



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Fellowship/Grant Holder Name</b>	Jack Woods
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	I am a Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeon and I completed my training in Ireland in July 2021. I received my FRCSI in Plastic Surgery in March 2020.
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	Clinical Fellowship in Reconstructive Microsurgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
<b>Year of Award:</b> <b>Commencement Date:</b> <b>Conclusion Date:</b>	2021 November 2021 November 2022

### Summary (no more than 250 words)

The Plastic Surgery Fellowship at MSKCC has been an exceptional opportunity to improve my skills. As a world-leading cancer centre, it has a high volume of complex cases that allows for exposure to challenging clinical situations and has Attending Plastic Surgeons that are of the highest calibre.

During my time at MSKCC, I have developed and refined my clinical and operative skillset in four broad areas of reconstruction: Head and Neck, Breast, Lymphatic Surgery and Extremity Reconstruction.

In Head and Neck reconstruction, I've learned how to provide mandibular and maxillary reconstruction "jaw in a day" surgery using virtual surgical planning for osseous reconstruction as well as refining various soft tissue reconstructions and cranial and skull base reconstructive techniques.

For Breast reconstruction, in addition to building my skills in implant and DIEP flap reconstruction, I have learned a selection of alternative flap options, including free PAP flaps and diagonal gracilis flaps, as well as using free omentum to augment reconstructions.

A full lymphatic surgery service isn't available in Ireland yet and at MSKCC I have developed a skillset in the principles of clinical and operative management of this chronic healthcare condition.

In addition, for Extremity oncological surgery, I have learned the techniques of total muscular reinnervation and regenerative peripheral nerve interface surgery to manage complex amputations.

Overall, it has been valuable to understand how the US healthcare system works in more detail and the how they are able to provide such a high level of care to their cancer patients.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

1. Learn advanced operative techniques in reconstructive microsurgery in Head and Neck, Breast, Lymphatic Surgery and Extremity reconstruction.
2. Develop clinical skills in managing complex reconstructive patients, engaging with multidisciplinary care and outpatient management as well as operative care
3. Perform academic clinical research and present at an international meeting
4. Gain a network of colleagues who are world experts and innovators in reconstructive surgery

Did you achieve these objectives?

1. Yes – I have learned complex and innovative techniques across the range of reconstructive surgery
2. Yes – I have been able to attend specialist outpatient clinics and multidisciplinary meetings to learn about the intricacies and challenges in the management of cancer patients from a reconstructive perspective
3. Yes – I presented three papers at the World Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery meeting and am engaged in some academic writing during my time at MSKCC
4. Yes – I have worked with world leaders in the field here at MSKCC and the network of Attendings and Co-Fellows that I have fostered will be a hugely valuable community and resource into the future

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

(a) Yourself

The award has helped me to afford to spend a year at MSKCC, which has given me an appreciation of how to manage challenging and complex cases in a careful, rational and principle-based manner. There are patients here that face unique situations and the knowledge and skills that I've picked up have given me an armamentarium for how to approach these problems, which should hopefully benefit me and my colleagues in the future. I can now approach some of the more challenging technical operations effectively and efficiently and have become equipped in managing difficult situations. In addition, I have learned some new and innovative techniques that currently aren't available in Ireland, which will allow me to introduce and train surgeons at home to new approaches. I have also been involved in clinical research, developing my knowledge and skills in managing big data in collaborative teams.

(b) The institution in which you worked

The hospital has been able to benefit from the award by allowing me to spend time working with and caring for their patients. I have been privileged to take part in the care of patients with advanced oncological disease and to help to support the exceedingly busy plastic surgery service at MSKCC.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

I hope that I will be able to provide the highest standard in reconstructive care for cancer patients in Ireland in the future. Not only have I learned the best in operative techniques, but also approaches to sensible and appropriate shared decision-making with patients who present with complex

problems. I hope to be able to bring innovations back to the Irish system and perhaps introduce supermicrosurgical lymphatic surgery to a large and deserving population of patients in Ireland in the future alongside a reconstructive practice.