



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	David Kearney
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	Intercollegiate F.R.C.S.I. (R.C.S.I.) 2017 MSc Medical Education (Cardiff University) 2011 Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) (University College Cork) 2010 M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Hons) (University College Cork) 2005 B. Med. Sc. (Hons) (University College Cork) 2005
Title of Project/Fellowship	Clinical Fellowship in Colorectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2018 August 1 st 2018 July 31 st 2019

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I undertook a 12 month clinical fellowship at the Department of Colorectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Ohio from August 2018. The colorectal department at the Cleveland Clinic is the largest in North America with over 20 colorectal consultants. It is a quaternary referral centre with a high volume of inflammatory bowel disease surgery including ileoanal pouch and re-do ileoanal pouch surgery. The Weiss Centre at the Cleveland Clinic is also one of the largest centres for inherited colorectal cancer syndromes in the world. The fellowship program has been running for nearly 50 years and takes four international and four North American fellows every August.

The aim of this fellowship was to give me a broad exposure to both benign and malignant colorectal conditions, including proctology, inflammatory bowel disease, hereditary colorectal cancer, minimally invasive surgery including robotic and transanal approaches. I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to work under the mentorship of Dr Mike Rosen to develop new skills in complex abdominal wall reconstruction. As well as developing my operative skills as a surgeon the Cleveland Clinic has a strong academic program and I had the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting colorectal research projects during the fellowship.

I have recently commenced as a general and colorectal surgeon at St James's Hospital, Dublin and the new skills and expertise that I have acquired at the Cleveland Clinic have definitely helped me provide better care for the patients that I treat here.

I would highly recommend this fellowship to anyone considering pursuing a career in colorectal surgery.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Exposure to inflammatory bowel disease surgery including ileoanal pouch and redo ileoanal pouch surgery

Develop new minimally invasive approaches to colorectal cancer and IBD such as robotic and transanal approaches as well as mastering my laparoscopic skills

Develop my expertise in the care of patients with hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes such as FAP and Lynch Syndrome.

Undertake an elective rotation with Dr Mike Rosen to learn techniques in the management of complex abdominal wall reconstruction.

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes, I performed over 500 procedures during the year including multiple IPAA and re-do IPAA surgeries, as well as laparoscopic, robotic and transanal procedures. I also gained invaluable expertise in the management of hereditary colorectal cancer. I undertook an elective in complex abdominal wall reconstruction with Dr Mike Rosen and learned new techniques that I have brought home such as posterior components separation of the abdominal wall.

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

(a) Yourself

This award alleviated some of the financial pressures that are associated with completing a clinical fellowship abroad

(b) The institution in which you worked

I was an integral member of the colorectal team involved in the pre-operative evaluation, operative management and post-operative care of hundreds of patients.

I participated in many colorectal research projects throughout my year. These have been presented on behalf of the Cleveland Clinic at international meetings and gone on to publication.

I was involved in the teaching colorectal surgery to general surgery residents through cadaveric dissection labs.

I participated in monthly journal clubs and weekly teaching sessions.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

This fellowship improved my skills as a doctor, particularly in the close attention to detail that was provided to the perioperative management of the patients.

It developed my knowledge of the pathophysiology and treatment of colorectal conditions through intensive weekly teaching sessions, regular evening journal clubs, guest lectures, weekly IBD and colorectal cancer MDTs, workshops, cadaveric labs, citywide quarterly IBD meetings, etc.

I gained a significant improvement in my operative skills and my confidence in managing complex colorectal conditions. I also developed new skills the management of complex abdominal wall reconstruction.

Many of the techniques that I learned abroad I did not see in Ireland. I am delighted to have the opportunity to practice the new skills that I have learned in my role as a colorectal surgeon in Ireland.

