Australia where Angela (née Spikker) worked for the Maternal and Child Health Service in Brisbane, then in general practice in Far North Queensland, and John was the medical superintendent of a hospital near Cairns. They moved from Australia when John began his 30-year career with the United Nations, first with the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, then as Medical Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, travelling extensively. He was promoted to diplomatic status and was regularly the doctor on call for presidents, celebrities and royalty visiting the UN. "Happily, Pope John Paul II, Jimmy Carter, Prince Charles and Lady Diana stayed healthy when under my care, but many other notables tested my clinical skills." With other staff, John shared in the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IAEA in 2005. Now they divide their time between Stratford-upon-Avon and Vienna, and have six children and eight grandchildren. Speaking of their reunion in August, they both agreed "though some of us looked a little older, personalities hadn't changed at all after 45 years." ■

FOR MORE ON ALUMNI GATHERING 2017
rcsi.ie/alumnigathering2017



PROFESSOR ROBERT F HARRISON (Class of 1967) was on the attendee list to return to RCSI in August 2017 when news of his death on January 28th reached Sonja Lee, Alumni Relations Manager, who had spoken to him in January about how much he was looking forward to his 50th reunion.

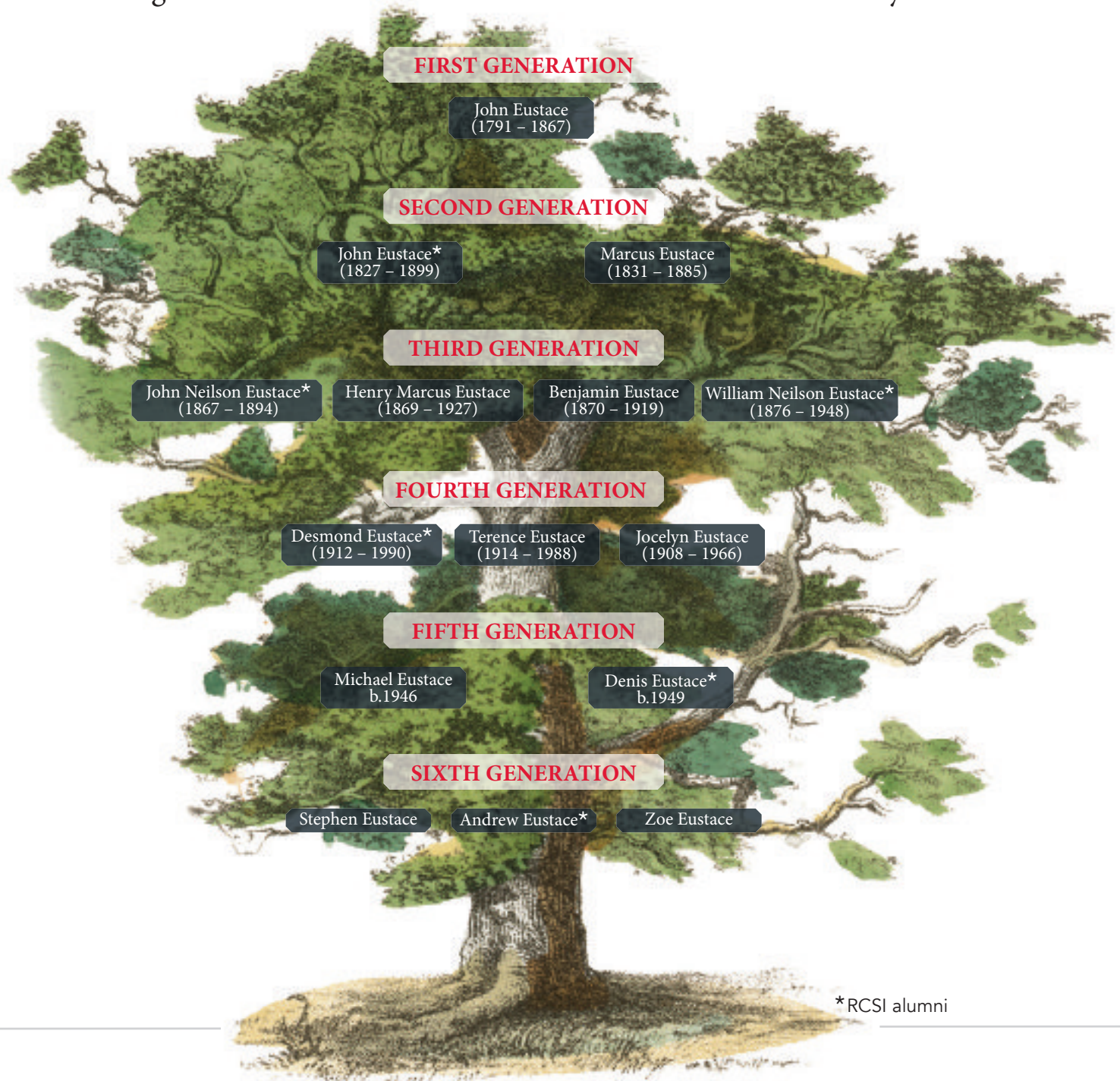
During their conversation, Professor Harrison, an Englishman, expressed his gratitude to RCSI: The teachers were superb. In particular, he recalled fondly Dr Moira O'Brien: "She taught me how to teach." And teach he did, as well as focusing on other aspects of his successful career

– he pioneered IVF-assisted birth technology in Ireland, overseeing the birth of 4,000 babies. Professor Harrison was also Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at RCSI for nearly two decades. Being both a graduate and Professor of RCSI, he said, made him very proud.

He was anticipating his Golden Jubilee reunion this August with pleasure. "I am looking forward to seeing the dentists, who were all very nice. Paul Robinson even lent me money for my first car (which I BOUGHT FROM HIM!)" Professor Robert Harrison, 1940 - 2017.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Many members of the Eustace family tree, over six generations, are RCSI alumni. This medical dynasty succeeded in establishing a uniquely holistic environment to treat the mentally ill. We go back to 1791 and the birth of the first doctor in the family ...



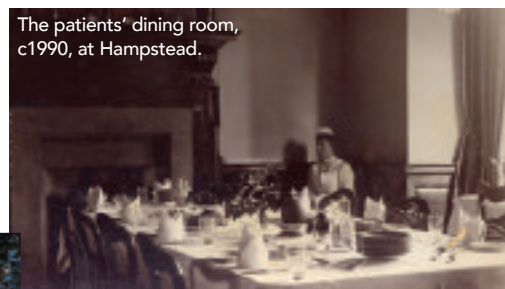


Dr. John Eustace.

Staff nurse, c1990, at Highfield.



The patients' dining room, c1990, at Hampstead.



1892: Prominent asylum doctors including Dr John Eustace and Dr Connolly Norman.



Highfield.

Careers in medicine often run in families, but there can be few medical dynasties with as unbroken a history in the profession as the Eustaces, who established and still run Highfield Healthcare, a hospital and associated facilities in Whitehall and Glasnevin, Dublin 9 which provide later life and general adult psychiatry services.

The hospital was founded by Dr John Eustace in 1825, and members of the fifth and sixth generations now work there, including Dr Denis Eustace, one of its Consultant Psychiatrists, Dr Andrew Eustace, its Clinical Director, Stephen Eustace, CEO and Zoe Eustace, who is a trained Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. At least one member of every generation since the original Dr John Eustace (many of them also called John) has been a graduate of RCSI and worked at Highfield.

Dr Denis Eustace, who graduated from RCSI in 1974 and held the post of Clinical Director at Highfield for over 30 years, now continues his work as a Consultant Psychiatrist as well as the Family Historian.

“Dr John Eustace was my great-great-grandfather,” explains Dr Denis. “His family were tea merchants and Quakers from Cork, and his father (also John) had been impressed by the York Retreat in England founded by another family of Quakers, the Tukes, which is still in existence today.

“It was based on the system of ‘moral treatment’ developed by French physician, Philippe Pinel, who said that the shackles should be taken off the mentally ill and that they should be treated humanely, without punishment. Pinel was not a Quaker, but his ideas very much chimed with the Quaker faith, and its ethos of treating man and womankind with kindness.”

Dr John Eustace studied medicine at Edinburgh and Trinity College, Dublin, and during his undergraduate years worked as a medical superintendent at the Quaker-run Bloomfield Hospital in Donnybrook, becoming a visiting consultant there once he qualified.

The Eustaces, in common with many Quaker families, have always been known as good business people, and Dr John soon developed a plan to open his own hospital. In 1822, he and his friends Isaac Ryall and a Dr Grattan, formed a partnership and bought Hampstead House and 14 acres of farmland at Glasnevin from Sir Robert Steele.

“In 1825, Dr John opened the doors of his business,” says Dr Denis, “and began a long family tradition of Eustaces looking after the mentally ill, ‘ladies and gentlemen with diseases of the mind’. The hospital was private, and so all the patients would have been relatively well-off. The book of admissions shows that one of the first patients was the 18-year-old son of a baronet. He was deemed to be suffering from melancholia – what we now call depression –

“THE FARM WAS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO GROW UP. I REMEMBER ON CHRISTMAS DAY MY DAD WOULD HAVE ALL THE MALE PATIENTS IN FOR TWO HOURS, AND MY JOB WAS TO HAND AROUND THE CIGARETTE BOX.”

and was treated with seclusion, and deemed well enough to be discharged after two months.” Dr John soon bought out his partners and proved to be an astute businessman himself, advertising the unique point of difference distinguishing Hampstead from its competitors. “Essential to the moral treatment that he offered,” explains Dr Denis, “were the beautiful farmland and pleasure grounds, in which the patients were able to walk with the attendants. It was then and still is the nearest working farm to Dublin and in the past many of the patients would have helped on the farm and been paid for their work. Sadly, we can no longer involve the patients in the farm because of health and safety requirements, which is a real shame.” From the outset, the hospital looked after both men and women, initially in the same house.

“Among the conditions that Dr John would have treated,” explains Dr Denis, “would have been dementia precox (schizophrenia), melancholia, senility, and the curse of the 1800s, the Victorian illness, general paralysis of the insane due to syphilis. Syphilis is quite treatable now but it wasn’t then.”

Two of Dr John’s sons, John and Marcus, qualified as doctors from RCSI and joined their father at Hampstead. “The business was expanding,” explains Dr Denis. “The Eustaces bought more land – at one stage they had 150 acres – and acquired Highfield House, Whitehall, so that they could separate the male patients from the female. It’s very interesting to see the kind of people who were coming here then: gentlemen farmers, people of independent means, tax consultants, solicitors and doctors. The hospital was subject to inspection and



Family historian,
Dr Denis Eustace.



The avenue at Hampstead.



The new Highfield Hospital.

“IT WAS THEN AND STILL IS THE NEAREST WORKING FARM TO DUBLIN AND IN THE PAST MANY OF THE PATIENTS WOULD HAVE HELPED ON THE FARM.”

standards were high – the second Dr John was keen on new therapies and had been persuaded to buy a circulating chair, essentially a cage, inside which there was a chair that spun around when a bicycle outside the cage was pedalled. It was believed to rid a person of melancholia but the inspectorate told him to cease the practice because it didn't work!”

Unusually, the Eustaces always lived among their patients, and there are still several Eustace family homes on the Hampstead grounds. One patient, a fellow Quaker, Mr Lahiff, lived on the land in a house which he paid for over 30 years, all the time looked after by members of the Eustace family. The third generation of Eustaces to work at Highfield were a third John, his brother, Henry Marcus, as well as Dr Denis' grandfather William, who qualified at RCSI. In the fourth generation his father, Desmond, also a graduate at RCSI, continued in the family tradition.

Having grown up in one of the houses on the Hampstead campus during the 1950s, young Denis was well used to the patients. “The farm was a wonderful place to grow up. I remember on Christmas Day my dad would have all the male patients in for two hours, and my job was to hand around the cigarette box. On St Stephen's Day my mother had all the ladies around for tea.” When it came to leaving school and choosing a career, Dr Denis toyed with the idea of veterinary medicine before enrolling in RCSI, as so many of his forebears had done. Indeed, his brother John had already completed his time at RCSI and was now a practising doctor. “It seemed like the done thing to do to go to RCSI, and I have many happy memories of my time there as a student. One word of advice my father had for me was not to sit under the portrait of Sir Thomas Myles when I sat my exams because everyone who sat there was destined to fail and yet, when it came to the day, there I was, right under the portrait.”

The curse of Sir Thomas struck again, and Dr Denis ended up repeating his first year, which had the unexpected benefit of providing him with twice the number of classmates and friends that he would otherwise have had. After he qualified, he did his intern year in Connolly Hospital and subsequently developed an interest in later life medicine. Through his work in the field of addiction as well as liver disease in Jervis Street, he was now leaning towards psychiatry. He went on to train and qualify as a psychiatrist at St Patrick's

Hospital and worked in Canada for a couple of years as a senior psychiatrist before his father asked him to return to work at Highfield.

“A year later my brother, Michael, who worked in industry, joined me here, and together we developed the services in the private sector of later life psychiatry.”

The brothers opened a convalescent home in 1985, refurbished the Hampstead and Highfield buildings, and in 1991 opened Ireland's first purpose-built dementia dedicated care centre.

“We have never stopped building,” says Dr Denis. “We developed a palliative high-dependency care unit for dementia sufferers. The convalescent work was a great success initially but the business slowed down due to changes in VHI cover, and so in 2004 we started to work with the care of those with chronic enduring mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and chronic depression.”

By 2004 the sixth generation Eustaces, Andrew and Stephen, had joined. In 2010, the Eustaces built a new state-of-the-art 210-bed facility and now Highfield Healthcare, which is fully private, has a total of 313 beds, specialising in both general adult and later life psychiatry.

“When I came here first there were fewer than 100 beds, so it has really grown as a business. For the future, we will be concentrating more on acute general adult psychiatry for patients under the age of 65, which was the original focus here when Dr John Eustace established the hospital. We will of course continue to look after those with both functional (eg depression and schizophrenia) and organic disorders of later life.”

In response to changes in health insurance and clinical practice, Dr Andrew Eustace runs an acute ten-bed clinic which has a short-stay provision, no longer than 30 days in most cases. “We have also developed a day hospital so that after a period of in-patient care, patients can avail of all the same multi-disciplinary therapies that are available to in-patients, but return to their own homes each evening. Of course we also accept admissions to the day hospital from the community services and GPs directly.”

Today, none of the Eustaces are practising Quakers but its values and ethos still live on. “On a personal level,” explains Dr Denis, “I have difficulty with the amount of bureaucracy and regulation that's required these days. Until 2004 I ran the whole hospital single-handedly, and I had no problem with this. It's a different world today. I love medicine, but there's too much paperwork and meetings involved. This competes with my valuable time giving that very important personal touch to my patients. The Quaker ethos is that you go and you see your patients every day, even just to shake their hand and tell them you are there if you are needed.”

It's clear that the spirit of Quakerism and moral treatment are still very much in existence at Highfield, as the Eustace family continues to develop the business into the future. ■ *By Katy McGuinness*



Until recently, clot-busting drugs were the only hope for stroke patients but now a new mechanical clot-retrieval procedure, developed by an international team with RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, is set to revolutionise stroke treatment globally

Until recent years, stroke treatment – compared to significant advances in other areas of medicine, particularly cardiac – was in the doldrums. Treatment using intravenous thrombolytics – clot busting drugs – was a major advance but only suitable for about twelve per cent of patients hospitalised with acute ischemic stroke. For those patients who suffered large vessel occlusion such as the internal carotid artery or proximal intracranial middle cerebral artery, this clot-busting therapy could only reopen approximately 20 per cent of these large arteries. And for patients where clot-busting therapy is unsuccessful, the outcomes are severe, resulting in death or life-changing paralysis and damage. A study of a groundbreaking mechanical thrombectomy clot removal procedure, developed by a Calgary-based group and researchers at RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, involves endovascular treatment with transfemoral transarterial micro-catheter retrieval of clots and promises a new gold standard in stroke treatment. The international trial was carried out at 22 sites worldwide and included patients referred to Beaumont Hospital in Dublin from ten centres across Ireland, and from hospitals in Canada, the US, UK and South Korea. The results of the study were initially published in February 2015 in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*. Findings proved that urgent rapid intervention in acute stroke decreases mortality and dramatically improves independent asymptomatic survival. This seminal paper and similar results from subsequent trials have prompted the HSE to consider a national plan to introduce thrombectomy procedures in key centres in the country.

For Professor David Williams, the stroke physician who co-led the RCSI team with Dr John Thornton in the study and subsequent trials, the mechanical



Professor David Williams (left), Associate Professor in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine, RCSI and Consultant Stroke Physician at Beaumont Hospital and Dr John Thornton (right), Consultant Neuroradiologist & Clinical Stroke Lead at Beaumont Hospital were the co-leads in Ireland for the study, described as the most significant development in stroke treatment in the past two decades.

“... IN MANY CASES INSTEAD OF SUFFERING MAJOR NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITY, PATIENTS WENT HOME TO RESUME NORMAL LIFE.”

DR PAUL BRENNAN (MEDICINE, 1981)

removal of these life-threatening clots is a major step on the way to reducing mortality and long-term life-changing damage from stroke. “It is most encouraging. Beaumont Hospital performed 170 of these procedures in 2016. There is potential for many more patients to be treated in this manner if we can offer this level of service across the country. As it is, patients must be transferred by ambulance to Beaumont Hospital. The reality is that there is a short window – under six hours or six to twelve hours on a case by case basis – that the procedure

can be carried out with a reasonable prospect of success.” As with all stroke treatments, time is of the essence. The longer blood flow interruption or blockage or reduction continues, more brain cells die and nerve damage continues and outcomes are less certain. Consultant Neuroradiologist at Beaumont Hospital, Dr Paul Brennan (Medicine, 1981) says that positive outcomes for patients who underwent the procedure

increased from 30 to 55 per cent: “In many cases instead of suffering major neurological disability, patients went home to resume normal life.” The results of the study represent the most significant development in stroke treatment in the past 20 years, “This will impact on stroke care all over the world,” says Professor Williams. ■



POWER OF TWO

Alumni Kevin
and Iroshini Chua
(Class of 2001) run
a thriving, forward-
looking family
medical practice and
aesthetic clinic in
Singapore. They met
at RCSI, and have
fond memories
of Ireland



“THE WAY I AM DESCRIBED
IN SINGAPORE IS AS AN
ACCREDITED FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH AN INTEREST
IN AESTHETICS. SO IT’S THE
EQUIVALENT TO A GP WITH AN
ADJUNCT SERVICE ...”

DR KEVIN CHUA

// always say about my family, we’ve got you covered from end to end,” explains Dr Kevin Chua, who comes from a long line of medical practitioners. “My brother is a paediatrician, my parents and I are GPs. I do aesthetics while my sister is in palliative medicine.” A graduate of the Class of 2001, Dr Chua now runs the thriving Drs Chua and Partners clinic in the leafy Bukit Merah suburb of Singapore. He hopes to expand the stylish practice, which opened in 2007, in the course of this year.

“My parents inspired me to become a doctor but there was never any pressure to follow in their footsteps,” Dr Chua admits. How he came to train in Ireland was a seamless process; “RCSI sent representatives to conduct interviews for prospective students. I got a place and I didn’t really try for anywhere else. Ireland appealed to me as a destination and I really wanted to study there.” While the weather took some getting used to, he concedes, he made the most of his holidays exploring the coastline, when he worked in Blanchardstown (at James Connolly Memorial Hospital) for two years after his graduation. “I do love it when people connect from the past,” he confides. “There are quite a few graduates in Singapore; mainly Asian though some Irish who have settled here. Apparently I tutored one of the attendees I met at a recent alumni dinner, though my memory of that is hazy!”

He can be forgiven the lapse when one realises how much he has achieved in the 16 years since he graduated in 2001. He joined Raffles Medical

Group for four years before deciding to set up his own practice. “The way I am described in Singapore is as an accredited family physician with an interest in aesthetics. So it’s the equivalent to a GP with an adjunct service,” explains Dr Chua. Advocating a holistic, all-inclusive approach to his work, Dr Chua is also certified in chemical peels, scar revision, skin rejuvenation and facial recontouring and cites a special interest in “chronic care management, aesthetics and men’s health”. Though first and foremost a family GP, he has also been gaining renown for his work with tattoo removal. In this capacity, he uses the latest Picoway Laser in addition to the MedLife C6 Laser System which can significantly lighten (to 95 per cent) or remove professional, amateur, traumatic or surgical tattoos. Dr Chua is deceptively low-key about his success, given his practice has been the recipient of WhatClinic Customer Service Award 2015, SME Prestige Award 2015 and Singapore’s Outstanding Enterprise award, with other nominations in the pipeline. “I found this niche service – tattoo removal – offered this and then it grew. It’s very busy.” Believing prevention is better than cure, he intends to show his own children, Jorim (13) and Aiyana (10) the discomfort of the removal process in due course and adds, “One of my wife’s friends wanted a tattoo so I showed her the blisters that are a by-product. That worked!” he adds. He confesses he always counsels teenagers and adults to try temporary tattoos first and also to avoid inking dates or names. “They take a day to put on but can require up to eight months of very painful removal, depending on the laser.”



Iroshini and Kevin Chua with Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive, RCSI at the recent RCSI Reception in Singapore.



The Chua family.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THEY BECAME PART OF A CARPOOL ON AN EIGHT-WEEK ROTATION AT A HOSPITAL IN WATERFORD DURING THEIR THIRD YEAR THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPED.

As an additional string to his bow, Dr Chua has also launched his eponymous cosmeceutical skincare regime. “I felt that there was a gap in the market. There are too many brands and too many complications. I wanted to simplify with six products (an essence, cleanser, collagen cream, a vitamin C serum, a vitamin B3 serum and natural sunblock) three of which have won awards on the local scene.” It’s a luxurious range, rather than medicinal, produced locally with an affordable price point. “The user experience was an important factor when we were making the products. My wife and I wanted to provide a spa-like touch so you’ll notice that our sunblock has a nice scent.” The Dr Chua Aesthetic Skin Repair Serum is his personal favourite and is a bestseller. Not one to rest on his laurels, Dr Chua reveals, “I’m working on a new addition to the line with a few modifications for the existing products as well as fine-tuning our marketing strategy.”

Keeping business in the family, what is evident is the irrevocable personal and professional partnership between Kevin and his wife Iroshini (also Class of 2001), who works alongside him and is a past President of the Association of Women Doctors (Singapore). “My post-grad qualification aside, obviously meeting my wife was a huge part of my RCSI experience,” he says of his time spent in Dublin. As classmates, Kevin first came to Iroshini’s attention on stage. Dr Chua explains: “While I was in medical school I formed an a cappella group as I used to sing in a choir. In fact I sang in the alumni choir and so when I came to Ireland I set up my own group, organised my own auditions and we were part of the RCSI concert. I think the first time we sang there was the first time anyone had heard a cappella.” His group received a standing ovation, and while Iroshini’s interest was piqued, Kevin

was aware that her family, the Gunawardanas, were considered royalty in her native Sri Lanka, so he assumed she was out of his league. Despite superficial cultural differences, it wasn’t until they became part of a carpool on an eight-week rotation at a hospital in Waterford during their third year that their relationship developed. The long drives between Waterford and Dublin were the prelude to their first date during which Kevin told a startled Iroshini, “We’re going into this with marriage in mind. I don’t date.” Somewhat later he proposed on the grounds of Dromoland Castle, in what he calls a typically spontaneous moment. “My wife thought I was joking as I didn’t have a ring. My wife’s father is a fourth generation gemologist,” adds Dr Chua by way of an explanation; Iroshini designed her own ring afterwards. They got married in 2002 and are now a high-profile couple, part of Singapore’s glittering society scene. Latterly, Iroshini has continued the family tradition designing two jewellery lines in her spare time (stocked at Raffles, Singapore) in addition to her medical work.

For her part, Iroshini’s desire to be a doctor stemmed from an early age. “When I was seven, my father mentioned that he considered doing medicine because it was a noble profession when he was younger but, being the eldest, he had to take care of his eight siblings so ventured into business. This thought of medicine being noble appealed to me and I never had a Plan B; I was educated with this goal in mind.” Like her husband, she was introduced to RCSI by a representative who came to Sri Lanka for a university roadshow. “Subsequently, a Sri Lankan paediatrician who had done a post-graduate degree at RCSI also recommended it,” says Iroshini who upon completing her studies worked in Beaumont Hospital before moving back to Singapore with Kevin.

Class of 2001: Kevin
and Iroshini Chua.



Iroshini Chua on
a trip to Africa.

CHUA CHAMPIONS
SINGAPORE AS “ONE OF THE
REGION’S TOP PLACES TO
GO FOR HEALTHCARE...THE
GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISES
MEDICAL CARE ...”

Clearly multi-talented and incredibly driven, the Chuas also make time for their hobbies. Both gourmets, they will think nothing of flying to the Black Forest in Germany, for instance, to dine at the Michelin-starred Schwarzwaldstube, or exploring further afield to tick off their bucket list. Iroshini describes travel as their “genetic family disease,” and she writes about their family trips en masse for Singapore *Tatler*, with Kevin supplying the images. Indeed, the sale of one of his photographs raised S\$16,000 for charity. With a particular affinity for Africa, they’ve recently explored Namibia and South Africa. Next on the list is Antarctica in the spring. “I’ve come to realise that women are much better at multi-tasking than men. My wife has been designing jewellery, travel writing and raising our two children, in addition to our work in the clinic.”

It’s a typically self-deprecating comment from Chua, who is reaping the rewards after years of hard work. Firmly believing a person’s environment directly impacts on their wellbeing, he prioritises comfortable surroundings coupled with state-of-the-art facilities and is currently sourcing a new location to increase footfall. Initially it was arduous to establish his practice as a relative newcomer, though Chua champions Singapore as “one of the region’s top places to go for healthcare”. Talking generally, Chua elucidates, “We work on a co-payment scheme here. The government subsidises medical

care; more if you choose the public sector and less with the private sector. You can choose which sector you prefer however this is reserved only for permanent residents and citizens. Healthcare can be very costly if you are a foreigner, especially if you are one of the hundreds of manual labour workers in our construction industry.”

As much an entrepreneur as a general practitioner, Dr Chua has had to learn how to adapt in a competitive environment. “Social media has been a huge benefit in that respect, while I do understand the value of networking to grow the business. It takes time but it’s small, steady steps.” That’s why RCSI reunions are valued by Dr Chua as much for personal pleasure as the international opportunities they create. Though he restricts his singing to church these days, RCSI alumni can still applaud his achievements. Dr Chua credits strong family values, faith and a genuine passion to serve others and make a difference as the foundations of his success. kevinchua.com.sg. ■ By Penny McCormick



RAY LOHAN/RCSI

OPERATION SIMULATION

This autumn, RCSI will open the largest clinical simulation facility of its kind in Europe, where cutting-edge technology will enable students and trainees to master skills before operating on patients ...

Surgical skills cannot be mastered by simple observation or by operating skills learned in the anatomy room. The demand for high efficiency and the lack of valuable operating time leaves little time for surgeons to train students within the operating environment. These clinical pressures, along with the successful introduction of the new eight-year surgical training pathway and the restrictions on working hours under the European Working Time Directive, means there is now a much greater emphasis on off-site training for surgeons. According to Pdraig Kelly, Associate Director, Surgical Affairs, Operations and Planning at RCSI, the establishment of the new National Clinical & Surgical Training Centre at RCSI will allow the College to offset the challenges presented by the shorter duration of training and reduced doctors working hours. “It will enable trainees to learn safe surgical practice, develop their operative skills and it will reinforce the importance of surgical training to patient safety,” he says.

The new simulation facility will be located in RCSI’s new academic education building, 26 York Street in Dublin’s city centre. It is a state-of-the-art complex that will keep RCSI at the forefront of the education of doctors and healthcare professionals into the future. The new building will be home to 4,500 students and staff and 420 surgical trainees, including emergency medicine trainees and 480 non-trainee NCHDs. The new National Clinical & Surgical Training Centre on the top two floors will comprise a state-of-the-art surgical and clinical training suite containing a flexible wet lab, mock operating theatre, clinical training wards, standardised patients’ rooms and task training rooms.

The Surgical Training area is designed to enable teaching and training to take place outside the clinical arena in a wet laboratory setting where technical and non-technical skills can be practiced and simulated. But it’s not just about technique and the tools of the trade: The immersive experience that will be provided in this new national centre will be an emotionally rich educational experience. It will facilitate the development of core technical and non-technical skills in a safe environment.

**TRAINEES CAN ACQUIRE
THE SKILLS AND MASTERY NEEDED IN
A LOW-STRESS ENVIRONMENT WHILE
PATIENTS ARE PROTECTED FROM
PROCEDURAL INEXPERIENCE.**



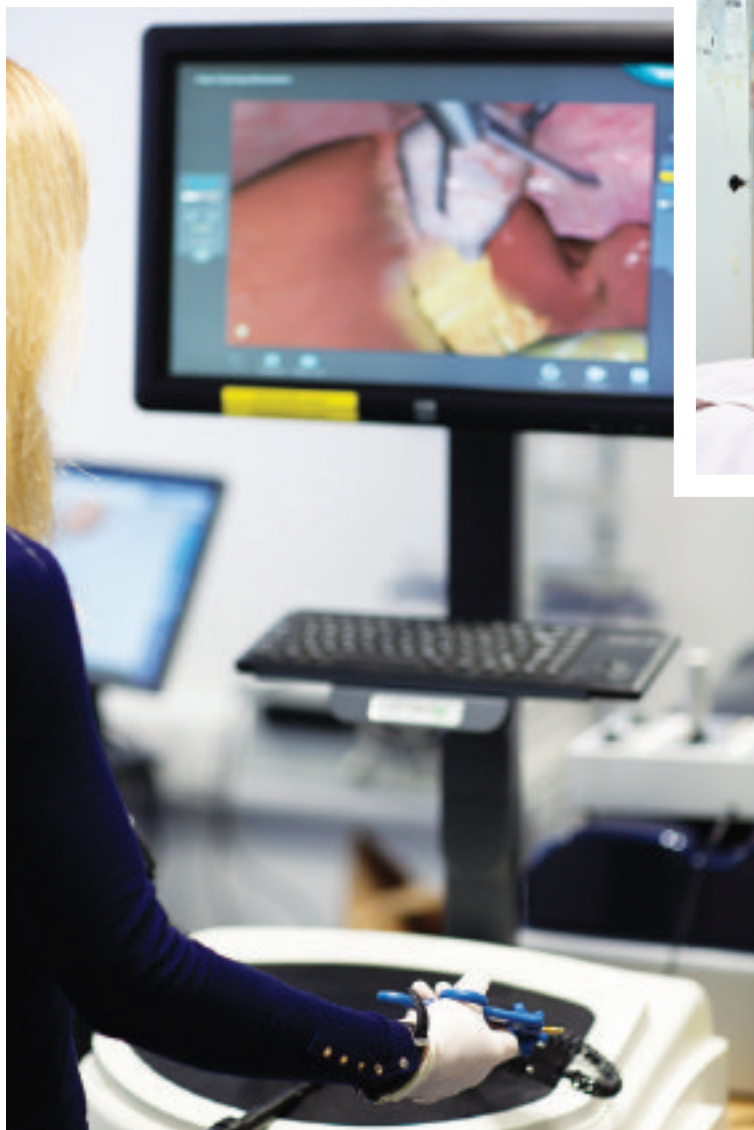
SURGICAL SKILLS LABORATORY

The Surgical Skills Laboratory will consist of twelve skills stations, accommodating 26 trainees and trainer stations as well as eleven laparoscopic skills stations. This area can be sub-divided into two smaller labs so that courses can be run simultaneously. Each station will function as a standalone unit and the central feature of each station will be the operating table, designed for tissue dissection. Above each station, there will be a ceiling mounted pendant which will supply all services, (e.g. water, vacuum/suction, compressed air, power, light, and audiovisual).



OPERATING SUITE

The Operating Suite adjacent to the surgical skills laboratory includes a functioning operating theatre, control room and observation/debrief room for up to 20 trainees. Designed for surgical education and exploration, this leading-edge facility provides surgeons with the perfect environment in which to develop, learn and practise the latest surgical techniques relevant to their specific areas of professional interest. The theatre will also be equipped with the latest laparoscopic equipment, and offers multi-angle video capture offering numerous opportunities to develop and teach technical skills.



SURGICAL SIMULATION CENTRE

Full-scale realistic simulation supported by leading-edge technology will be provided in the Surgical Simulation Centre, LEFT and ABOVE, to optimise all aspects of simulation and surgical skills training and education. The simulators in the centre will cover a broad range of specialties with a particular focus on the twelve surgical and emergency medicine specialties and sub-specialties. LEFT: A trainee using laparoscopic equipment in the Surgical Simulation Centre.

Two levels of clinical floors below the Surgical Training area will provide a flexible working space that can be utilised for skills-based training as well as invasive technical skills and non-technical skills such as human factors and patient safety.

The entire building will include a comprehensive audiovisual and centre management system. This “Technology Enhanced Learning System” is designed to connect the simulation-based learning environment with the leading management and performance assessment tools for healthcare education to help manage all aspects of healthcare learning. Pdraig Kelly points out that through this system all learning activities can be recorded in all the rooms across the facility and added to a trainee’s portfolio. “The system allows trainers to view, monitor, assess and mentor trainees remotely,” he says. This state-of-the-art simulated training approach means that trainees can acquire the skills and mastery needed in a low-stress environment while patients are protected from procedural inexperience. ■



VIRTUAL REALITY RCSI films surgical procedures in 360 degree video as part of the immersive virtual reality (VR) experience for surgical trainees.

GIVING RCSI STUDENTS THE EDGE

26 York Street will provide an emotionally rich educational experience for undergraduate students and surgeons alike. Most significantly, it will allow early clinical education to be delivered away from the patient’s bedside, enabling students and trainees to learn in a simulated environment. This is a unique benefit for RCSI students that is not currently offered by other medical schools and health science faculties in Ireland. The undergraduate student intake of September 2017 will be the first to benefit from this world-class facility which is the largest of its kind in Europe. **Take a virtual tour at rcsi.ie/26yorkstreet.**

Fleming Medical partners with RCSI through innovation in woundcare

A recent collaboration between Fleming Medical and RCSI has resulted in the sponsorship of a three-year PhD Research programme to carry out a clinical study on the effects, sensing capability and the healing of wounds under scientific conditions, utilising the Fleming Medical Dermatrax smart dressing. Dermatrax is a pilot line that evolved from the InForMed project which focuses on new process technologies, advanced assembly and processing of new materials such as polymers and proteins. InForMed is an ECSEL JU project and is co-funded by grants from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The InForMed project's defined objective is "an integrated pilot line for Medical Micro-Fabricated Devices". It nurtures an eco-system where new medical devices can be developed into new business opportunities.

The appointee to the programme, Rosemarie Derwin, Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery, will work under Professor Zena Moore, Professor and Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery at RCSI. Professor Moore has performed significant research into wound healing in a clinical environment and has contributed to a significant number of Cochrane systematic reviews in the woundcare field.

This study is part of the Dermatrax Project which will deliver a smart 'wearable' dressing for intelligent woundcare. The study will also allow the development of both subjective and objective data that will be critical in the development of the device and assessment of the patient through the device technology.



Professor Zena Moore.



THE DERMATRAX PROJECT WILL DELIVER A SMART 'WEARABLE' DRESSING FOR INTELLIGENT WOUND CARE

Dermatrax will be an innovative medical technology product that will be imbedded within a conventional dressing, populated with sensors and associated electronics for detection and recording of conditions such as dressing saturation levels and wound condition development. The received data will provide the physician/clinician with a better understanding of the specific wound-healing process and the individual patient's progress.

The union of Fleming Medical and RCSI will be fundamental in bringing the unspoken needs of the clinician and patient to the fore. This joint development will allow the Dermatrax group to deliver a fit for purpose smart device that brings measurable value to the assessment and comfort of the patient.

Fleming Medical is an Irish family-owned, leading innovator of healthcare products. Founded 30 years ago by CEO, Mark Fleming, the company operates successfully in more than 20 countries worldwide, providing quality healthcare products under the Medicare brand name, among others. The company's vision for the future is to empower the patient and the physician by providing better patient outcomes for acute and chronic conditions through innovative medical technologies and real-time diagnostic information.



A FURTHER EXCITING COLLABORATION

Fleming Medical and RCSI have a further collaboration through the patronage of an in-patient simulation room in the RCSI new medical education building at 26 York Street in Dublin. The new building will help RCSI graduates, trainees and practitioners to develop and hone their skills using the latest medical technologies available in a state-of-the-art environment.



RESEARCH AND DELIVER

An ambitious research strategy for 2014–2020 at RCSI has resulted in success in terms of attracting funding and clinical expertise – both essential in delivering impact from bench to bedside to population. We look at some of the highlights ...

RCSI's research strategy 2014–2020 is to improve human health through translational research, where findings can be applied into medical practice and meaningful health outcomes. RCSI promotes innovative research that leads to improved diagnostics, therapeutics and devices. The aim is to tackle important healthcare delivery issues, inform policy and clinical practice and enhance the quality of education of healthcare professionals.

RCSI is uniquely placed to develop and enhance translational research for the benefit of patients and to improve the health of the community. RCSI academic staff, who have joint appointments with hospitals, bring to RCSI clinical expertise and resources that are essential to deliver truly translational research, from bench to bedside to population and vice-versa.

€3.6m

2016 industry investment
(a threefold increase on 2015)

400%

increase in research agreements
with industry since 2014

€23m

From 2013 to 2015 average annual
grant income increased to €23m up
from average of €13.4m in 2012

21%

RCSI has the highest overall success
rate on H2020 submissions.

(Irish National average = 13.4% - data from
March 2014 to September 2016)

400%

increase in research commercialisation
agreements since 2014



From left to right: Professor Raymond Stallings, Director of Research and Innovation, RCSI, Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connell, Dr Aoife Gallagher, Head of Innovation, RCSI, Dr Seamus Browne, Industry Liaison Manager, RCSI and Professor Fergal O'Brien, Deputy Director of Research, RCSI.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The RCSI Innovation Team won the Knowledge Transfer Ireland Initiative of the year award, a major national award in recognition of their success in the past year. Their award was presented by the Minister for Enterprise, Jobs & Innovation in June 2016.

RCSI RESEARCH CONTRIBUTES TO RECOGNITION OF TRAVELLERS AS ETHNIC MINORITY

A landmark genetic study, led by RCSI's Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri, which examines the genetic structure of the Traveller community, confirms that Travellers are very much of Irish ancestral origin. The study also estimates when Travellers split from the "settled" community in Ireland (about 360 years ago). The research was presented to the Irish Government as part of the decision process which led to the historic announcement in March 2017 by An Taoiseach that Travellers are to be recognised as an ethnic minority for first time. The study was published in *Scientific Reports*.



CARTILAGE REGENERATION

New research from RCSI Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG) and the Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research (AMBER) Centre led by Professor Fergal O'Brien has shown that a novel biomaterial can be used in therapies for the equine industry. Implantation of this patented multi-layered 3D porous scaffold called ChondroColl helped repair damaged knee cartilage in the injured thoroughbred filly, Beyoncé, allowing her to return to competitive showjumping. This research was published in the *Journal of Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine*.



Dr Tanya Levingstone, Research Fellow and Honorary Research Lecturer at RCSI pictured with thoroughbred filly, Beyoncé.

Epilepsy

Professor David Henshall and his team from the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics have identified a new therapeutic approach for patients who have a drug-resistant form of epilepsy. This research, presented in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, has found a way to target an underlying cause of epilepsy, rather than masking the symptoms. This paves the way to develop new drugs for the condition that will reduce seizures and ultimately improve the quality of life for those affected. See page 32 for more on this research.

BREAST CANCER

A study led by Professor Leonie Young and Professor Arnold Hill in the Department of Surgery has uncovered how standard treatments for endocrine-responsive breast cancer can cause molecular changes that result in drug resistance. Their team demonstrates that there is a need for more efficient drugs to completely block hormone receptor signalling and to monitor receptor expression as the disease develops. These findings were published in *Clinical Cancer Research*.

WELLCOME TRUST CLINICAL PhD PROGRAMME

RCSI has successfully partnered with Molecular Medicine Ireland and other Irish medical schools (TCD, UCD, UCC, NUIG and QUB) to be part of a highly competitive Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD Programme. This scheme offers clinicians the opportunity to undertake a PhD within a structured and mentored training environment, allowing them to gain the experience and skill to pursue a career as an academic clinician.

STAR STRATEGIC ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT (STAR)

RCSI's Strategic Academic Recruitment (StAR) Programme is an ambitious initiative to accelerate the delivery of innovative, impactful research in the health sciences. Through the StAR Programme, RCSI will recruit visionary researchers to the latest exciting phase in our research mission which will see RCSI recruit 20 new academic posts of Research Lecturer as well as StAR Professors and PhDs. Visit rcsi.ie/star.

EU funding

SURGERY FOR RURAL AFRICA

The SURG-Africa consortium, led by Professor Ruairí Brugha, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine, along with three African and two other European institutions, has been awarded €6m in research funding by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. This major research programme will help bring life-saving surgery to neglected families and communities in Africa.



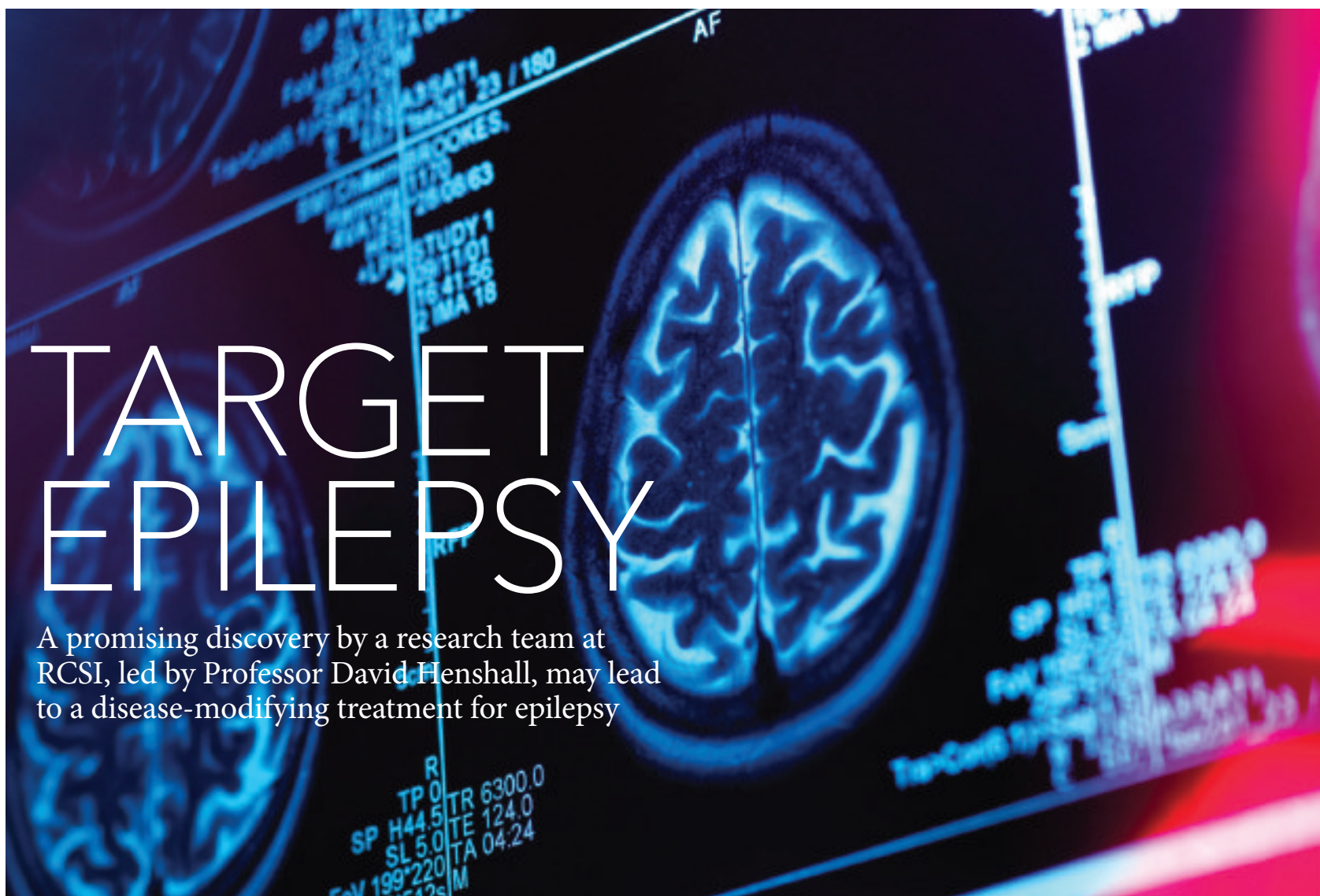
Professor Ruairí Brugha

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Professor Mary Cannon from the Department of Psychiatry has been awarded a highly prestigious European Research Council's (ERC) Consolidator Grant for research into psychotic experiences in young people. Just 314 projects from 2,305 applications across Europe were funded and RCSI was the only Irish institution to receive an award.

SAVING LIVES WITH SUNLIGHT

A major international research project led by researchers at RCSI in Dublin is developing low-cost technologies to reduce the number of people worldwide who rely on unsafe drinking water. The WATERSPOUTT consortium has been awarded €3.6m by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme, to provide affordable access to safe drinking water in remote and vulnerable communities throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and other resource-poor countries.



TARGET EPILEPSY

A promising discovery by a research team at RCSI, led by Professor David Henshall, may lead to a disease-modifying treatment for epilepsy

Epilepsy is one of the most common brain diseases. While doctors have over 20 drugs to choose from to control the symptoms – seizures – none of these medicines actually alter the underlying problem. For patients who are at risk of developing epilepsy, for example after a brain injury, there is nothing that can be prescribed to prevent it.

One of the problems of developing a disease-modifying treatment for epilepsy is what target to pick. Brain regions triggering seizures are often a complex mixture of re-wired brain circuits, damaged or lost neurons, inflammatory responses and other changes. Professor David Henshall at RCSI believes that it may be possible to tackle multiple processes at once. For that to work, critical control points regulating gene activity in the brain need to be found. Professor Henshall's team has been working on one approach for the past eight years.

A group of molecules – called microRNA – were discovered about 20 years ago. Their function is to fine-tune and dampen down protein levels. “MicroRNAs are an important regulator of gene expression, moderating

critical biological pathways. MicroRNA molecules exist in all cells and are a form of noncoding RNA. That means they don't get translated into protein but remain as RNA, working instead by binding onto messenger RNA that do code for proteins. When a microRNA finds a complementary region in a messenger RNA it binds and this ends up lowering protein levels in cells. Moreover, the “seed” region for a microRNA is often present in dozens of messenger RNAs meaning microRNAs control entire gene networks. A number of these microRNAs molecules are unique to the brain. If a critical gene network was controlled by a microRNA in epilepsy then we would have a completely new drug target,” says Professor Henshall.

The team at RCSI began by searching for microRNAs that were altered within the brain of patients with temporal lobe epilepsy who had donated a sample of their brain tissue after neurosurgery at Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. From these and other experiments they found one – miR-134 – that was at consistently higher levels. Work by other groups had shown that this particular microRNA blocked proteins involved in shaping the contact points between neurons in the brain. The team next set about finding a way to change levels of the microRNA to test

THE TEAM AT RCSI BEGAN BY SEARCHING FOR MICRO RNAS THAT WERE ALTERED WITHIN THE BRAIN OF PATIENTS WITH TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY WHO HAD DONATED A SAMPLE OF THEIR BRAIN TISSUE AFTER NEUROSURGERY.



David Henshall is Professor of Molecular Physiology and Neuroscience at RCSI.

you lost the protective effects of the antagomir, indicating that the antagomir was probably working by sheltering the messenger RNA from the microRNA.

What's next? According to Professor Henshall, antagomirs targeting another microRNA have already been given to patients in a trial for hepatitis C. Results have been promising and side effects minimal. Antisense-like molecules have also reached clinical trial stage for several rare neuromuscular diseases. So, it looks feasible. "We have begun to think how we would approach a clinical trial of our experimental therapy," says Professor Henshall. "One patient group that might be considered are patients with pre-existing drug-resistant epilepsy who would be going for neurosurgery. The drug could, in theory, be injected into the region of tissue due to be excised and then doctors could track their seizures for a period of time after to determine whether the treatment worked."

Professor Henshall and his team at RCSI work closely with the clinical epilepsy team at Beaumont Hospital, led by consultant neurologist/epileptologist Professor Norman Delanty. "It is exciting for the clinical epilepsy team at Beaumont Hospital to work with Professor Henshall and his group at RCSI. The clinical and scientific teams can work together to find new genetic and biochemical markers which may be important in both the accurate diagnosis of different types of epilepsy and also in determining those individuals who may be hard to treat with the currently available anti-epileptic drugs.

whether this would alter the brain's excitability. MicroRNAs are unlike traditional receptors or enzymes and can only be blocked by using matching stretches of DNA-like sequences known more generally as antisense oligonucleotides. The particular antisense molecules used to target miR-134 were called antagomirs and the team found that by blocking miR-134 they could prevent or reduce the occurrence of seizure activity in a model of epilepsy. The study was published in *Nature Medicine* in 2012.

Since then, the team began to explore how this could become a treatment for epilepsy. What was clear was that more pre-clinical data was needed. The team set about addressing some of the remaining questions. The key question was to test whether the antagomirs worked in more than one model. They did. In fact, the antagomirs worked in six out of seven models tested. At the same time, the team wanted to learn how the antagomirs were having such potent effects. For this they looked at what happened to levels of genes in the brain when you reduced levels of the microRNA. Levels of several increased, as would be expected, and one of them was a protein linked to the control of the contact points between neurons. They then showed that if that protein was blocked then

This work may help us discover new ways to treat those one third of individuals with epilepsy who continue to have resistant seizures despite best available current treatment. It is an exciting time to be involved in the care of people with epilepsy."

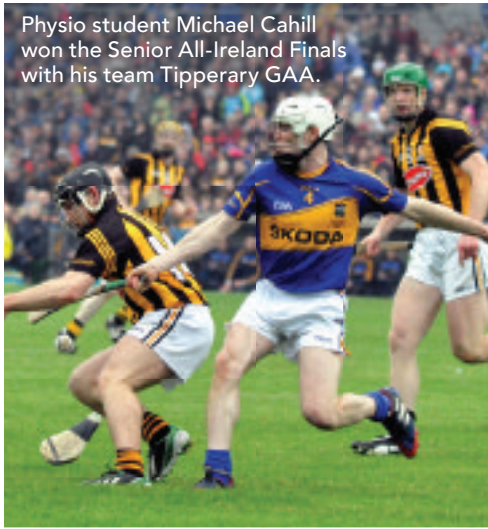
The RCSI team, supported by the Office of Research and Innovation at RCSI, has been working hard to find an industry partner to support the translation of this technology to the clinic. A successful collaboration agreement was recently signed with a pharmaceutical company to continue pre-clinical development and results are due later this year. Professor Henshall believes that microRNAs may not only be useful as therapeutic targets but may also be potential biomarkers. "Our group has shown that blood levels of miR-134 are higher in patients with epilepsy suggesting they may also have diagnostic use." These two thematic areas – microRNA therapeutics and diagnostics – also form part of a major focus of an ongoing plan to develop a specialist centre in Ireland focused on epilepsy and rare and chronic neurological disorders that, with the help of industry partners, can accelerate these discoveries for the benefit of patients. ■

JOIN THE CLUB

KARATE



Karate Club students competed in the Galway Connor Cup and returned with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals under their belt.



Physio student Michael Cahill won the Senior All-Ireland Finals with his team Tipperary GAA.

COLM O'REILLY (MEDICINE, 2014)

GIVING IT A GO

There are currently 32 sports clubs in RCSI, as varied as Archery, Chess, Equestrian, Karate, Rugby and GAA. Students can join as many as they like at any proficiency level, even if an absolute beginner.

The College currently offers a small but well-equipped gym and basketball court, with a new gym being built in the new academic building, 26 York Street. This will be completed in 2017. The RCSI sports grounds at Dardistown and Railway Union, Dublin, include a flood-lit rugby pitch, GAA pitch, soccer pitch and cricket wicket. In addition, all-weather hockey, football and tennis facilities are available.



RCSI Men's GAA team narrowly lost to UU Magee in the final of the 2017 Corn Na Mac Léinn competition.

GAA

TAG RUGBY



The RCSI Tag Rugby team was crowned AMSI Tag Rugby Intersarsity Champions 2016 beating NUIG with a score of 4-1 in the final.



The Women's Basketball team represented Ireland in the World Junior Ultimate Championships. Aisling McCann was winner of the NBCC Annual Awards 2016.

BASKETBALL

RUGBY



RCSI conquered UPMC 36-7 at their 26th annual match.



Badminton Club success in the Ireland Malaysian Games 2016.

BADMINTON

ANDREW BROWN

GEM student Gemma Wright Ballester in action. She ranks 13th nationally in Women's Foil Fencing Ireland.



FENCING

The RCSI Polo Club celebrated an impressive team victory in their division at the Spanish Universities Tournament at Santa Maria Polo Club Sotogrande.



POLO

RCSI AND THE BOSTON MARATHON

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest road race and RCSI's involvement is facilitated by Dr John V Coyle (Medicine, 1962), member of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) and recipient of the 2002 RCSI Distinguished Graduate Award.

Since 1999, more than 150 RCSI runners have participated in the race.

In recognition of Dr Coyle's tremendous support, a perpetual trophy is awarded in his honour to the first RCSI runner to pass the finish line. This year the proud winner was Eoin Murphy (Pharmacy) with an impressive time of 3'02.

Jack Fultz, 1976 Boston Marathon winner; Eoin Murphy, and John V Coyle (Medicine 1962).



MARATHON

One of RCSI Bahrain's most active Clubs is the Men's Soccer Team who are currently competing in the RCSI-hosted Al Baraka Tournament 2017.



SOCCER

RCSI Climbing & Mountaineering Club won RCSI Sports Club of the Year 2017.



CLIMBING & MOUNTAINEERING

The RCSI's Women's Rugby team, founded in 2014, has proved a force to be reckoned with ... on and off the pitch!



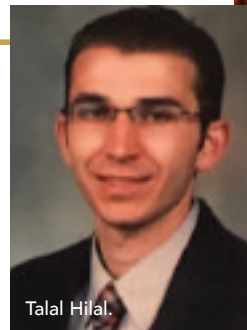
WOMEN'S RUGBY

CLASS CALL

At RCSI, we love to hear news about your career achievements and information about you and your life after college. Find out what some of your classmates have been doing here ...

2010s

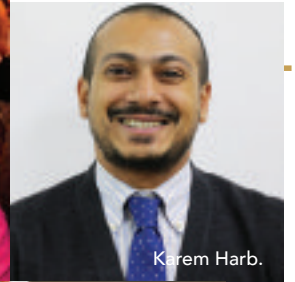
MR AYMAN MATROOK (BSC NURSING, 2016 - RCSI BAHRAIN) "I live in Bahrain, am married with three boys, and work in the SMC Orthopaedic Department and am a member of Orthopaedic Nurses Educational Committee. I am also involved in educating kids with diabetes, creating medical courses, and organising health conferences, and I am on the Medical Team for Formula 1 in Bahrain." ■ **MS YVONNE DELANEY** (MSC HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2015 & BSC NURSING MANAGEMENT, 2006 - RCSI DUBLIN) "I was very proud to be awarded the Institute of Community Health Nursing (ICHN) Research Award 2016 for research undertaken as part of my RCSI MSc. This award has opened the door for me to publish my work on my informed-decider framework which acknowledges autonomy of decision making, the importance of patient choice and the recognition of our patients' values." ■ **MS SAPNA BHADRESH A** (MSC HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2015 - RCSI DUBAI) Sapna is involved in the emerging field of healthcare marketing as Regional Marketing Manager for Dubai and Northern Emirates in four facilities of NMC Healthcare as well as Product Manager for NMC Heartcare which has centres of excellence for cardiac sciences across twelve facilities of NMC in UAE. NMC healthcare is UAE's largest and fastest growing healthcare organisation. ■ **DR EL-SAYED EMAD AHMED NOSAIR** (MSC IN LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION, 2015 - RCSI DUBAI) "I have been recently appointed as the Chairperson of the Student Assessment Committee in the College of Medicine, University of Sharjah, UAE." ■ **DR NEIL NAIK** (MEDICINE, 2014 - RCSI DUBLIN) "After graduation, I went into Family Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland, a two-year programme on the east coast of Canada; my rotations included six months in Iqaluit,



Talal Hilal.



Maimoona Azhar Salim.



Karem Harb.



Yvonne Delaney.



Neil Naik.

Nunavut near the Arctic Circle and I actually helped design my last elective in Leadership and Healthcare Informatics! Since finishing residency, I have set up my practice in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and have recently received my faculty appointment at McMaster University. In addition, I have participated in an international non-denominational medical caravan on Ukerewe Island in Tanzania, providing medical care and education to a low socio-economic population. One day, I hope to use my IT skills to develop a low-tech national programme to deliver medical education to the masses." ■ **DR MAIMOONA AZHAR SALIM** (MSC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT, 2014 - RCSI DUBLIN) Dr Maimoona Azhar Salim was appointed Special Lecturer in Surgery at St Vincent's University Hospital, UCD in July 2016. Prior to this, she worked with the Graduate Entry Medicine

(GEM) programme at RCSI as clinical lecturer for four years. She and her husband Aamir Hameed (MD, 2017 - RCSI Dublin) recently celebrated their son Fawwaz Aamir's first birthday. They hope someday that Fawwaz will share the same RCSI association with pride.

■ **DR KAREM HARB** (MSC HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2013 - RCSI DUBAI) "My MSc with RCSI enabled me to move from academics to management, and I am now Manager in Professional Licensing, Dubai Healthcare City Authority." ■ **MS ANGE-MARIE EL-RAYESS HAMRA** (MSC IN HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2013 - RCSI DUBAI) "After graduation, better armed and more confident thanks to RCSI, I applied for the role of Assistant Director of Nursing with the Ministry of Health – and I was successful! After two years in this enjoyable ever-evolving position, I moved home to Saudi Arabia for my husband's work and to have our third child. I am relishing my time at home, but I look forward to returning to work next year." ■ **DR ALI ABDULNABI MOHAMED** (MEDICINE, 2013 - RCSI BAHRAIN) Dr Mohamed has been conferred an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Cancer Studies at the University of Leicester whilst holding the post of Academic Clinical Fellow in Medical Oncology at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust in East Midlands, UK. He has recently presented a poster at the World Cancer Congress in Paris, France. ■ **MR CIARAN LANIGAN** (MSC NURSING, 2015 & CERTIFICATE IN NURSING & MIDWIFE PRESCRIBING, 2013 - RCSI DUBLIN) "For the last 25 years, I have worked as a clinical nurse

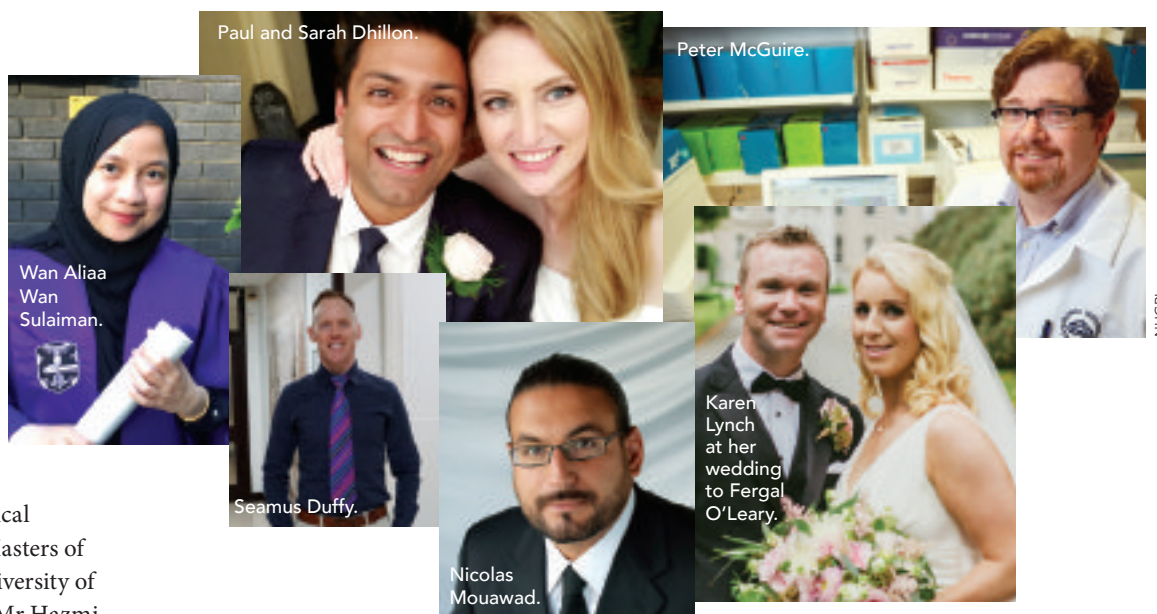
specialist in mental health in Dublin. I am now an Associate Lecturer at RCSI and, in 2016, I was awarded a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing. Studying at RCSI has transformed my practice and improved it significantly." ■ **MS ASMA AHMED ABDO AHMED** (MSC QUALITY & SAFETY IN HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2014 - RCSI DUBLIN) Asma is delighted to report that she has introduced and implemented the SBAR communication tool in the Salmanyia Medical Complex. It is currently in final piloting stage after merging it with the patients' care plan. ■ **DR TALAL HILAL** (MEDICINE, 2012 - RCSI BAHRAIN) "After graduation as class valedictorian, I moved to the US and completed my residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Kentucky. During this time, I was awarded the Resident Scholarly Activity Award and received the Diploma of the American Board of Internal Medicine. I am now completing my Fellowship in Haematology and Medical Oncology at the Mayo Clinic. My research is focused on targeted therapeutics for advanced cancers, with a focus on breast cancer." ■ **MS TARA POVEY** (MPHARM, 2011 - RCSI DUBLIN) "After three years, working as a pharmacist in the UK, I decided to take a career break and travel. And that's where my adventure really began! My travel blog, whereistara.com, started to keep family and friends updated, has grown into a business. I now review travel destinations worldwide – in 2016 I visited the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Aruba, Paris and Jerusalem – and locum in Dublin when I'm home. I've never been happier and plan to expand my website in 2017."

2000s

■ **DR PAUL DHILLON** (MEDICINE, 2009) Dr Dhillon and the new Mrs Sarah Dhillon celebrated their wedding on 11th June 2016 at Trudder Lodge, Co Wicklow. 2016 was a busy year for Dr Dhillon as he also published his book, *The Surprising Lives of Small-Town Doctors*.

■ **DR WAN ALIAA WAN SULAIMAN** (MEDICINE, 2009) "I am a Senior Medical Lecturer in Universiti Putra Malaysia, currently undergoing subspecialty training in clinical neurology, and recently completed my Masters of Research in neurological infection at University of Liverpool. Married to an ENT Surgeon, Mr Hazmi and blessed with a six year-old daughter Hanna and nine month-old Aidan." ■ **DR KAREN LYNCH** (MEDICINE, 2006) After graduation, Dr Lynch completed her residency in Neurology at Tufts Medical Center/Lahey Clinic/St Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston where she served as Chief Resident. She then completed her Fellowship in

Neuromuscular Medicine at Brigham and Women's/Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr Lynch currently practices and lives in Cape Cod, MA with her husband Fergal O'Leary (above) who celebrated their wedding in September 2016 at Bellingham Castle, Co Louth. They planned their



wedding to coincide with her ten-year RCSI Reunion!

■ **DR SEAMUS DUFFY** (MEDICINE, 2005) “After five fantastic years in Sydney, I am back in Dublin, practicing as a GP and working as a Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at RCSI. My return to Dublin and RCSI has created new perspectives – the city is buzzing after the crash and it is interesting to see the College from a different angle. A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure the delivery of teaching at the coalface and that RCSI remains as dynamic, international and focused as ever.”

■ **DR NICOLAS MOUAWAD** (MEDICINE, 2005 & MRCSI 2007) Dr Mouawad is a Consultant in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery with a specific interest in complex aortic pathology. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgery at McLaren Bay Regional Medical Center in Bay City, Michigan, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. He has a masters in Business Administration (MBA) and in Public Health (MPH), and currently serves in a variety of leadership roles in specialist societies, focusing on healthcare delivery models and administration. He has published widely in scientific journals and presents extensively worldwide. He serves as the Chair of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Resident and Associate Society, and has created an International Exchange Scholarship Program between RCSI and the ACS in which yearly, one resident from RCSI is selected to visit the US and a North American resident is selected to attend the famous RCSI Millin Meeting in Dublin.

■ **DR SALEH ALSAIFI** (MEDICINE, 2004) “After graduating from Dublin, I finished my board training in Orthopaedics, then further specialised in Paediatric Orthopaedics, where I completed my Fellowship in University of Calgary, Canada. I am now back in Kuwait working as

Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant, the Chief of Paediatric Ortho and Assistant Programme Director of Kuwaiti Board of Orthopaedics.”

■ **DR AMER AL ZAROONI** (MEDICINE, 2004 & MSC HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT, 2008 - RCSI DUBAI) Dubai Healthcare City Authority has named Dr Al Zarooni as CEO of Dubai Healthcare City Medical (DHCM). HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and the Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, commented: “Dr Al Zarooni has an exceptional mix of skillsets and combines experience in both the government healthcare sector and corporate sector, in addition to his management skills and professional reputation that will add tremendous value to DHCA.”

■ **DR PETER J MCGUIRE** (MEDICINE, 2003) “My first patient encounter in Pediatrics at Temple Street sparked my lifelong interest and career in rare genetic diseases. I am now Board Certified in Paediatrics, Clinical Genetics and Clinical Biochemical Genetics. As a tenure-track Investigator in the National Human Genome Research Institute in Maryland, USA, I head a translational research group that focuses on the role of the immune system in the pathology of mitochondrial disease. The ultimate goal of my group is to improve the care of patients with mitochondrial disease worldwide.”

■ **DR ODEH ODEH** (MEDICINE, 2002 & MRCSI 2006) “In November 2016, I launched Beanstalks – a competition that identifies novel solutions for challenges faced by patients and clinicians. In our first year, more than 100 firms globally applied. We also had interest from multinationals like RB – makers of Gaviscon and Durex – who want to engage with healthcare entrepreneurs. Work on 2017 has begun, and we’re looking for alumni and companies who would like to get involved.” Contact Dr Odeh via email to alumni@rcsi.ie.

1990s

■ **DR SHALINI O’CONNOR NEÉ SEEOBIN** (MEDICINE, 1996)

“I am a specialist in General Practice and completed my membership at the Royal College of General Practitioners in the UK. Prior to having my three children, I did my masters in Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology and diplomas in Child Health and Preventive Medicine, and in Clinical Psychiatry. I am returning to practice this year.”

■ **DR MAX RYAN** (MEDICINE, 1993) Dr Ryan has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Radiologists at RCSI. He is also a Clinical Radiologist based at Cork University Hospital in Ireland.

■ **DR YEO SEK WEE** (MEDICINE, 1993, FRCSI 1999) Dr Yeo has completed his Advanced Course in Trans Oral Robotic Surgery (TORS) under the guidance of Professor Kim at Yonsei University, Korea.



1980s

■ **DR PATRICK TREACY** (MEDICINE, 1985) “I am delighted to report that both myself and my practice, Ailesbury Clinic, Dublin won six awards for aesthetic medicine and research in the last twelve months. Of note was winning a second AMEC Award 2016 (Paris) for research

pertaining to wound healing in necrotic skin. The judges commended ‘the novel use of growth factors, cytokines and phototherapy in order to re-epithelialise necrotic skin post-vascular occlusion’.”

■ **MS CAMILLA CARROLL** (MEDICINE, 1985, FRCSI 1989) Ms Carroll was elected to



Michelle and Adrian Magee.

at a practice I started in 1989 with 180 patients and have built to 4,300, in my hometown of Southport, England. Soon after graduation, I married my wife Jane, a Coronary Care Nurse, and we have been blessed with two daughters, Charlotte and Georgina. My daughters are now both GPs following, as did I, the footsteps of my beloved late father who was the first GP in Southport. Highlights for me were being nominated to become a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 2009, and when both my daughters attained their MRCGP. I would like to thank Mr Joe Grace (Dean

1983) and also Mr Michael Horgan who were inspirational during my time at RCSI.” ■ **DR ADRIAN MAGEE** (MEDICINE, 1981) and **DR MICHELLE FISCHMANN MAGEE** (MEDICINE, 1982) “After 25 years, in 2013, Adrian moved from his busy cardiology practice in Northern Virginia to his new role as Scientific Officer in the Division of Cardiac Devices in US Food and Drug Administration. I am still with the MedStar Health Diabetes & Research Institutes and Georgetown University School of Medicine as diabetologist clinician and health services researcher. We have enjoyed travels to Vietnam and India in recent years where I was training physicians on behalf of the American Diabetes Association. Our grown-up children are in London, San Francisco in Washington DC. Always happy to host travelling alumni!”

■ **DR RICHARD PETERS** (MEDICINE, 1982) “Nothing earth-shattering here. I haven’t won a Nobel Prize, nor have I invented the perpetual motion machine! We have two sons, and we’re proud of both of them. Our youngest, 23, is in his second year teaching music at a Charter School in New Jersey, while our elder son, 27, is in the second year of his three-year residency at Columbia University School of Dental Medicine (New York City). I look forward to attending the reunion this coming summer.”



Kebalanandha Naidoo and family.

RCSI Council in June 2016. Hailing from an RCSI family (her father, two sisters and husband are all graduates), Ms Carroll is a Consultant ENT Head and Neck Surgeon and lead Consultant in the Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Dublin. Ms Carroll’s Council roles include Chairing the Student Services Council and being a Council representative on the Academic Council and Professional Development & Practice Committee. Ms Carroll is involved in RCSI Postgraduate Surgery, where she is part of the Clinical Faculty for Human Factors and Patient Safety and the Court of Examiners Faculty for the MRCS. Currently she is working with Professor Michael Walsh, the National Clinical Advisor for ENT with the NCPS to establish a postgraduate ENT training programme for GP Specialists. ■ **DR KEBALANANDHA R NAIDOO** (MEDICINE, 1983) “I have recently retired from full time general practice,



Camilla Carroll.

1970s

■ **DR PAULINE GASKIN** (MEDICINE, 1978) Dr Gaskin was Associate Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry, Co Down, until her retirement in February 2016. She is now enjoying her two granddaughters, Gabrielle and Olivia, and would love to hear from her RCSI classmates. Get in touch via email to alumni@rcsi.ie ■ **DR DHEERUN LUCKHEENARAIN** (MEDICINE, 1977) “I am pleased to say that my daughter, Nidita Luckheenarain (Medicine, 2007) has just passed her MRCOG Exams.”

■ **DR HOWARD JACOBS** (MEDICINE, 1977) “As a graduate of RCSI I have had the privilege of becoming a leader in the Practice of Pain Medicine in Ontario, Canada. The College gave me the opportunity to start the Section of Chronic Pain at the Ontario Medical Association and to establish the Canadian Academy of Pain Management – and change the lives of thousands of people with pain. I also recently got married, but the College gets no credit for this!” ■ **DR PETER MARTIN** (MEDICINE, 1977) Dr Martin is now retired from his post as Chief Medical Adviser to the City of Oslo. He hopes to return to RCSI for his 40th reunion this August. ■ **MS DENISE CURTIN** (MEDICINE, 1973 & FRCSI 1980) Ms Curtin is currently working as Clinical Lecturer in

Dheerun and Nidita Luckheenarain.



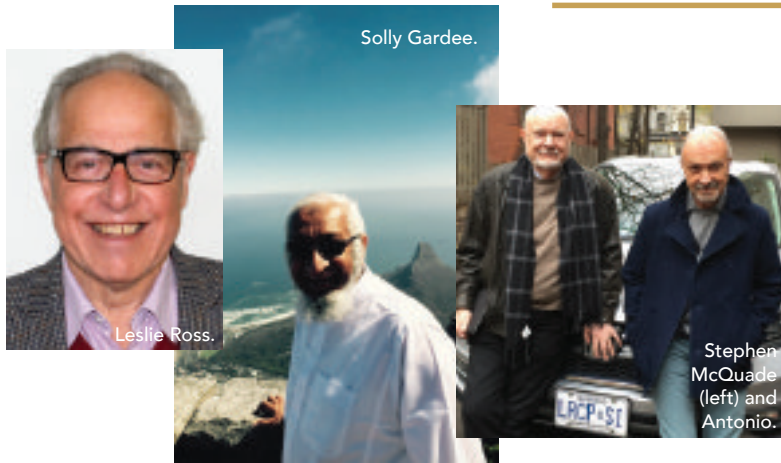
Howard Jacobs.



Denise Curtin.

Ophthalmology at RCSI and sits on the College’s Association of Medical & Dental Graduates. She is also actively involved in the executive board of the European Board of Ophthalmology (EBO) and was the Dean of Postgraduate Education at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists for six years until 2014. Her father, John McAuliffe Curtin, an ENT surgeon, was President of RCSI (1974-1976) and she is pleased to say that her daughter, Natalie is maintaining the long family association with RCSI through her role in the Events Department.

1960s



DR STEPHEN MCQUADE (MEDICINE, 1969) “I am now retired after more than 30 years in hospital and private practice in Diagnostic Imaging. I am pictured above with my partner of 45 years, Antonio. Of note is

the personalised car number plate – LRPC SI. This is symbolic of what a privileged life I have had both personally and professionally – and instrumental in this was my excellent medical training at RCSI.”

■ **DR SOLLY GARDEE** (MEDICINE, 1969) “Hello from Canada! After graduation I worked at Civic Hospital, Ottawa-Family Medicine Mississauga (1970-75), in Family Medicine, Sweden (1975-80), Family Medicine, Ottawa (1980-2005) and Appletree Clinic (2005-14). Married my wife, Britt in 1968 and we have three sons – a doctor in Scotland, a Religious Scholar & Environmental Scientist in South Africa, and Human Rights-Executive Director at NCCM in Canada – and nine beautiful grandchildren.” ■ **DR LESLIE ROSS** (MEDICINE, 1962) “After graduation, I completed my ‘Foundation’ year at the Meath Hospital (happy memories), followed by a Rotating Internship at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA. I then joined a medical practice in 1966 and retired in April 2009. I am married with a family and enjoying retirement.”

1950s

DR DERMOT LYNCH (MEDICINE, 1953) “I attended the event hosted by Professor the Lord Ara Darzi in the House of Lords in October 2016 and met my classmate, Roderick Macaulay (pictured together with my wife) after very many years.”



Roderick Macaulay, Oonagh and Dermot Lynch.

MR RANDAL YOUNG BLACK (DENTISTRY, 1946) Mr Black (front right) attended his 70th RCSI Reunion with his classmate and lifelong friend, Dr John Hanna (front left) in August 2016. Now in their mid-90s, these two friends met while studying at RCSI and were both Best Man at each other’s weddings.



Celebrating 70 years in RCSI.

■ **DR SHEILA DICK** (MEDICINE, 1945) Dr Dick is living in Yorkshire, England and has recently celebrated her 96th birthday, making her one of RCSI’s oldest living graduates!

We will miss ...



Denis Stephen Ryan.

■ **DR BRIAN CURTIN** (MEDICINE, 1956) Dr Curtin passed away aged 86 in September 2016. Born in Enfield, Dr Curtin ran family GP practices in Edmonton, Bush Hill and worked in Harley Street, UK. He joined Spurs FC in 1962 and was promoted to medical officer ahead of the 1965-66 season, a post he would keep until 1994. He was on the bench for the European Cup Winners Cup, two UEFA Cups, two League Cups and four FA Cup wins while supporting the team on pre-season tours, where he used his gift of the Blarney to enrich the players’ experience! ■ **DR JEAN KLOOS-FISHMAN** (MEDICINE, 1955) Dr Kloos-Fishman passed away in February 2016 in Beersheva, Israel. She dedicated her life to her patients, and a street in Beersheva will be named in her honour.

■ **DR DENIS STEPHEN RYAN** (MEDICINE, 1953) Dr Ryan passed away aged 91 in April 2016. Originally from Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, after graduation, he worked in both Derry and Belfast before moving to Ellesmere Port in the UK, where he joined the casualty department of Ellesmere Port Hospital. He later moved with his family to North Wales and was a partner in a General Practice in Wrexham and Rhosllanerchrugog until his retirement in 2007. Dr Ryan is survived by his wife Breege, a radiographer, their five children and many grandchildren. ■ **DR RODERICK (RODDY) WILLIAMS** (Medicine, 1968) Dr Williams passed away in April 2016. He had a long and successful career in General Practice in Nottingham, UK – and is fondly remembered by his classmates and friends at RCSI. ■

COMING FULL CIRCLE

There are international career opportunities for RCSI alumni in RCSI's campuses overseas. Professor Azhar Salleh (Class of 1993) took up the post of Associate Professor in Perdana University (PU-RCSI) ...



What convinced me to pursue psychiatry was, when on a posting to the east coast of Malaysia in 1995, I saw the extraordinary effect of anti-depressants on previously moribund patients. It was an eye-opener to me that physically healthy people incapacitated by their mental health issues could return to normal life. Back then, Malaysia was only starting to explore methadone maintenance therapy programmes and with many infectious diseases in the country, needle-sharing was widespread and a serious threat. I had seen the fruits of such programmes when doing community work at RCSI and believed that becoming involved in this area could be a way to make a difference to a lot of people. We have seen results – the percentage of addicts with HIV has dropped from 75 per cent to 38. This



FROM THE 1993 YEARBOOK:
"Azhar started brilliantly in pre-med, getting excellent grades in all subjects. Other involvements included dabbling in the Karate Club and squash."

"I KEEP THINKING THAT ONE DAY I WILL TAKE UP GOLF. IF THAT NEVER HAPPENS, LIFE HERE REMAINS EXCEPTIONALLY REWARDING."

daily struggle, often in very difficult circumstances but without services such as ours they would find themselves either locked up or in drug rehab centres.

The remainder of the evenings during the week are spent with the family, my daughter who is 20 is at university studying engineering; my son is 14 and my younger daughter is eight. It is warm here all year round – quite a change from my days in Dublin – so we can eat outside or swim. The beaches here are beautiful and we are spoiled for choice, but the pool is more convenient – no sand! Weekends are when I can take a step back and have real family time. We like travelling and I keep thinking that one day I will go back to playing squash regularly ... or take up golf. If that never happens, life here remains exceptionally rewarding..." ■

has a significant positive health impact on the community and a real social impact. We are getting there.

Here in Kuala Lumpur, days are long and divided between teaching and treating patients. As at RCSI in Dublin, the training of students at PU-RCSI [Perdana University – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland] is very much based around the clinical experience so there is a lot of emphasis on teaching interview techniques, interviewing patients together and on ward rounds. I work alongside Professor Frances Meagher who was my tutor at RCSI in Dublin. Later in the day my work begins at a private clinic where both myself and my wife, who is also a psychiatrist, treat patients with addiction issues, particularly substance addiction and to a lesser extent, alcohol. They have a

RCSI is on a mission to engage the best clinicians and teachers for its overseas universities, healthcare centres and programmes in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. RCSI is currently inviting applications for the positions of Lead in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Lead Clinical Microbiology to work on the PU-RCSI Undergraduate Medical Programme. The role holders will deliver the RCSI curriculum in the multi-cultural environment of Kuala Lumpur and liaise with RCSI Dublin on curriculum delivery, examinations and research matters, ensuring academic quality and consistency across the RCSI campuses. Further information about these positions and all of RCSI's current international vacancies are available at rcsi.ie/internationalopportunities.

CONFERRINGS



Stephen Garry
(Medicine, 2015)
with his sister
Emma Garry
(Medicine, 2016)



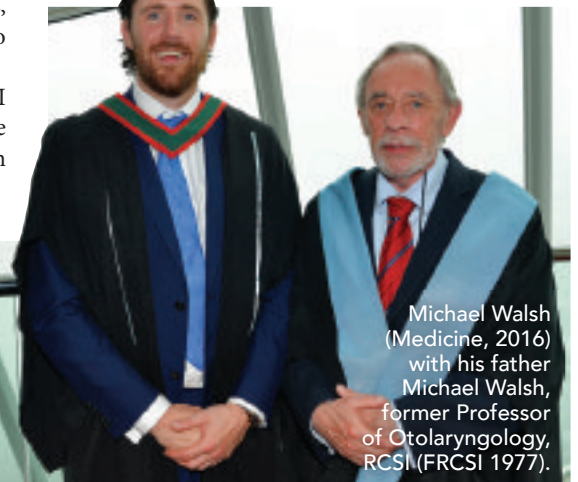
Ruairi Laski
(Medicine, 2015)
and Lie Shien Lee
(Medicine, 2016).

CLASS OF 2016

2016 welcomed more than 1,700 new graduates to RCSI's global alumni community of 16,000 alumni in 97 countries worldwide. Graduates were conferred with degrees in medicine, physiotherapy, pharmacy, nursing and midwifery and with higher degrees, ranging from PhDs in research to Masters in Healthcare Management. This was the first year that RCSI conferred the same degree in medicine on its students in Ireland, Bahrain and Malaysia.



James and Baillie Allen (both Medicine, 2016)
with their sister, Abbey Allen (4th Med) and their
uncle Larry Allen (Medicine, 1979)



Michael Walsh
(Medicine, 2016)
with his father
Michael Walsh,
former Professor
of Otolaryngology,
RCSI (FRCSI 1977).



RCSI Dublin School of Medicine
Conferring Ceremony.



Brothers
Zakariya Ali
(Medicine,
2016), Yousef
Ali (Final Med)
and Yousef
Ali (Medicine,
2016).

CONNECT WITH US www.rcsi/alumni

CONFERRINGS

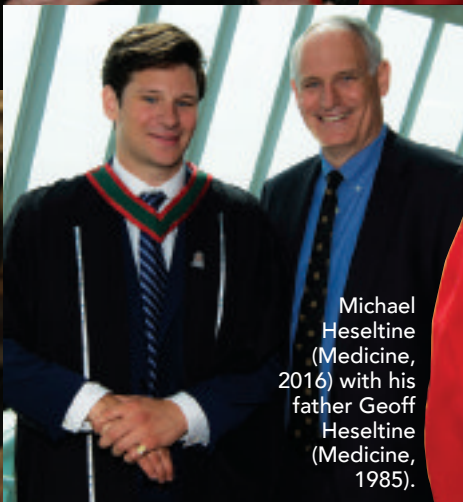


Nursing 2016: Adina Stepanova, Clare Marmion, Tatiana Galinova and Deirdre Hyland, Faculty of Nursing, RCSI Dublin.

Ziga Ude (PhD 2016) and Celine Marmion, Associate Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry in the Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, RCSI Dublin.



Andrew Brooks (Physiotherapy, 2016).



Michael Heseltine (Medicine, 2016) with his father Geoff Heseltine (Medicine, 1985).



Karen Boland (Medicine, 2007, PhD 2016) and Mary Cannon (Medicine, 2004, PhD 2016).



Ciara Doogan and Lorna Cummins (both Physiotherapy, 2016).

CONFERRINGS



Mona Al Banna
(Medicine,
RCSI Bahrain,
2012, MSc
2016).



Penang
Medical
College
(PMC)
Conferring
2016.

PENANG

DUBLIN



Muireann
McGlynn with
Marty Ryan
(Pharmacy,
2016) and
Caroline
Kelly with
Ryan Fagan
(Physiotherapy,
2016).



Nezam Afdhal
(Medicine, 1981)
pictured with
John Hyland,
President, RCSI
after receiving
the Honorary
Doctorate
Degree at June
2016 Conferring
Ceremony.



Medicine, 2016:
Afif Marzuki, Mardina
Mohamad, Fatin
Naimah Mat Yusof,
Lyana Othman and
Syamil Rosil.

CONFERRINGS

RCSI Bahrain
Conferring –
June 2016.



RCSI Bahrain
Conferring –
June 2016.

BAHRAIN

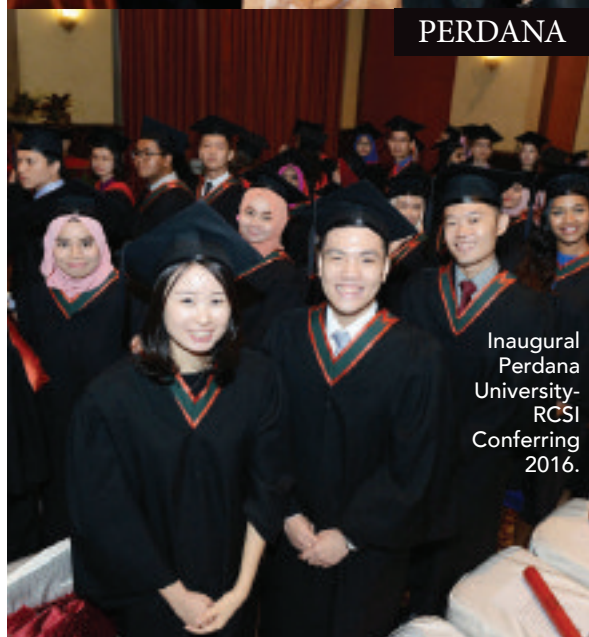


RCSI Bahrain
Conferring –
June 2016.

Inaugural Perdana
University-RCSI
Conferring 2016.



PERDANA



Inaugural
Perdana
University-
RCSI
Conferring
2016.

DUBAI



John Hyland,
President, RCSI and
Sheikh Mansoor Bin
Mohammed Bin Rashid
Al Maktoum presenting
MSc in Quality &
Safety in Healthcare
Management to
Mohamed Hasan
Mohamed Al Ali – RCSI
Dubai Conferring
November 2016

REUNIONS



Medicine, 2001.



Mira and Fintan Cooper (both Medicine, 1991) with their daughter Aisling Cooper (Medicine Foundation Year).



Medicine, 2006.

ALUMNI GATHERING 2016

More than 400 alumni spanning seven decades were welcomed back to the College in August 2016 for the annual three-day RCSI Alumni Gathering. At the largest alumni reunion to date, classes of 1946, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 were invited to participate in a full and lively programme of activities including a jubilee lunch, tours of Dublin, and scientific meeting. A gala dinner in RCSI completed the celebration.

The annual event marked the gathering of the largest cohort of graduates ever, including alumni from Australia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and the USA.



Welcome Reception.



Medicine, 1981.



Medicine, 1996.



Medicine, 1956.

SAVE THE DATE THE ALUMNI GATHERING 2017 TAKES PLACE FROM 24 - 26 AUGUST 2017 rcsi.ie/alumngathering2017

REUNIONS



Bard Slinde (Medicine, 2006), Axel Bendiksby (Medicine, 2006), Paul Brittain (Medicine, 1981) and Adam Essack (Medicine, 2006).



Medicine, 1986.



Medicine, 1991.



France Ng Wong Hing (Medicine, 1966), Rosemay Ng Wong Hing and Bijay Ghoorah (Medicine, 1966).



Medicine, 1986: Anne Lise Vie and Isolde Semm.



Medicine, 1976: Mary Leader and Ronnie Browne.



Gabrielle Hetherinton (Medicine, 1966) and Eleanor Comyn Clarke (Medicine, 1953).



Medicine, 1961.



Medicine, 1971: Angela Doherty (Spikker), John Doherty and Pamela Mangal.

REUNIONS



Kevin Cahill, Honorary Fellow, RCSI and Declan J Magee, Immediate Past-President, RCSI.



Aine Gibbons, Director of Development - Alumni Relations, Fellows and Members, RCSI, Stephen Bohan (Medicine, 1972) and Sarah Clarke.

NORTH AMERICAN ALUMNI GATHERING

In April 2016, at the second annual North American Alumni Gathering in New York, attended by Ambassador of Ireland to the UN, HE David Donoghue, Professor Kevin M Cahill, former Professor of International Humanitarian Affairs at RCSI, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI in recognition of his outstanding contributions as a physician, teacher and humanitarian. Reading the citation at the ceremony at the American Irish Historical Society, Professor John Hyland, then Vice-President of RCSI, congratulated Professor Cahill, who joined RCSI in 1969 as Chair of the Tropical Diseases Department and is the longest serving Chair in the history of the College.



Pavan Paka (Medicine, 2015) with his sister Chandhu Paka (Medicine, 2007) and Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive, RCSI (Medicine, 1985, FRCSI 1990).



Tim Dowd (Medicine, 1981) with his daughter, Tara Dowd (First Year Graduate Entry Medicine).



Eugene Kennedy (Medicine, 1988), Michelle Kennedy, David Crooks (Medicine, 1989) and Harpal Mangat (Medicine, 1985).



Elizabeth Reich, Harry Reich (Medicine, 1970).

SAVE THE DATE THE 2017 NEW YORK RECEPTION TAKES PLACE ON MAY 2 FOLLOWED BY THE INAUGURAL TORONTO RECEPTION ON MAY 5 rcsi.ie/alumni-events

HOUSE OF LORDS

Aíne Gibbons, Director of Development – Alumni Relations, Fellows and Members, RCSI, Sandra Sasson (Medicine, 1996) and Harish Kamboj (Medicine, 1996).



Sara Ali and Harith Ali (Medicine, 2012).

RCSI RECEPTION, LONDON

More than 160 RCSI alumni, Fellows and Members gathered at the House of Lords, London, in October 2016 for an evening reception hosted by RCSI alumnus The Rt Hon the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham OM KBE PC FRS (Medicine, 1984, FRCSI 1990). Lord Darzi, who holds an honorary doctorate from the College, is Professor of Surgery at the Institute of Cancer Research and Chair for the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London and was knighted in 2012. A former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the UK's Department of Health and UK Global Ambassador for Health and Life Sciences, he was one of three new admissions to the UK's Order of Merit in 2016, announced as part of the Queen's New Year's Honours list.

Lord Ara Darzi (Medicine, 1984, FRCSI 1990) and Siobhan Lynam (Medicine, 1993).



Peter Maguire (Medicine, 1993) and Tina Buckley (Medicine, 1994, MRCSI 2001).



Odeh Odeh (Medicine, 2002, MRCSI 2006) and Medhat Zekry (FRCSI 2016).

Panicos Shangaris (Medicine, 2005) and Tilottama Nandy (Medicine, 2002).



Tariq Sami (FRCSI 1993), Patrizia Baldwin and Leah Farrell (Medicine, 2000).



Roderick Macaulay (Medicine, 1953), Oonagh Lynch and Dermot Lynch (Medicine, 1953).

CONNECT WITH US THE ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM WELCOMES YOUR FEEDBACK AS WE DEVELOP OUR UK PROGRAMME www.rcsi.ie/alumni

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...



Dan Kane, Clinical Lecturer, RCSI Dublin, Jessica McGirr (3rd Med) and Alison O'Connor (3rd Med).



Felipe Contepomi.



In Conversation With ... Felipe Contepomi and Niall Hogan.



Adam Hardy, Brendan O'Connor (MRCSI 2014) and Fardod O'Kelly (Medicine, 2007, FRCSI 2016).



Muayad Alkhafaji (FRCSI 2001) with his family who travelled from Iraq to attend.



Michael Corcoran, Niall Hogan and Felipe Contepomi.

RUGBY TALK

Over 180 alumni, Fellows and Members gathered at RCSI in October 2016 for the second "In Conversation With ..." event, part of a new series celebrating successful RCSI graduates and highlighting the innovative ways that graduates have used their degrees.

RTÉ rugby commentator Michael Corcoran engaged two international rugby stars and RCSI alumni, former Leinster Rugby and Argentina international fly-half Felipe Contepomi (Medicine, 2007) and former Ireland captain Niall Hogan (Medicine, 1995, FRCSI 2005), in a lively discussion covering their early years in rugby, why they chose to study at RCSI, their rugby career highlights, and life after hanging up their boots.



Michael Corcoran, Felipe Contepomi and Niall Hogan.



Mala Raghoonath (Medicine, 2014), Mark Twyford (Medicine, 2012, MSc 2015) and Michael Madden (Medicine, 2014).



Niall Hogan.



Manpreet Bajwa, Jennifer Tchernenkova and Tolupa Ola (all 4th Med).

WATCH OUR VIDEOS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2rpsagxhIA>

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...



Sheraz Daya (Medicine, 1984) and Katie Piper.



RCSI students all interested in careers in Ophthalmology.

OPHTHALMOLOGY TALK

The life-changing impact of healthcare professionals was the central theme of the February 2017 RCSI “In Conversation With ...” event when alumnus, Sheraz Daya (Medicine, 1984) and his former patient, television presenter and author, Katie Piper were welcomed by a full house of alumni, Fellows and Members as well as students and patients of Mr Daya. A pioneering Ophthalmologist and Medical Director of Centre for Sight in the UK, he is the surgeon who restored Katie Piper’s vision after a vicious acid attack in 2008. Having been told by experts her sight was irrevocably damaged, she turned to Mr Daya. “I’ve had over 300 operations but the day I got my sight back is a day I’ll never forget.”



Brid Morris (FRCSI 2002), Anna Murphy (FRCSI 1999).



In Conversation With ... Sheraz Daya and Katie Piper.



Camilla Carroll (Medicine, 1985, FRCSI 1989), Sheraz Daya (Medicine, 1984) and Aine Gibbons, Director of Development – Alumni Relations, Fellows & Members, RCSI.



Arimie Min (3rd Med) and Hussain Khimji (5th Med).



James O'Reilly, Brian McCutcheon, Sheraz Daya (Medicine, 1984) and Louise McCutcheon.



Denise McAuliffe Curtin (Medicine, 1973, FRCSI 1980).

WATCH OUR VIDEOS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsRepAl0Jgc>

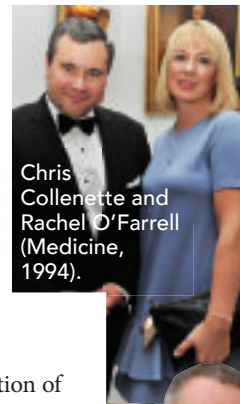
FESTIVE EVENTS



Medicine, 2015: Sarah-Grace Keane, Eimear O'Reilly, Kenneth Patterson and Susie Hyland.



Caitriona Ryan, Sarah Rogers (Medicine, 1968) and Paul Herriott.



Chris Collenette and Rachel O'Farrell (Medicine, 1994).



Amanda Browne (Medicine, 1994, FRCSI 2001), Mayilone Arumugasamy, President, Association of Medical and Dental Graduates, RCSI (Medicine, 1993, FRCSI 1997) and Nina Devlin (Medicine, 1994).

GALA DINNER

In November 2016, the Association of Medical and Dental Graduates hosted its annual black tie dinner in the College Hall, known to many as the old exam hall. The festive evening was attended by over 170 graduates and friends spanning every decade from the past 60 years and representing 23 different classes. Following the meal, Ken Mealy, Vice-President, RCSI, proposed a toast to the Association and its President, Mayilone Arumugasamy (Medicine, 1993, FRCSI 1997) before guests made their way to post-dinner drinks in The Swan Bar.



Medicine, 1993: Liz O'Sullivan, David Hanlon, Mary Hanlon, Zafrullah Hamzah and Illona Duffy.



Michael Browne, Vida Hamilton (Medicine, 1995), Hy Browne (Medicine, 1956, FRCSI 1969) and Suzanne Browne.

SAVE THE DATE THE 2017 DINNER WILL TAKE PLACE IN RCSI DUBLIN ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25TH rcsi.ie/alumni-events



Inaugural Festival of Culture.

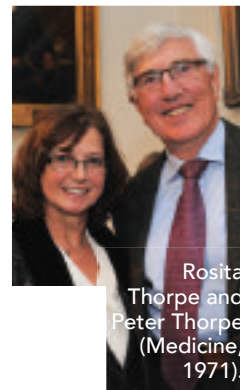


Siovan Johnston, Joe Johnston (Medicine, 1962, FRCSI 1987) and Gerry Hurley (Medicine, 1967).

Aíne Gibbons, RCSI with alumni and students.

FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

RCSI's inaugural Festival of Culture was the first coming together of students and graduates as an intercultural community to celebrate the rich tapestry of customs and cultures unique to RCSI. With a global footprint in more than 97 countries, Alumni often say it is the diversity of this College that made their student days so special and memorable. Through the performances the evening showcased the talents, countries and traditions of the College's students from all four corners of the world.



Rosita Thorpe and Peter Thorpe (Medicine, 1971).



Katherine Bulbulia, Gareth Jones and Sheila Jones (Medicine, 1965).



Lenin Ekpotu accompanied by Alyssa Verrelli on piano (both Final Med).



Mashal Khan (Final Med), Hans Falkenberg (Medicine, 1967), Olive O'Malley & Simrin Sennik (4th Med).

SAVE THE DATE THE SECOND ANNUAL RCSI FESTIVAL OF CULTURE WILL TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER 2017

ANNIVERSARIES & REUNIONS



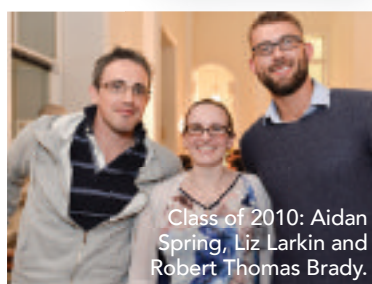
10-Year Celebration of Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM).

GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICINE 10-YEAR CELEBRATION

More than 60 GEM alumni as well as faculty, students and staff gathered to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Graduate Entry Medicine programme in RCSI last October. In 2006, RCSI became the first medical school in Ireland to admit students to a Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) programme and since then, 415 doctors have graduated from the programme. GEM offers students with a degree in another discipline the opportunity to study medicine on a four-year programme.



Class of 2015:
Louise Murphy,
Shane Carr, Barbara
Cusack, Laura Casey.



Class of 2010: Aidan
Spring, Liz Larkin and
Robert Thomas Brady.



Class of 2012: Kristen
McGarry, Eibhlin McHugh,
Jean Lewis and Claire Smyth.



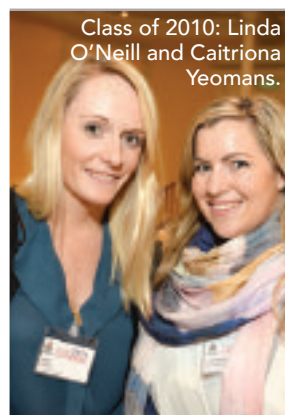
Class of 2011:
Lydia Cullen and
Fergal Howard.



Colm Mullen
(Class of
2013) and
Karen Ryan
(Class of
2012).

SECOND ANNUAL PHYSIOTHERAPY REUNION

More than 40 Alumni, Faculty and current students gathered in RCSI Dublin on September 23rd 2016 for the second annual School of Physiotherapy Reunion.



Class of 2010: Linda
O'Neill and Caitriona
Yeomans.



Class of 2006:
Stephen
Dennehy, Jenny
Smith and
Adrian Crehan.

Class of 2006:
Ann Doherty,
Sarah Kennedy and
Aileen Gillespie.



Class of 2006:
Mary McGrath, Sandra Rut
Eikeland and Aislinn Gavi.

Class of 2006:
Eamon Dempsey,
Jan McAuliffe and
Leonard McAuliffe.

RCSI SCHOOL OF PHARMACY 10-YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2006 returned to RCSI last November to celebrate their – and the School's very first – 10-year reunion!

THE NEXT SCHOOL OF PHARMACY REUNION WILL BE HELD IN 2018! SHARE YOUR IDEAS VIA EMAIL TO alumni@rcsi.ie



Panel debate with Kevin Nolan
and postgraduate alumni.



Guest Speaker,
Koon Teo,
Professor at the
Departments
of Medicine
and Clinical
Epidemiology
& Biostatistics,
McMaster
University,
Canada
(Medicine,
Class of 1978).

RCSI SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In September 2016, the RCSI School of Postgraduate Studies marked its 10-Year Anniversary with a one-day conference entitled 'Celebrating Research - Past, Present and Future.' The number of postgraduate research students enrolled at has almost doubled in the last decade, with an increase from 125 in 2005/2006 to 235 in 2017. Since 2006, the School has facilitated 520 graduates to achieve MSc, MCh, MD or PhD degrees.



Deirdre Fitzgerald
Hughes, Lecturer,
Molecular Microbiology,
RCSI Dublin, Éanna
Forde (MPharm 2011,
PhD 2015) and Aoife
O'Connor (PhD 2014).

SAVE THE DATE: THE THIRD ANNUAL PHYSIOTHERAPY REUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND 2017

READ FULL EVENT REPORTS AND VIEW GALLERIES AT rcsi.ie/alumninews

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTIONS



Ajay Chaturvedi (MSc 2009 – RCSI Dubai) and Sonali Datta Juneja (MSc 2010 – RCSI Dubai).

DUBAI



John Hyland, President, RCSI presents a gift to Guest Speaker, Mohammad Al Redha (Medicine, 2003, MSc 2007 – RCSI Dubai).



HONG KONG

Sydney Chung (Medicine, 1980, Hon. FRCSI 2003), Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive, RCSI (Medicine, 1985, FRCSI 1990), William Murtagh (Medicine, 1980) and Anne Berit Thorsen (Medicine, 1980).



WASHINGTON

Ken Mealy, Vice-President, RCSI, Noel Williams (Medicine, 1981, FRCSI 1986) and Michael Larvin (FRCSI Ad Eundem 2013).

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

RCSI's strong international presence was reflected in the celebration of two key milestones in 2016. In November, RCSI Dubai marked ten years in the region at an event attended by the Irish ambassador to the UAE, HE Ambassador Patrick Hennessy and in December, Penang Medical College (PMC) hosted a gala dinner at the Bayview Hotel to celebrate its 20-year anniversary. Receptions were hosted in September in Hong Kong and Singapore and in October, more than 50 alumni, Fellows and Members were invited to a gathering in Washington DC as part of the ACS Conference.



Hong Kong Reception.



Ruth Tevlin (MRCSI 2012, MSc 2016) and Christine Whyte (FRCSI 1991).



SINGAPORE

Iroshini Chua (Medicine, 2001), Joanna Ti (Medicine, 2004) and YeeLee Chea (Medicine, 2000, MRCSI 2003).



PMC 20th Anniversary Celebrations.



PMC 20th Anniversary Celebrations.

PENANG



PMC 20th Anniversary Celebrations.



PMC 20th Anniversary Celebrations.



Anita Menon (Medicine, 1991), Tony Stanley (Medicine, 1991), John Chen (Medicine, 1985), Suditi Muttu (Medicine, 1991) and Tzin Yi Ho (Medicine, 1994).

#RCSIALUMNI CONNECT WITH US ON INSTAGRAM (@rscialumni) AND FACEBOOK (RCSI ALUMNI) FOR THE LATEST REUNION NEWS

ASIA REUNIONS



Dato Dr Godfrey Geh (Medicine, 1965, FRCSI 1970).

PU-RCSI, Class of 2016.



MALAYSIA



Takdir Singh Riar Manhore Singh (PMC-RCSI, 2007) and Durgavasini Devanath (Medicine, PMC-RCSI, 2010).

RCSI KL Reunion 2017 Organising Committee.



Noryati Abu Amin and Peter Maguire (both Medicine, 1993).



Karin Merican (Medicine, 1985), Haniza Omar (Medicine, 1996), Datuk Dr Shahnaz Murad (Medicine, 1985) and Noor Zalmy Azizan (Medicine, 1994).

CELEBRATING ST PATRICK'S DAY

RCSI's St Patrick's Day celebrations began in Singapore with a reception attended by 60 alumni, Fellows and Members, hosted by the Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore, HE Geoffrey Keating. Celebrations moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a two-day RCSI reunion attended by more than 90 alumni, Fellows and Members and the first graduating class of PU-RCSI.

This, the first reunion in KL in 17 years, welcomed local Malaysian alumni as well as guests from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka and Australia. A scientific meeting, led by RCSI alumni and surgeons, commenced the programme in KL which culminated in the 92nd Annual Ball of the St Patrick's Society of Selangor.

SINGAPORE

Kuang Lim Yeo (Medicine, 1992) and Conor McHugh (Physiotherapy, 2012).



Hussain Ibrahim (Medicine, 2014), Steve Donoghue (Pharmacy, 2011, MPharm 2012) and Sarah Dinneen (Physiotherapy, 2014).



Raveen Shahdarpuri (Medicine, 1999), David Carmody (Medicine, 2004), Joanna Ti (PMC-RCSI, 2003).

WHERE SHOULD RCSI CELEBRATE NEXT ST PATRICK'S DAY?
EMAIL YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO alumni@rcsi.ie

A LIFE'S WORK

Dr Jack Preger MBE, a graduate of RCSI, has dedicated his medical career to providing health care to the poor of Kolkata



Left: Dr Preger. Below: Dr Preger treats patients at the roadside. Below left: A cartoon portrait hangs in the RCSI student canteen.

To understand the commitment and life's work of Dr Jack Preger MBE (Class of 1971) you have to be able to imagine human suffering on a large scale, extreme poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, filth and corruption. Now, at 86, Dr Preger is Honorary Chairperson of Calcutta Rescue, the global non-governmental organisation he founded, and which continues the work that he began four decades ago. Today this non-profit healthcare system treats more than 50,000 people a year and operates two schools for the children from slums. Dr Preger was the first to introduce the concept of free street-medicine to people whose lives were harsh in the extreme.

Jack Preger's story in Kolkata began with a eureka moment in 1965 when, as a 35-year old farmer, he was driving his tractor on a remote hillside setting in Wales. He reflected on his growing need to restore meaning to his life. Struck by the thought, however illogical, of becoming a doctor, he felt compelled to do just that. Born into an orthodox Jewish family in Manchester (he later became a member of the Catholic Church), Jack Preger was accepted as a student of Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, before becoming a farmer. Marriage followed (the first of two marriages, both which ultimately ended in failure), then the birth of his first daughter, then separation. "My personal life," he freely admitted in an interview, "was one big mess – largely of my own making."

His decision to study medicine would mean turning his life upside down, selling his farm in a depressed property market, and somehow finding a place in medical school. He enrolled as a mature student at RCSI in Dublin and completed his internship – at the age of 42. "My most treasured memory is of that great melodeon player Tony McMahon returning to the Anatomy Room and re-joining me after his liquid lunch, to continue our dissection. The Professor of Anatomy came out on to his balcony from his office and was gazing down at us benignly. Tony, scalpel in hand, happened to glance up at him. Waving the scalpel at him Tony roared: 'Come down here, you Orange Bastard'. As they say 'Only in Ireland.' Surgeons' loss became the gain of Irish traditional music."

In 1972, he answered an appeal for doctors to help with the refugee crisis in Bangladesh where he witnessed unimaginable human suffering. During this period, he exposed a Dutch non-governmental organisation, implicating it in child-smuggling operation resulting in him being arrested and deported in 1979. His Dhaka clinic, set up for mothers and babies in 1975, was closed down, with patients literally thrown out on the street. Some died as a result.

Dr Preger returned days later, and moved to Calcutta (now Kolkata) to work for Mother Teresa, but discovered that her work did lack some expertise in terms of professional practice medicine. With no license to practice legally in India, he began treating the sick and injured where they lay – under bridges, on railway platforms and in drainage pipes – but found difficulty following cases up, as the



BASIL MCCALL

THIS NON-PROFIT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM TREATS MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE A YEAR

police were constantly moving them on.

Finally, he spread the word that he would treat people at the roadside outside St Thomas' Presbytery, where he was allowed to store his medical supplies. This was Dr Preger's first street clinic, called Middleton Row.

Under sagging tarpaulins the "pavement clinic" attracted the city's destitute, diseased and dispossessed until it stretched along the street for about 70 metres. Joined by volunteers inspired by his example, and supported by donations from those who witnessed his selfless work, Dr Preger sat at the side of the road, six days a week, providing free medical treatment: wound and burn dressings, a central "consultation centre," pharmacy, dispensary and a "welfare department" which distributed food, clothing, and small amounts of money to pay for transportation.

During the 14 years of the clinic's existence, Dr Preger was hounded for his "illegal status", threatened by Mafia groups, and at one stage thrown into Alipore Jail. His case dragged on for years while the Middleton Row clinic carried on its vital work, often treating up to 500 patients a day.

The clinic led to the establishment of Calcutta Rescue, an official body whose vital work carries on to this day. Dr Preger has admitted that he sacrificed a balanced personal life and perhaps jeopardised a more traditional medical career for his life's work but his unique contribution to humanity is widely acknowledged. ■

€337,000

Over the past 12 months RCSI alumni donated €337,000 to support student programmes across the College.

THANK YOU ALUMNI

43

Students had an unforgettable experience thanks to the generosity of alumni.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

CLINICAL ELECTIVES

18 students were given the opportunity to enrich their training by gaining valuable experience in teaching hospitals worldwide.



RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOOL

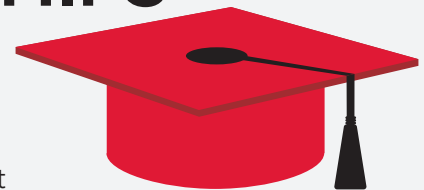
8 students were able to participate in the summer school which provides the opportunity to work alongside Principal Investigators and gain valuable insights into medical research.

STUDENT HARDSHIP

This fund is a much needed life-line for students who find themselves in unforeseen financial difficulty during their studies. Gifts from alumni over the last year have ensured that these students have been able to continue their studies at RCSI.

SCHOLARSHIPS

8 students were awarded scholarships in 2016 thanks to alumni gifts. RCSI's scholarship programme supports the best and brightest students beginning their career in healthcare.



And there's more... In 2016 alone alumni raised funds for a further 5 new scholarships!

If you would like to support student programmes at RCSI you can do so by visiting donate.rcsi.ie.

If you are a donor from the USA visit friendsofrcsi.com.

OR call Paul in the alumni office on **+353 (0) 1 402 2729**, he would be delighted to hear from you.

MORE THAN 16,000 ALUMNI WORLDWIDE



KEEP IN TOUCH

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN SURGERY MEDICINE PHARMACY PHYSIOTHERAPY NURSING & MIDWIFERY
RESEARCH LEADERSHIP POSTGRADUATE STUDIES RADIOLOGY DENTISTRY SPORTS & EXERCISE MEDICINE