



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Helen Heneghan
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	<p>I am currently in my 4th year of the RCSI Higher Surgical Training (HST) programme, working as a General & Upper GI SpR in St James's Hospital, Dublin. I graduated from NUI Galway in 2005, and completed my Internship and Basic Surgical Training in Galway University Hospital. I then obtained a PhD from NUI Galway (2008-2010) following which I spent 2 years at the Bariatric & Metabolic Institute in the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. The latter year there (2012) was a clinical fellowship in minimally invasive metabolic surgery, and served as the 1st year of my HST scheme. I then returned to Ireland and spent one year as General Surgery SpR in St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire followed by a year as General & Hepatobiliary Surgery SpR at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. I aim to complete my general surgical training in 2016, with a subspecialty interest in Endocrine Surgery.</p>
Title of Project/Fellowship	Observership at the Endocrine Surgery Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA.
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2015 June 1 st 2015 June 6 th 2015

Summary (no more than 250 words)

With the support of the Ethicon travel grant, I spent a week as an observer in the Endocrine Surgery Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. This is a world renowned high volume endocrine surgery unit, with 7 specialist surgeons performing >300 endocrine operations annually including thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, neck dissections, adrenalectomy, and pancreatic resections. I was fortunate to spend time with all 7 surgeons in their Operating rooms and clinics. I observed 15 complex major cases and many more outpatient encounters (pre and postop patients) during my 5-day visit. I attended both the general surgery and endocrine unit grand rounds, journal clubs, and research meetings. I was fortunate to meet a broad range of clinicians and staff affiliated with the endocrine surgery unit including endocrinologists, radiologists, oncologists, pathologists and many of the research scientists working with the surgeons on translational research projects. This observership was an incredibly valuable experience, which highlighted this unit to me as a potential destination for an endocrine surgery fellowship in 2017.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

1. To view the infrastructure & set up, and day-to-day activity, of a high volume leading academic Endocrine Surgery Unit in the US.
2. To evaluate the potential for pursuing an Endocrine surgery fellowship in Massachusetts General, Boston
3. To initiate and build a relationship with the surgeons at the Endocrine Surgery Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA. In the future, I hope to be able to collaborate with the endocrine surgeons at Massachusetts General on clinical and translational research studies.

Did you achieve these objectives? Yes

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

(a) Yourself

I had a wonderful opportunity to see the day-to-day running of a high volume Endocrine Surgery Unit, and viewed a broad range of endocrine surgery procedures (routine & complex, open and laparoscopic, oncological and benign surgeries). I also developed good relationships with leading endocrine surgeons.

(b) The institution in which you worked

It was an excellent opportunity to develop research collaborations between the institution in which I currently work and a leading academic surgical institution in the US

(c) In the future for Irish patients

The knowledge and skills I will learn during a fellowship year in the Endocrine Surgery Unit in Mass Gen, which this observership helped to facilitate, will be of benefit to Irish patients who I will hopefully treat as I pursue a career as an Endocrine Surgeon in Ireland.