



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

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| Grant Holder Name | Anne O'Neill |
| Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words) | MB BCh (Hons) NUI Galway 1999. AFRCSI 2002 PhD NUI Galway 2010 FRCSI(Plast) 2011 |
| Title of Project/Fellowship | Clinical Fellowship in Oncological Reconstruction |
| Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date: | 2011 July 2011 June 2012 |

Summary (no more than 250 words)

This fellowship at University Health Network / University of Toronto provided intensive training in oncological reconstructive surgery. The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department at Toronto General Hospital focuses solely on the reconstruction of major bone and soft tissue defects following oncological ablative surgery. During my time at this unit I was involved in the complex reconstruction of large numbers of breast cancer, head and neck cancer and sarcoma patients.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship: The objective of this fellowship was to increase my clinical experience in:

- (1) Breast Reconstruction
- (2) Head and neck reconstruction
- (3) Reconstruction of bone and soft tissue defects following sarcoma ablation

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes, during my fellowship year I had extensive exposure to complex reconstructive cases in all of these areas. In particular I had exposure to large volumes of microvascular free tissue transfers which has greatly improved my experience and competence in this field. I also had the opportunity to present clinical research at the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

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

- (a) Yourself This fellowship has provided me with the necessary skills to manage major oncological defects. The large volume of cases enabled me to build on the training I received in Ireland. The wide variety of major defects that I encountered and treated during my fellowship has provided me with a very strong repertoire of reconstructive skills that will be invaluable in my future career.
- (b) The institution in which you worked: During my time at the University of Toronto I was able to share my experiences from a very different medical system and training structure with my colleagues. I was actively involved in teaching and training of both undergraduate medical students and surgical residents. My strong academic background also enabled me to contribute to the research programme at the unit
- (c) In the future for Irish patients: The experience and skills gained during my fellowship will be essential to my long term objective of working within a multidisciplinary surgical oncology team. The University Health Network, Toronto is an excellent model of centralised cancer services which we are striving to develop in Ireland.