



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Mark Robert Quinlan
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	MB BCh BAO (Hons) (2003, UCD) MD (2009, UCD) FRCS Urol (2015, RCSI) Completed Urology HST programme 2011-2016 CCST awarded 2016
Title of Project/Fellowship	Endourology Fellowship, Austin Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	03/16 08/16 07/18

Summary (no more than 250 words)

With the assistance of my Ethicon travelling grant, I was privileged to spend the last two years in Melbourne, Australia along with my wife and three small kids. I worked at the Austin Hospital under the supervision of Professor Damien Bolton. Three Irish Fellows had worked there in the same guise before me, another joined me a year after my arrival and two more are scheduled to take up posts there over the next couple of years. The Austin Hospital is believed to have the largest Urology unit in the state of Victoria and the third largest in Australia, boasting a consultant body of nearly 20 people. The main Austin complex has 1-2 Urology theatres in operation each day. The major and complex oncology and benign cases take place here. In addition, the Austin Hospital network also includes the Repatriation Hospital less than a mile away. Again, 1-2 Urology theatres run here every day. This smaller campus is where the majority of the benign cases take place.

My family and I had two brilliant years in Australia. We loved our time there. We have taken away some fantastic memories and made some amazing friends. Professionally, the experience benefitted me enormously. I was exposed to a massive volume of work, including new and old procedures. I learned a huge amount both operatively and non-operatively. I enhanced my CV through publishing several papers and attending some international training courses and conferences while there. I'm very grateful to RCSI and Ethicon for their assistance.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

This was an Endourology Fellowship with a special emphasis on stone disease. In view of an aging population and an obesity epidemic, the incidence of stone disease is increasing rapidly. It

represents an enormous economic burden to our healthcare system. My primary aims were to acquire new skills and knowledge and expertise in both the surgical and medical management of stone disease. In particular, I was hoping to become proficient in flexible ureteropyeloscopy and percutaneous stone surgery. The Austin Hospital Urology staff includes some world leaders in these subspecialties. I also sought to improve my laparoscopic skills with a view to performing laparoscopic nephrectomies.

Did you achieve these objectives?

I am satisfied that I am now able to offer the most contemporary and cutting edge skills and expertise in stone management to patients in Ireland. In this regard, I believe I can offer a first-class service in an area of great need. I am happy that the objectives outlined above have been satisfactorily met. I am also satisfied that I can offer laparoscopic nephrectomy to appropriate patients.

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

(a) Yourself

this grant has given my family and I a helping hand in meeting the costs involved in moving to Australia and setting up home there. In turn, this was the basis for a wonderful professional and personal experience and adventure for my family and I. We have taken home some wonderful memories, made some lifelong friends and I have progressed enormously from a professional perspective.

(b) The institution in which you worked

Irish trainees have a very good reputation internationally and I hope I have enhanced that during the time of my Fellowship. By helping to facilitate my move to Australia, this grant has solidified the links between Irish Urology and Austin Hospital Urology which have been in place for many years now. Indeed, two other Irish Urology trainees are scheduled to follow in my footsteps with the same Fellowship in a couple of years' time and I would like to think that the success of my own Fellowship has contributed in some way to their appointment. I believe I contributed significantly to the care of thousands of patients during my time in Australia. Furthermore, I was also able to publish several papers during my time there and in so-doing, I hope to have left a permanent imprint from my time there. This grant was acknowledged in each of the papers I published as first author.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

Stone disease is somewhat neglected in the Irish healthcare system, perhaps understandably in light of its benign nature, increasingly limited resources, increased costs and increased demand. However, in fact, stone disease is actually a huge burden on these resources. We need to become better at both treating existing stone disease but equally importantly, at preventing it. My Fellowship has afforded me a fantastic opportunity to do exactly this and I firmly believe my patients will benefit greatly from this.