



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Fellowship/Grant Holder Name</b>	Jessie Elliott
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	I studied at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in 2012 and completed a PhD in translational medicine in 2016. Thereafter, I completed surgical training with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, achieving FRCS with a subspecialty interest in Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery in 2022. I then completed an international fellowship in minimally invasive and robotic oesophagogastric surgery in the Netherlands, and have recently been appointed as Consultant General and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon at the St. James's Hospital. My focus going forward will be the further development of minimally invasive and robotic surgery, and the delivery of a dedicated cancer survivorship service.
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	European Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy Fellowship
<b>Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:</b>	2023 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
<b>Summary (no more than 250 words)</b>	
<p>In August 2023 I travelled to the Netherlands to undertake a one-year fellowship at the University Medical Center, Utrecht in minimally invasive and robotic oesophageal and gastric surgery. The technique of robotic-assisted minimally invasive oesophagectomy (RAMIE) was initially developed by Professor van Hillegersberg at the UMC Utrecht approximately 20 years ago. Having published the first RAMIE series in 2006 and first clinical trial in 2019, the team in Utrecht are international leaders in minimally invasive approaches in oesophageal and gastric cancer, and it was an honour to be able to train in this environment. As a senior fellow within the Department of Surgical Oncology, I worked within a high-volume well-established minimally invasive and robotic upper gastrointestinal cancer programme, and gained extensive operative experience in minimally invasive and robotic oesophagogastric cancer surgery, complex benign and revisional surgery. I also had the opportunity to gain exposure to paediatric oesophagogastric surgery at the on-site Wilhelmina Kinderziekenhuis, which is an international referral centre for oesophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula. I participated in the weekly oesophagogastric cancer multidisciplinary meeting which is complemented by an active clinical trials environment, as well as departmental research and audit meetings. I had the opportunity to supervise and examine PhD candidates in both Utrecht and Amsterdam, and participate in Dutch Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Group meetings and patient information events. This fellowship has allowed me to develop a robust skillset in robotic oesophagogastric cancer surgery, which I hope to apply in my new role on return to Dublin later this year.</p>	

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

### Objectives of Fellowship:

1. To achieve high-volume operative experience in minimally invasive and robotic oesophagectomy and gastrectomy
2. To develop further experience in complex benign and revisional robotic oesophagogastric surgery, multi-specialty cases and complex reconstruction
3. To gain insights into the clinical and academic environment in a large University Medical Center in the Netherlands, and the delivery of cancer services at a national level
4. To gain additional experience in medical education and academic supervision

### Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes

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

#### (a) Yourself

As a senior fellow within the Department of Surgical Oncology, working within high-volume oesophageal and gastric cancer surgery programme, I gained an extensive operative experience in minimally invasive and robotic oesophagogastric cancer surgery, complex benign and revisional oesophagogastric surgery within a tertiary referral setting. I also developed a close collaborative relationship with the University Medical Center Amsterdam, where I attended functional disorders multidisciplinary meeting and visited for complex cases, and gained exposure to paediatric oesophagogastric surgery at the on-site Wilhelmina Kinderziekenhuis. I participated in weekly oesophagogastric cancer multidisciplinary meetings, which included the routine screening of all patients for a portfolio of ongoing clinical trials, as well as the weekly upper gastrointestinal audit and research meeting. Through participation in the Dutch Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Group, I was able to gain insights into the Dutch healthcare system and the networked delivery of cancer services at a national level. I was also able to further develop my research, through the establishment of an international multicentre clinical trial and a number of parallel translational projects.

#### (b) The institution in which you worked

During my training in Ireland, through interdisciplinary working and collaboration, I gained a unique experience in nutrition and survivorship - a particular strength of our upper gastrointestinal services. As an international fellow, I was able to bring an alternative perspective, particularly with respect to functional and nutritional challenges, working together with the multidisciplinary team. I also had the opportunity to become involved in medical education, supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students in both Utrecht and Amsterdam, and was delighted serve as external examiner for a number of PhD candidates during my time in the Netherlands, which was a particular highlight.

#### (c) In the future for Irish patients

From an operative perspective, the advanced minimally invasive and robotic experience I gained during this fellowship will allow me to contribute to the ongoing development of minimally invasive oesophagogastric cancer surgery in Ireland, to the benefit of our patients. I have also gained important non-technical insights into the development of a comprehensive robotic surgery programme, patient selection and optimisation, integrated outcome assessment and coordination of services at a local and national level. From an academic perspective, through involvement in academic societies such as the Upper Gastrointestinal International Robotic Association, I have had the opportunity to develop collaborative links with specialised oesophagogastric cancer units internationally. Active involvement in this international network of highly specialised professionals will enhance the further development of services in Ireland, and will consolidate our collaboration in international clinical trials, to the benefit of our patients.

I would like to sincerely thank the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for supporting this fellowship.