



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Claire Donohoe
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	<p>I graduated from the University of Dublin, Trinity College in 2006 and completed my postgraduate surgical training with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. My sub-speciality interest is in Upper GI cancer surgery. I was awarded a PhD in molecular oncology in 2013 working on the role of obesity in the development of oesophageal adenocarcinoma. I have a Masters in Medical Education with a special interest in peer-led education. I am the first author of 31 pubmed indexed publications and co-author on a further 36 papers.</p> <p>I have been appointed a consultant General and Upper GI surgeon to St James' Hospital Dublin.</p>
Title of Project/Fellowship	Fellow in Minimally Invasive Surgery, Oregon Health and Sciences University, Portland, Oregon, USA
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	August 2017-July 2018

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I was one of the Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Fellows at Oregon Health and Sciences University from August 2017 for one year. The aim of this fellowship was to give me a broad exposure to a variety of pathologies of the Upper GI tract, both benign and malignant, as well as bariatric surgery. This fellowship provided a high procedure volume (of over 350 cases during the year) and increasing complexity of laparoscopic surgery than I had previously been exposed to during my surgical training to that point.

As a mature fellowship, the programme at OHSU which has trained MIS fellows for over a decade, emphasised the importance of fundamental laparoscopic technique and this certainly enhanced my operative skills. I was also able to train in robotic surgery and develop my skills using this MIS tool. The OHSU approach to teaching and constructive, individualised, continuous feedback is a skill that I will seek to use in my own consultant practice.

I now have the skills to provide MIS approaches to patients and training in the selection of the optimal approach for individual patients with Upper GI problems.

Grant Report (in the region of but no more than 500 words)

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Developed competence in minimally invasive surgery of the upper GI tract including robotic surgery

Did you achieve these objectives?

During this year I completed over 350 procedures as primary operator and broadened my skillset in minimally invasive surgery as well as robotic surgery.

In your opinion, what is the value of your award to:

(a) Yourself

This year contributed hugely to my surgical skillset and my confidence in tackling complex procedures of the foregut including oesophagectomy, gastrectomy and pancreaticoduodenectomy. I have also gained training in bariatric surgery including revisional surgery and the management of the bariatric pathway and complications. Finally I was able to attain skills in robotic surgery, which become an increasingly prevalent surgical tool in the next decade and is currently not used in General surgery in Ireland.

(b) The institution in which you worked

My experience to date allowed me to take a senior role in the complex surgical cases. I was involved in teaching minimally invasive surgery skills in both the on-site Simulation centre at OHSU as well as of junior team members in the operating room.

I contributed to developing a monthly case conference for patients with complex benign foregut pathology and at the annual Western Esophageal Cancer Network (WECAN) conference discussing my research in to the quality of life of patients with oesophageal cancer.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

The skills I gained during this fellowship have prepared me to provide oncologically sound minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeries for patients with oesophagogastric pathologies both benign and malignant. Experiencing the health system of another country as well as life in a large North American academic centre has given me a greater understanding of the excellence in care delivered in Ireland despite our comparative resource limitations. Quality improvement methodology is deeply embedded in the practice of OHSU and I will be able to reflect this in my future practice.