



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Patrick Groarke
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	FRCS (Tr&Orth) 2015, MCh 2010, MRCS 2008, MB BCh BAO 2005, B Med Sci 2005
Title of Project/Fellowship	Brisbane Hand and Upper Limb Research Institute
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2017 01/08/2017 01/08/2018

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I did a 1 year fellowship at the Brisbane Hand and Upper Limb Research Institute under Dr Mark Ross. I worked at the very busy tertiary referral centre of Princess Alexandra Hospital as well as multiple private hospitals across the city. There were 4 fellows here - 3 orthopaedically trained and 1 plastic trained. Our call and trauma take involved anything from fractures of the scapula all the way down to replants of the finger under the microscope. The hospital can have 4 to 5 upper limb theatres running at one time. There are 25 theatres across all surgical specialties.

I have been a primary operator on over 750 cases. Many of the cases were the type of cases that I will encounter in my new post. Others will be complex trauma or elective cases that were challenging then, but will stand to me when confronted with similar cases in Ireland.

As the title of our unit suggests, the unit is heavily involved in research. They have multiple projects ongoing, some of which I am involved in. They will soon be publishing on their results for Pyrocarbon shoulder hemiarthroplasties in the young patient and on the back of this the implant will become widely available. Dr Ross has also been involved in the development of a total shoulder arthroplasty implant which is available. He gave me an understanding of what is involved in this process and how to monitor an implant.

This was a very worthwhile year.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Surgical experience in microvascular repairs around the hand, major trauma to the upper limb from scapula to fingers and everything in between.

Elective surgery on complex tertiary referrals to our specialised centre.

In press – research paper on Shoulder MRI v Arthroscopy comparison
Chapter on Radiology of the Fractured Distal Radius – IFSSH 2019 Book

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes, I did.

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

(a) Yourself

The Ethicon grant enabled me undertake this opportunity to train in the above unit. Moving to Australia, is a very expensive endeavour and this grant afforded the chance to achieve this.

(b) The institution in which you worked

I was an asset to the research institute helping them finish papers that had been lying idle for years before. Also, in the major trauma centre, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, I was the team leader in terms of coordinating trauma and allocating other fellows and juniors. I developed a strong relationship with my colleagues there and have set up a platform from which we can collaborate on research and difficult clinical cases in the future.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

My goal was to get international experience on the upper limb in a well-published, centre of excellence with a view to bringing it back to a University teaching hospital in Ireland for the benefit of Irish patients. I have been recently appointed to Connolly and Cappagh Hospital as a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and look forward to passing on my experience in Australia.