



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Fellowship/Grant Holder Name	Mr Kieron J. Sweeney
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	After graduating from University College Dublin in 2007, Kieron Sweeney entered basic surgical training receiving IMRCS in 2009 and CCBST in 2010 before being awarded a Doctorate in Medicine from RCSI based on surgical models of GBM. After which he entered higher surgical training in Neurosurgery. During his HST training he actively maintained collaborative laboratory work with RCSI. He also has received European Post-graduate Course in Pediatric Neurosurgery Diploma and European Spine Course Diploma. He passed his FRCS in 2017 and was awarded the Professor W.A.L. McGowan Medal in 2017 for highest performing FRCS candidate across all surgical specialties from the surgical training scheme in Ireland.
Title of Project/Fellowship	Fellowship in Paediatric and Complex Epilepsy Surgery
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2018 01/05/2018 30/04/2019

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I commenced my fellowship training in general paediatric neurosurgery at one of the busiest paediatric neurosurgical centres in France. In Hôpital Femme Mère Enfant, Lyon, I had the opportunity to train under Dr Mottolese, one of the most eminent paediatric Neurosurgeons in France and with Prof Di Rocco who is the chair of the ESPN Training and Education Committee. There I studied the “Lyonnaise school” of surgical management of a range of general paediatric neurosurgical conditions from trauma, complex hydrocephalus, craniofacial anomalies, spinal dysraphism and tumours. I was fortunate to be able to contribute to 2 papers, one book chapter and 2 presentations from this centre. From there, I travelled to London to take up a fellowship in complex epilepsy surgery with Mr Andrew McEvoy at the National Hospital for neurology and neurosurgery. This is the UKs largest dedicated neurological hospital with one of the largest departments of clinical and experimental epilepsy in Europe. Mr McEvoy has the busiest epilepsy practice in the UK and during my fellowship I studied the “Queens Square school” of epilepsy surgery which began with Sir Victor Horsley, one of the founding fathers and pioneers of epilepsy surgery. I have gained valuable experience in robotic neurosurgery and intra-operative MRI along with the use of advanced surgical planning software. I also have an honorary contract with Great Ormond Street children’s Hospital which is next door to Queens square and visit regularly for epilepsy MDT, surgical planning meeting and theatre.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Two-fold objective: 1) To gain experience in general paediatric neurosurgery in order to managed a range of paediatric neurosurgical conditions from trauma, hydrocephalus, neuro-oncology, cranio-facial abnormalities and neuro-oncology 2) To gain experience in complex epilepsy surgery, both adult and paediatric.

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes

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

(a) Yourself

In the spirit of the Colles Travelling fellowship, this funding has allowed me to travel and work in two of leading centres in Europe with the ability to regularly visit a third institution which world renowned. This experience has allowed to me participate in the clinical management, surgical planning and surgical management of a wide range of general paediatric and complex epilepsy conditions. Each institution has its own strong tradition and leading academic status forming a unique neurosurgical school. This in turn has provided me with invaluable insight and surgical experience from different traditional surgical strategies to employing advanced strategies using advance planning software, robotic neurosurgery and intra-operative MRI.

(b) The institution in which you worked

I believe I have represented my trainers, my training institutions and the Irish Neurosurgical training scheme to the best of my ability in leading centres in Europe. I hope that the links I have established and impression I have left with these institutions will benefit future Irish neurosurgical trainees.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

My fellowship training has provided me with invaluable experience in traditional surgical strategies and advance strategies employing robotic neurosurgery and intra-operative MRI. I hope to return to Ireland where I may contribute back to the Irish health service and treat Irish patients to the best of my ability using the skill set I have obtained during my travelling fellowship.