



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Eoin Fenton
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	I graduated from UCD in 2004, completed basic surgical training in 2007 and completed specialist training in neurosurgery in Ireland in June 2014.
Title of Project/Fellowship	Combined adult spine fellowship, University of Calgary
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2014 1 st July 2014 30 th June 2015

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I worked as a combined orthopaedic and neurosurgical spine fellow at the University of Calgary. All surgery took place at Foothills Hospital in Calgary. It is the largest spine surgery unit in Canada with 11 full time spine surgeons (7 orthopaedic and 4 neurosurgical). The catchment area comprises all of southern Alberta and parts of eastern British Columbia and western Saskatchewan.

Foothills Hospital is a large level 1 trauma centre. I did spine call once a month (a week at a time). I got experience in almost all aspects of adult spine surgery including degenerative spine, tumour, trauma and deformity. I learned both minimally invasive and open techniques. My average week comprised of 3 days operating, 1 day clinic and 1 day research.

The Foothills Medical Centre campus of the University of Calgary is a superb research facility and there are certainly plenty of research opportunities for any prospective fellows.

I was the first Irish fellow to complete the combined adult spine fellowship at the University of Calgary. It was an excellent fellowship and certainly more than covered what I wanted to achieve from a spine fellowship.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

To gain proficiency in all aspects of complex spine surgery including spinal reconstruction, minimally invasive techniques, spinal tumour surgery (including en bloc resections of primary spine tumours) and spine trauma

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes

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

(a) Yourself

The support of the Ethicon Foundation Travel Grant was helpful in that it partially funded my move to Canada where I had the opportunity to complete a superb fellowship.

(b) The institution in which you worked

The University of Calgary has a long tradition of training foreign fellows who in turn are actively involved in teaching and research at that institution.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

The techniques I learned in Calgary will allow me to offer a wide spectrum of treatment options to my patients covering a wide variety of spinal pathologies.