



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Grant Holder Name</b>	Deirdre Seoighe
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	Graduated from RCSI with and honours degree in 2003. Awarded MRCS in 2005, MCh in 2007 and FRSC(Plast.) in 2015.
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	Fellow in Burns and Trauma Surgery at the National Burns Centre, Middlemore Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand
<b>Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:</b>	2016 July 2016 July 2017

### Summary (no more than 250 words)

It has been an enormous privilege to work with the patients and staff of Middlemore Hospital. Over the years, the NBC has recruited a unique and dedicated group of medical and allied health staff. The three main burn consultants have been extraordinary in their willingness to teach on the wards and in theatre. The two burns CNSs, who have managed the burns unit for many years, were invaluable. They shared their years of experience and were a constant source of mentoring and support. A clinical psychologist rounded with us every day and provided an adjunct to patient care that I had not experienced before this fellowship. The range of trauma accepted by Middlemore is vast and weekends on call could be relentless but the level of teaching and supervision provided is second to none. I have learned how to manage a large team and deliver a high standard of care to complex patients in a busy trauma setting.

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

**Objectives of Project/Fellowship:**

The objective was to improve my management of burns patients, both adult and paediatric. I also wanted the challenge of managing patients who are being referred from an extensive catchment area, ensuring a high level of care was provided before and during transfer to the quaternary burns facility. Middlemore is a renowned trauma centre, being the largest trauma unit in the Southern hemisphere. I wanted to be exposed to a wide variety of trauma and become proficient at the management of same.

I was also keen to improve my management of burns patients in the post-acute and reconstructive phase. There was ample opportunity to gain experience in this aspect of burn care.

**Did you achieve these objectives?**

This has been a busy fellowship and I feel I achieved the above objectives. There were 10 'out-of-zone' emergency burn transfers including patients from as far away as Tahiti (six hour fixed-wing flight from Middlemore). There were many more emergency burn transfers from within our own catchment area. With three protected whole-day operating lists per week there was more than adequate opportunity to train in these areas. Expert consultant supervision was always available.

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

**(a) Yourself**

This fellowship has given me much more confidence in dealing with acute burns patients and plastics trauma patients in general.

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

The institution in which I worked is extremely multicultural and was very receptive to an Irish trainee joining the team. The burn fellow is responsible for the daily management of all patients in the burns unit, regardless of the consultant in charge of the patient. This provides a 'go-to' person for the staff of the unit, both medical and allied health. The fellow is also responsible for the coordination of the elective and acute burns operating lists.

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

A high standard of care was provided to the patients in Middlemore Hospital and I would be keen to emulate this at home. The burns unit was well staffed and resourced and all patients were managed cohesively within a tightly run MDT framework. I would love to manage patients within a similar structure at home.