



RCSI SURGICAL
AFFAIRS

Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants

REPORT FORM

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Grant Holder Name	Ms Sarah Moran
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	Sarah graduated from Medicine in University College Cork with a First Class Honours Degree in 2006. Sarah completed Higher Surgical Training in Ophthalmic Surgery in 2018 through the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, and has previously been awarded a Masters qualification in Cataract and Refractive Surgery with the University of Ulster. Sarah is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (FRSCI), as well as a Fellow of the European Board of Ophthalmologists (FEBO) She has also completed a fellowship in refractive surgery at the Mater Private Hospital in Dublin. She has authored multiple international peer-reviewed publications.
Title of Project/Fellowship	Fellow in Anterior Segment and Refractive Surgery
Year of Award	2018
Commencement Date:	1/5/2018
Conclusion Date:	1/5/2019

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I commenced my post as Fellow in Anterior Segment and Refractive Surgery in May 2018 at the Fondation Ophtalmologique Adolphe de Rothschild in Paris. The Fondation is partnered with the Universities of Paris VI and Paris VII, and is regularly ranked among the top 3 ophthalmology centres in France.

Anterior segment surgery is a branch of ophthalmic surgery, which ranges from routine cataract surgery, and ocular surface procedures, to more complex procedures such as corneal transplantation. Corneal transplantation techniques have developed rapidly in the past ten years. The Fondation Ophtalmologique Adolphe de Rothschild Fondation was one of the first centres in France to adopt the procedure of endothelial keratoplasty; a major landmark in the corneal transplant arena and represents one of the greatest advances in corneal surgery in the present century. These newer techniques improves vision with lower complication rates, reduced graft rejection, and faster visual recovery than full-thickness transplantation

The fellowship post consisted of 4 operating sessions per week, (3 cornea and 1 excimer laser) and 3-4 speciality clinics per week, as well as a dedicated study and research session, and participation in the on-call rota for anterior segment emergencies. The fellowship enabled me to become proficient in the latest corneal lamellar transplantation techniques, as well as complex cataract and anterior segment surgeries in addition to gaining a wealth of clinical experience.. Active participation in clinical research was encouraged and I authored multiple publications in international peer-reviewed journal during the fellowship.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

The main objectives of the fellowship were as follows:

- To gain surgical experience in techniques of lamellar corneal grafting, as well as other complex anterior segment cases.
- To attend high volume corneal clinics to provide a wide exposure to complex corneal pathology.
- To independently manage corneal and ocular surface disorders, including trauma, infections, and keratoconus
- To actively engage in clinical research in the areas of corneal and refractive surgery.
- To work in a different health system and observe the functioning of a different health service.

Did you achieve these objectives?

The above objectives were achieved during the fellowship. I gained a wealth of clinical experience in specialised high volume clinics. Surgically, I became skilled in lamellar corneal graft techniques, refractive laser surgery as well as other complex anterior segment procedures which I was able to perform independently by the end of the fellowship. I authored multiple publications during my fellowship.

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

a. Yourself : Enabled me to go a highly specialised centre to acquire new skills, and have the clinical experience to apply this new skill set to patients in need in Ireland. Gained experience of working in a different health system which is motivating and inspiring.

b. The institution in which you worked:

The fellowship was a constant exchange of ideas and techniques. I was active in clinical research, publishing several research papers for this department. I also partook in regular teaching and training sessions at the department.

c. In the future for Irish patients

I am now proficient in the latest corneal transplant techniques which have been proven to give superior outcomes compared to older methods. Patients in Ireland now have more access to these highly specialised techniques which up until recently were rarely performed in Ireland. These newer techniques improves vision with lower complication rates, reduced graft rejection, and faster visual recovery than full-thickness transplantation. Corneal transplantation is a sight-restoring surgery, for patients suffering vision loss from corneal damage or disease. It is one of the few ocular surgeries that can truly restore vision, thus has the ability to impact significantly on patient well-being and quality of life.