



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Fellowship/Grant Holder Name</b>	Michael Boland
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	I am now a consultant breast surgeon working in Imperial College London and am due to take up a post in St Vincent's Hospital Dublin, in Summer 2023. I completed HST in Ireland in 2021 and completed a TIG oncoplastic fellowship in Imperial College London in 2022
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	TIG Oncoplastic Breast Surgery
<b>Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:</b>	2021/2022 August 2021 August 2022

### Summary (no more than 250 words)

My fellowship in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery took place in Imperial College London under the care of my supervisor Mr Daniel Leff. The fellowship is competitively appointed and is one of ten annual fellowships given out in the UK every year.

#### Operative Experience

Operatively I was exposed to the full range of oncoplastic procedures. This included therapeutic mammoplasty (Level 1 and 2) as well skin sparing mastectomy and implant-based reconstruction. I also learned the technique of partial flap based reconstruction using LICAP and AICAP techniques. Finally I have been lucky enough to learn the technique of LYMPHA or primary lymphovenous anastomosis to prevent lymphedema in patients undergoing axillary lymph node dissection. This is a procedure not currently available in Ireland. Towards the end of the fellowship I was able to run and manage my own theatre lists, seeing the patients pre and post-operatively, which provided critical experience at running a surgical service independently.

#### Research Experience

Imperial College has a long history of excellence in surgical innovation. I have started and am continuing to recruit patients to a prospective study examining the use of augmented reality using Microsoft HoloLens in oncoplastic breast surgery. This has the potential to aid breast and plastic surgeons in visualising tumours, blood vessels and other anatomical structures, thereby improving operative efficiency as well as reducing morbidity.

Overall the experience has been exceptional and I believe the awarding of the grant from RCSI toward this fellowship has made the year easier to manage and now puts me in an excellent position to take up a consultant role in Ireland.

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

### Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

1. To become comfortable and proficient in performing advanced Level 1 and 2 oncoplastic breast procedures. In addition to this, further operative aims included becoming proficient in offering implant-based reconstruction as well as other corrective plastic surgical techniques such as lipofilling and nipple reconstruction. Finally, the last operative objective was to learn the technique of LYMPHA which is not yet available in Ireland
2. To become actively involved in surgical research with a particular focus on prospective trials in surgical innovation. Specifically, the objective was to gain ethical approval and commence a prospective study examining the use of augmented reality in breast surgery.
3. To become proficient in running a breast surgical service and providing a high level of care using operative but also non-operative skills. This includes becoming comfortable in managing complex oncological problems and offering patients a range of options with regard to treatment.
4. Gaining vital exposure to the management and leadership challenges of running a busy breast surgery department. To become actively involved in driving changes in how the department and service is run through collaboration and formulation of best practice guidelines.

### Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes – as stated in the summary above the fellowship gave me the opportunity to do all of the above and has put me in a very good position to run and lead a breast surgery service in Ireland to a high level. It has also enabled me to bring back some of the techniques that I have learnt and offer them to patients as well as teaching the next generation of Irish surgeons.

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

- (a) Yourself – I feel the award was very helpful in enabling me to live close to the hospital which ensured I was able to attend and be available for a range of different activities that were ongoing. I was also able to attend a number of conferences in breast surgery, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States that I would not have been able to attend without the grant. These opportunities gave me a platform to present my research as well as make connections with breast surgeons in these areas which can benefit breast surgery in Ireland going forward.
- (b) The institution in which you worked – the award ensured I was always available to my trainers and enabled me to attend many different surgical procedures which has added hugely to the experience that I have got on the fellowship.
- (c) In the future for Irish patients: I think this award has contributed hugely towards my fellowship. I believe that this fellowship has enabled me to gain vital experience in now offering Irish patients with breast cancer the full range of oncoplastic options. I also hope to deliver LYMPHA procedures in Ireland.