

News Scope

April 2011



RCSI

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

CHARTER DAY

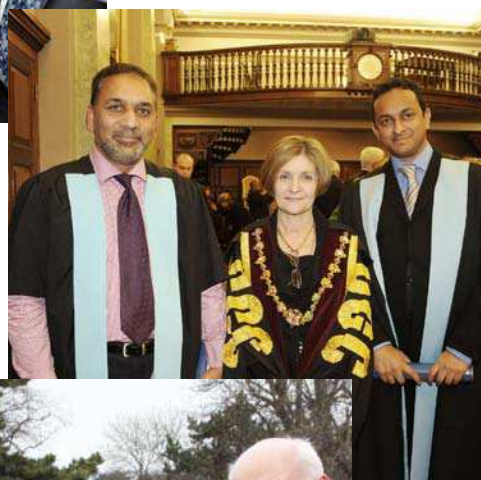
Edward Kiely presented with the Colles Medal at Charter Day





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President's Address



The major highlight of the RCSI calendar for the surgical community is the Charter day weekend, which celebrates the founding of the College by Royal charter in February 1784.

The weekend got off to a start on Thursday 17th February with the Annual Video-surgery session. This is the 21st anniversary of this event, which has been organised most successfully over this time by Prof Tom Walsh. As usual there was a wide spectrum of submissions from almost all specialties, and it is a very useful learning opportunity for our trainees, as well as giving all of us a window into the activities of our sister specialties.

The morning of the all-day Friday meeting consisted of 5 parallel sessions covering vascular surgery, orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, cardiothoracic surgery and ENT surgery. This is in keeping with our goal of involving all specialties in College activities, and these sessions were very much aimed at our trainees. In fact, the orthopaedic component was mandatory for higher surgical trainees, a model which other specialties might consider for the future.

This was followed by the J&J lecture delivered by Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, who became Medical Director of the NHS in 2007 while in his fifties and at the peak of his career as a cardiothoracic surgeon in the UK. He gave us an inside view of the changes taking place in the NHS, and the challenges of resource allocation in the current economic climate.

Dr Susan O'Reilly, the new director of the National Cancer Control Programme, outlined her plans for her 5-year term, as part of a 2-hour overview of surgical cancer services in Ireland. Then, instead of the traditional President's address, we introduced a new event to the programme – an interactive 90-minute closed session for fellows and members. A panel of College office-holders updated the audience on recent developments - for example professional competence and the HSE elective surgery programme – and questions and answers were moderated by Mr Broe, the vice-President. The feedback has been very positive, and as well as retaining this on next year's programme, we plan to have a trainee-specific version.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the annual Colles lecture, given this year by Mr Edward Kiely, who is a paediatric surgeon in Great Ormond Street in London. He has a special interest in the surgery of conjoint twins, and gave an inspiring, and at times very moving, account of his experiences – highlighting not just the technical challenges, but the emotional and professional aspects of dealing with these children and their parents.

On Saturday we enjoyed the annual Higher Surgical Trainees meeting, when four newly appointed surgeons gave very frank and honest accounts – the positive and the negative – of their experiences of transitioning from trainee to consultant in both the public and private sector. The weekend ended with the conferring of Honorary Fellowships on Prof Sir Bruce Keogh and Mr Edward Kiely, followed by the Charter Day dinner, attended by almost 300 people.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the annual Colles lecture, given this year by Mr Edward Kiely, who is a paediatric surgeon in Great Ormond Street in London

The elective surgery programme, led by Prof Frank Keane, is moving from the planning to the implementation phase. This has been marked by the announcement that Mr Tony O'Brien, currently deputy director of the National Cancer Control Programme, is to join Dr Barry White on a fulltime basis from May 2011 as co-director of the Clinical Care Programmes. Dr White will continue in the lead policy/strategy role, and Mr O'Brien will take on the implementation and roll-out of the programme in our hospitals. We are also planning to create an acute/emergency surgery programme, as the challenges and problems are different, and require a separate approach.

The elective surgery programme, led by Prof Frank Keane, is moving from the planning to the implementation phase.

As you know, following a formal application process, RCSI has been formally recognised by the Medical Council as the approved body for the delivery of the Professional Competence Scheme for doctors who identify surgery as their main field of interest. From May 1st, all consultant surgeons and those

NCHDs who are not enrolled on formal training schemes will be invited to participate in the College system. The details of this will be emailed to you shortly, along with contact details for the Professional Competence department in the College.

It is important to be aware that the role of the College is not supervisory as such. Our role is to act as a repository for surgeons to input data about their professional activity, which will then be collated and made available not just to the individual clinician, but also to the Medical Council. Approximately 5% of the entries will be audited on an annual basis to ensure that the activity has been honestly and accurately recorded.

As part of our objective of making the College more relevant and useful for all our members and fellows, we have been engaged in getting feedback from surgeons and trainees. Eunan Friel, Managing Director for Surgical Affairs, and Ken Mealy, Chairman of the Committee for Surgical Affairs, have held several very useful focus group sessions with surgeons of all specialties from all around the country, and we have also carried out an on-line questionnaire. When we have had a chance to analyse this feedback, we will let you know the findings, and how we plan to respond.

Finally, I was invited to attend the Sylvester O'Halloran annual meeting in Limerick in March. As you may know, this meeting, along with the Freyer event in Galway, and the Waterford Surgical meeting, provide an opportunity for our trainees to present and showcase the results of their research. Some of the presentations in Limerick were actu-

ally made by medical students. The standard and quality of both the research itself, and the oral/technical aspects of the presentations, was superb. The confidence and positivity of the trainees was infectious, and I came away from the meeting with an overwhelming feeling of optimism for the future of Irish surgery.

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The next major surgical event in RCSI is the Millin meeting on November 11th, and we hope to combine this with a Consensus meeting of the ASGBI on the previous day. Please put these dates in your diary, and I will have more details, and more updates and news from the College, in our next edition of News Scope.

Professor Eilis McGovern
President RCSI

Professional Competence Scheme

RCSI is the body that has been formally recognised by the Irish Medical Council to administer the Professional Competence Scheme for doctors in Surgery (all specialties), Emergency Medicine, Sports & Exercise Medicine and Ophthalmic Surgery & Ophthalmology.

To this end, we have designed a new section of the “Colles Portal” for doctors to easily record their CPD activity in order to meet the requirements of the Irish Medical Council. RCSI wish to make it as easy as possible for doctors to enrol in the scheme, log in your CPD points, upload and store your certificates and other documents, and get an annual certificate to satisfy the requirements of the Irish Medical Council. All doctors who are not in training posts on either the General or Specialist register are required to enrol in an appropriate scheme in May 2011. Even those who are not Members or Fellows of RCSI but who are involved in the practice of any one of the specialties, is required to enrol in the appropriate Professional Competence Scheme.

The Schemes have all been developed to meet the requirements of the Irish Medical Council and is approved by the Irish Medical Council. Professional Competence Schemes consists of two elements:

- (1) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) which comprises 4 categories.
- (2) Clinical Audit (or audit of activity appropriate to clinical practice). We will issue further guidance over the next few months as to what kind of activities and evidence is appropriate.

Doctors on either the General or Specialist register have the same requirements to complete 50 credits per year and one audit annually.

(1) The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements are as outlined below:

Category	Credits / Year
External Maintenance of knowledge & skills	20 credits minimum
Internal Practice evaluation & development	20 credits minimum
Personal Learning	5 credits minimum
Research or Teaching	2 credits desirable

Sample of Activities:

External: Activities outside the hospital or clinic: attendance at International conferences, national conferences, courses etc

Internal: Activities within the hospital or clinic: participation in morbidity and mortality meetings, clinical audit meetings, case presentations etc.

Personal Learning: Participation in self directed education, training or assessment activities (e.g. journal reading, researching clinical information)

Research or Teaching: Teaching on programmes / courses. Participation in hospital inspections for Colleges or the Medical Council

We have designed a new section of the “Colles Portal” for doctors to easily record their CPD activity in order to meet the requirements of the Irish Medical Council.

The Professional Competence Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Arthur Tanner who has been involved in this process in RCSI for many years, will oversee the Professional Competence Scheme.

(2) Clinical Audit Requirements

Each doctor is required to participate in at least one clinical audit annually. This would normally be an aspect of clinical practice such as outcomes from a procedure, compliance with guidelines (such as thromboprophylaxis), and evaluation of processes. This would equate to about one hour per month of audit activity but it may not be evenly spread through the year. You will need to specify what the audit was, when it was completed and upload (or keep) a summary – for example an abstract if the audit is presented (either externally or internally) or published.

The required supporting documentation for each of the above categories must either be uploaded digitally or kept safely in hardcopy by a medical practitioner should they be required for audit purposes.

All educational activities will be considered for accreditation by the RCSI and credits allocated accordingly. A list of RCSI accredited courses, conferences and meetings will be accessible on the RCSI website (www.rcsi.ie). You must make sure that activities (especially external activities or meetings) that you claim for have been approved.

Each year, the Medical Council requires the College to take a random sample and verify that those doctors have evidence to support the credits claimed on the scheme. Those who have been selected will be notified. Usually, this will involve reviewing the online material including uploaded certificates and attendance sheets. If you chose to keep the paper records, you will be asked to produce these for verification (so it would be easier if you were to upload them where possible).

The Professional Competence Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Arthur Tanner who has been involved in this process in RCSI for many years, will oversee the Professional Competence Scheme.

To enrol on the Professional Competence Scheme, surgeons or other practitioners will need to create an account by logging on to www.rcsi.ie/pcs. You are required to enter some new details including your medical council number, and some personal details. If you already have an RCSI online ID, you will still need to log on to www.rcsi.ie/pcs to activate it. The fee for the Professional Competence Schemes to be operated by the RCSI has been set at €275 for 2011/2012 by the Medical Council. Fellows and Members of the College/Faculties who are in good standing (Fellowship/membership fees paid) will be entitled to a discount on this fee. All the money taken is invested in the scheme and no profit will accrue to the College or Medical Council from the scheme.

Our goal in setting up the online scheme has been to reduce the burden on doctors as much as possible. Nonetheless, you will have to visit the site from time to time to record any activities and check your existing “balance”. We will provide online and telephone support if you do have difficulties or queries. If you attend an approved activity that is managed by RCSI, such as the Charter Day or the Millin meetings, the activity detail and its CPD category and credits will be automatically allocated to your record. For all other events or activities, you can log onto the portal and record the details of the activity including the category, the details of the event and the credits awarded for the activity. In this way, you are able to build your portfolio over time of all your CPD activities.

RCSI will issue a certificate annually to all enrolled doctors, according to the requirements of the Medical Council, reflecting the credits accrued for that period.

For up-to-date information on enrolment in the Professional Competence Scheme, please view our website: www.rcsi.ie/pcs

Professor Sean Tierney,
Dean, Professional Development & Practice

RCSI in the Developing World

Over recent years, there has been a marked increase in the engagement of RCSI personnel and departments in the developing world

Prof Ruairi Brugha, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, continues his research with ChRA-IC (Connecting health Research in Africa & Ireland Consortium), an Irish Aid-funded PhD programme and health systems research-capacity strengthening initiative, across 6 African countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan & Uganda). Also ongoing and nearing completion is GHIN (Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Network), across 18 countries and researching the effects of HIV/AIDS initiatives on recipient countries health systems. Another study, just getting underway, which will have relevance to health services in the developing world, is a HRB-funded study of foreign doctors in Ireland.

A good example of synergy across RCSI departments is a new major study, led by Professor Brugha and funded by the EU, under their FP 7 scheme. This 5 year study -Clinical Officer Surgical Training for Africa (COST Africa) will evaluate the impact and cost effectiveness of such training in Malawi and Zambia and involves cooperation with the Surgical Training Office and the RCSI/COSECSA collaboration.

Professor Samuel Mc Conkey, Department of International Health & Tropical Medicine, is the Principal Investigator for the National Malaria Surveillance system in Gambia, in collaboration with the government in Gambia and the Centre for Innovation against Malaria. The mature findings of the study, funded by an Irish HRB research grant, were presented at a workshop at the



Kenyan Maasai using SODIS

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) annual meeting in Atlanta in November, by Dr Samuel E. Anya, an RCSI, ChRA-IC PhD student.

Arising from this activity, RCSI has become a member of the European Malaria Vaccine Initiative (EMVI) and Dr Terry Mc Wade, Deputy CEO, represents RCSI on its board. A phase I trial of a malaria vaccine is currently underway in the RCSI Clinical Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital.

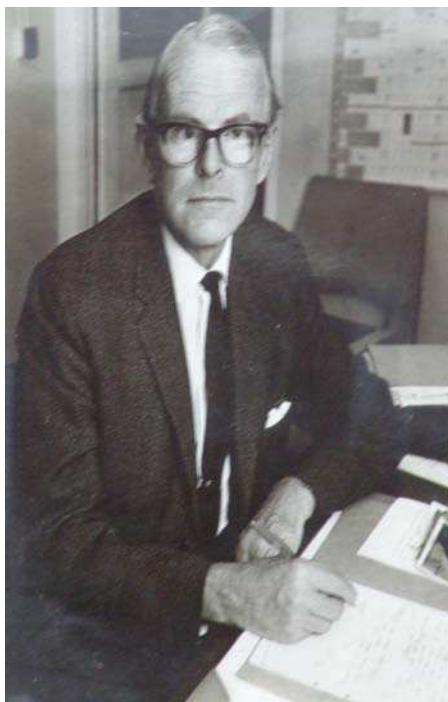
Dr Kevin Mc Guigan, Department of Physiology & Medical Physics continues to develop his work with SODISWATER (Solar Disinfection of Water). His main activity, at this time, is in Uganda, on the Irish Aid “Water is Life” project, but a proposal for collaboration with a Brazilian university is under consideration.

Currently, there are 2 PhD students, one studying SODIS of harvested rainwater and the other studying

Over recent years, there has been a marked increase in the engagement of RCSI personnel and departments in the developing world.

the promotion of SODIS through the vehicle of primary schools. It is estimated that 4.5 million people, worldwide, are living healthier, safer lives, thanks to this simple (SODIS) innovation.

The RCSI/COSECSA collaboration programme has had a busy start for 2011. After a successful, multi-year funding application to Irish Aid



Denis Burkitt, Irish surgeon, in the Department of Surgery, Makerere University, Kampala.

in late 2010, resulting in an allocation of €1.5 million over 3 years, a detailed work plan was agreed with COSECSA and new initiatives are currently being successfully rolled out, along with the expansion of existing activities.

A major highlight will be a conference on Surgical Training in East Central and Southern Africa, to be held in London, in May, hosted by COSECSA, funded by Irish Aid and facilitated by RCSI.

Other activities include a faculty exchange for Rwandan surgeons, a basic sciences course for trainees in Kenya, a trainer course for the development of a COSECSA basic sciences faculty, the launch of an on-line interactive database and expansion of the programme into Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

Staffing of the collaboration has been boosted by the appointment of Mr Eric O'Flynn, as Assistant Programme Director. Eric will be based in Dublin and Africa. A VSO professional volunteer has also been secured for COSECSA Head Office in Tanzania.

Apart from the huge support from the Department of Surgical Affairs, which is home to the programme, the project also benefits greatly from assistance across the college, in particular, the Institute of Leadership, the Communications Department, Examinations, Epidemiology, members of RCSI Science faculty and the Office of the President, making it an all encompassing college Programme.

Dr Alice Mc Garvey, Vice-Dean for Student Affairs, is developing a new programme of student electives in Africa and this is being piloted this summer. The placements have been secured via the COSECSA collaboration and an induction programme is provided by Prof McConkey.

Other ongoing activities include a review of our involvement with Holy Rosary Hospital, Nigeria, where RCSI, with funding from Irish Aid, developed a new OutPatients, A/E & Laboratory building and, with the assistance of funding from World Mercy, provided medical student scholarships.

The committee is also engaging with the Institute of Orthopaedics to evolve a response strategy for global health emergencies, cooperating with the College of Anaesthe-

sia on their initiatives in Africa, and liaises with other endeavours, affiliated to RCSI, such as Right to Sight and the Vietnam paediatric surgery programme, which is in the process of being rebranded as OPERATION CHILDLIFE.

Declan J Magee,
Chairman, RCSI OUTREACH

*It is estimated that
4.5 million people,
worldwide, are
living healthier,
safer lives, thanks
to this simple
(SODIS)
innovation.*



Outpatients Building, Holy Rosary Hospital, Emekuku

RCSI News

15TH – 19TH NOVEMBER 2010 IRELAND'S FIRST MICROSURGICAL TRAINING COURSE HELD IN RCSI



Surgical trainees from plastics, general and orthopaedic backgrounds spent an intensive week learning microsurgical skills at the first ever microsurgical course in Ireland in association with the National Surgical Training Centre in RCSI from Monday 15th – Friday 19th November 2010.

Trainees learnt how to master and perfect important microsurgical skills from basic microscope and instrument handling to the advanced techniques of arterial and vein anastomosis performed on vessels less than one millimetre thick.

International expert in microsurgical techniques, Professor Gustavo Perez-Abadia provided one to one instruction during the course. Professor Perez-Abadia hails from the University of Louisville, Kentucky and is also affiliated to the world renowned Kleinert and Kutz Hand Care Centre, Louisville, Kentucky.

The course was directed and organised by Mr. Sean Carroll, Consultant

in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin. This course was the first of its kind in Ireland.

The course will be run again in November 2011 for surgical trainees. All interested trainees should contact James O'Hagan (jamesohagan@rcsi.ie) for information.



Picture (l-r) are (back row) Mr. Barinder Takhar, Mr. Sean Carroll, Course Director, (front row) Ms. Ann Marie Kennedy, Mr. Cormac Joyce, Ms. Emmeline Nugent, Ms. Katherine Whately and Professor Gustavo Perez-Abadia, Course Co-director and instructor

13TH DECEMBER 2010 POSTGRADUATE CONFERRING CEREMONY

140 healthcare professionals were conferred with postgraduate awards at a conferring ceremony in the College on Monday 13th December 2010. These include Fellowships of RCSI in Cardiotoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery and Urology.

Memberships of RCSI including Ophthalmology were awarded as



Pictured (l-r) are Muhmmade Anwer (Diploma in Cardiotoracic Surgery); Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI; and Ramesh Kumar, (FRCSI, Neurosurgery).

well as Fellowship and Membership of the Faculties of Radiologists, Dentistry and Nursing & Midwifery.

Speaking at the conferring ceremony, Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI congratulated new Members and Fellows on their success in reaching this exciting milestone in their careers and wished them all the very best as they continued to strive for their goals.



Adam Osborne (MRCSI) and Myles Smith (FRCSI, General Surgery)



Caroline Herron (MRCSI) and Natalie Jumper (MRCSI)



Deirdre Hussey (MRCSI) and Philip O'Halloran (MRCSI)



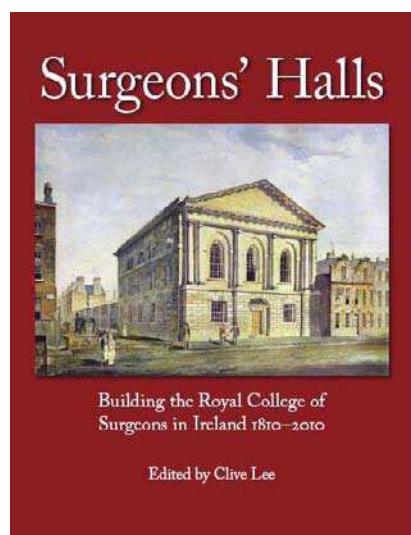
Pictured (l-r) are Naomi Rahman (Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral Surgery); Dr Patrick Byrne, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry; and Michael O'Halloran, (Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral Surgery with Oral Medicine).

5TH & 6TH JANUARY 2011 SOCIETY OF ACADEMIC & RESEARCH SURGERY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

More than 300 delegates from Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe attended the 59th Society of Academic & Research Surgery Annual Conference (SARS) which was held in RCSI on 5th and 6th January. Professor Arnold Hill, Professor of Surgery in RCSI and Director of Breast Cancer Ireland was the local conference organiser.

Highlights of the conference included The British Journal of Surgery Lecture, given by Professor Stefan Post from Mannheim, Germany entitled 'Defining Surgical Research'. The John Farndon Lecture was given by Professor Freddie Hamdy, a leading urologist who spoke about one of the largest surgical inspired clinical trials which has ever been mounted and Professor René Adam, a leading French academic surgeon provided new insights in the downsizing of liver metastases. The BBA guest lecture was given by Sir John Temple, author of the recent Temple report on training in the era of European Working Time Regulations (EWTR).

SURGEONS' HALLS TELLS STORY OF ICONIC RCSI BUILDING



Surgeons' Halls is a book that tells the story of the first building of RCSI on St. Stephen's Green in 1810 and its successor of 1827. A series of essays introduces the political and architectural backgrounds to the building and the book is illustrated with architectural drawings and photographs to form an indispensable introduction to the iconic building that is 123 St. Stephen's Green.

Contributors to the book include Mark Jarzombek, Professor of History and Theory of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Clive Lee, Professor of Anatomy, RCSI; Mary O'Doherty, Assistant Librarian, Special Collections and Archives, RCSI; Patricia McCarthy and Christopher Moore, architectural historians and Colin Stewart, Associate Director of Estate and Support Services, RCSI.

The book is available to buy for €25 from the Library. To purchase a copy email: librarysec@rcsi.ie or telephone +353 1 4022411.

The annual Charter Day meetings took place in the College on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th February. Over 50 leading national and international surgeons gave lectures on a wide range of surgical topics.

Five parallel specialist sessions in Vascular, General, Oncology, Cardiothoracic and Aesthetic Surgery took place, with each of these sessions focused on new developments and challenges facing each of the specialties.

Mr. Edward Kiely, internationally renowned Irish Paediatric Surgeon who led the successful separation surgery procedure of the Benhafaf twins, Hassan and Hussein from Co. Cork in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London gave the 86th Colles lecture. His talk focused on the 'Surgery of Conjoint Twins'.

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the National Health Service in the UK delivered the J&J Lecture. His talk 'Clash of Expectations' looked at resource allocation in the health service within the current economic climate.

The College awarded its highest distinction; Honorary Fellowship to Mr. Edward Kiely and Professor Sir Bruce Keogh.



Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI presents Mr. Edward Kiely with the Colles medal after he delivered the 86th Colles lecture on the 'Surgery of Conjoint Twins'.



(L-R) Mr Gordon Watson, Dr Susan O'Reilly and Mr Fiachra Cooke



Mr. Tom Aherne, Mr. Declan McGee and Mr. Michael Butler



(L-R) Mr. David Kearney, Mr. Andrew Coveney, Ms. Edel Quinn and Ms. Patricia Cronin



(L-R) Ms Bridget Egan, Mr Jurgens Mulsow and Ms Hilary Coates



(L - R) Mr. Parnell Keeling and Mr. Michael O'Riordan



Professor Sir Bruce Keogh Medical Director of the National Health Service in the UK and Professor Eilis McGovern

23RD MARCH 2011

MAJOR EXPANSION OF RCSI AND UCD IN MALAYSIA

Ministers from the State Government of Terengganu, Malaysia, travelled to Dublin to sign an agreement for the provision of medical education by RCSI and University College Dublin (UCD) in Dublin and by the two colleges in the State of Terengganu in Malaysia.

The new agreement will involve establishing a medical college branch campus in Terengganu, on the East coast of Malaysia. The students will come to Ireland to study at RCSI and UCD for 2.5 years and will return to Terengganu to undertake their clinical training and complete their medical degrees - which are awarded by the two Irish colleges.



Pictured are (L-R) Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, YB Dr Jahi A Rahman bin Mokhtar, Terengganu State Executive Council, YB Haji Ahmad Razif bin Abd Rahman, Terengganu Committee Chairman on State Education, and Prof Cathal Kelly, Registrar / CEO of RCSI

30TH MARCH 2011

LAUNCH OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE SCHEME

The Medical Council held a formal ceremony on Wednesday 30th March to announce details of the 13 postgraduate training bodies which have been accredited to operate professional competence schemes for doctors.

From May, it will be a legal requirement for all doctors working in Ireland and registered with the Irish Medical Council to commit to a formal process of lifelong learning and improvement by enrolling in professional competence schemes and fulfilling requirements set by the Irish Medical Council.



Prof Sean Tierney, Dr Philip Carolan, Mr Eunan Friel at the launch of the Professional Competence Scheme



Professor Kieran C Murphy, President of the Medical Council, with members of the 13 training bodies at the Irish Medical Council's headquarters for the launch of the Professional Competence Scheme

Doctors will enrol in schemes relevant to their areas of practice and participate in a range of activities including maintenance of knowledge and skills, practice evaluation and development, personal learning and research/teaching.

Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) Developments

RCSI-CIST has been involved with a number of new projects and developments over the past few months. Below gives a brief overview of some of these developments.

1. CLINICAL TRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

RCSI-CIST has been in talks with many national and international companies with respect to the development and management of their clinical trials. Aerosurgical, a Galway based drug delivery company is just one of these. They are looking to RCSI-CIST regarding their platform technology that allows drug delivery to the abdominal cavity during laparoscopic surgery. The RCSI-CIST proposal framework for the clinical trial has been accepted by Aerosurgical and negotiations are at an advanced stage. Additionally, RCSI-CIST is developing clinical trials for three US start-up medical device companies associated with Cleveland and Mayo Clinics.

Cork Cancer EndoVE Tumour Treatment

RCSI-CIST, along with Prof. Paul Neary and Prof. Oscar Traynor successfully completed the EndoVE Tumour Treatment project. The EndoVE device uses electroporation to treat cancerous tumours; this allows for higher absorption rates of bleomycin and thus has greater effect on the tumour. RCSI-CIST designed a training program to assist with the uptake of the device. Dr. Declan Soden, UCC, and Mr. Michael Loftus, Managing Director of Loftus Consulting were delighted with the results and are looking forward to putting their

new training tool into practice. In addition to providing a training program, RCSI-CIST also carried out a clinical, technical, and market assessment to define a roadmap for the current device and possible future products.

Podcast Update

As mentioned in the last issue of News Scope, RCSI-CIST is working with Prof. Oscar Traynor to develop a “Surgery Today” Podcast. This magazine style podcast will be half an hour in duration and will cover different aspects of the surgical world: from cases of the week to new devices/technology updates. To assess the feasibility of this podcast, RCSI-CIST along with the help of RCSI communications department (Ms. Louise Loughran and Ms. Niamh Burdett) have developed a pilot of the podcast. The majority of the filming for this has been completed, and editing is currently being undertaken. RCSI-CIST expects the release date for the podcast to be mid May.

RCSI-CIST would like to thank all those who have already contributed to the pilot podcast, namely Prof. Oscar Traynor, Prof. Seán Tierney, Prof John O’Byrne, Mr. Keith Synnott, Mr. Joe Duignan, Dr. Emmeline Nugent, Dr. Eric Heffernan and Dr. Dermot O’Toole. Without their help the pilot podcast could not have become a reality.

Ongoing Projects:

Discussions with Economic Development Board (EDB), Singapore are on-going to access how best to develop a mutually beneficial relationship for both parties.



Mr. Nevan Elam, CEO, AeroSurgical demonstrating the AeroSurgical device.

RCSI-CIST is working with Prof. Oscar Traynor to develop a “Surgery Today” Podcast. This magazine style podcast will be half an hour in duration and will cover different aspects of the surgical world:

The two Covidien projects are progressing well. Contracts between both parts have been finalised and work on these projects will begin shortly.

RCSI-CIST is conducting a Clinical Advocacy Review of the HydroxyColl™ bone graft substitute and ChondroColl™ osteochondral graft substitutes for Prof. Fergal O'Brien, Dr. John Gleeson on behalf of SurgaColl Technologies Ltd. A series of grants previously under the management of Kieran Ryan are now being handled by RCSI-CIST.

2. PROJECT PROPOSALS AND SUBMISSIONS/FUNDING

This month RCSI-CIST has submitted three projects for grant approval, the following details these:

A. Epileptic Seizure Detection and Prevention: The aim of the project is to detect oncoming seizures and stimulate the brain to disrupt and stop potential seizures. This technology is being developed for patients who have drug-resistant epilepsy. This is part of a European funded project that consists of a European consortium, with RCSI-CIST and Tyndall National Institute being the Irish partners. Dr. Paul Galvin of Tyndall, Cork is the project leader and coordinator.

B. Gut Analysis Sampling Device to Predict Disease: The aim of this product is to facilitate the rapid analysis of diseases such as colon cancer. This can be achieved by detecting trace amounts of blood in waste matter which is a key disease indicator. This is a Health Research Board – Science Foundation Ireland (HRB-SFI) Translational Research proposal. Mr. Paul Neary, RCSI and Ms. Karen Twomey of Tyndall, are both working with RCSI-CIST to develop this project.

C. Combined Bone Retractor and Compressor: This project includes the design, validation and commercialisation of a Novel Bone-Protecting combined Bone Retractor and Compressor for use in orthopaedic procedures. This device will prevent damage to osteoporotic bone which is a major issue with current devices. This is an Enterprise Ireland commercialisation fund proposal. Prof. John O'Byrne is the clinical inventor of this project.

3. NEW MEMBER TO THE RCSI-CIST TEAM

David Mathews has become the fourth member of the RCSI-CIST team, having joined the team in December 2010. David has a background in Mechatronic Engineering, a PhD in Biomedical Engineering (DCU), and an Executive MBA from Smurfit. His role in RCSI-CIST as Commercial Development Project Manager will utilise his complete portfolio of skills to ensure new and innovative ideas are brought from concept to the market.

If you would like more information, or if you have an idea that you would like reviewed please contact RCSI-CIST,

Email: siobhanokeeffe@rcsi.ie

Tel: 00353 1 402 2709.

Derek Young,
Head of CIST

*RCSI-CIST has
been in talks
with many
national and
international
companies with
respect to the
development
and management
of their clinical
trials.*

A Surgical Trainees Perspective on Charter Day

The Charter Day Meeting is an obvious highlight of the Irish surgical calendar. It is appropriate that an event which celebrates the establishment of RCSI serves as a focal point to unite the surgical community. Diverse specialities come together to consider where surgical practice is today, and how best to prepare to meet the opportunities and challenges of the future. From a trainees' perspective, it offers a perspective into the leadership role of a clinician, and the qualities and skills needed to prepare for that role.

Friday morning began with a series of parallel sessions, each focusing on a distinct speciality group and their corresponding clinical issues. The Johnson and Johnson lecture, given by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, served to bring all groups together and outlined the implications of the hostile economic climate on the allocation of health funding. The challenges being met by the National Health Service have clear parallels with the decisions needed in our own health economy. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to updates on the progression of the National Cancer Control Program, again an essential topic for all aspiring clinicians. The Friday meeting was closed by Mr Edward Kiely, who delivered a fascinating Colles lecture on the surgery of conjoined twins. A lecture, agreed by all present that evening, that provided a powerful and emotive insight into the difficulties faced in the treatment of this unique patient group and their families.

The higher surgical trainees traditionally hold their annual meeting on the Saturday morning following the Charter Day meeting. As chairman of the training group I, along with the committee, was honoured

to organise a series of speakers on the theme of 'making the transition from trainee to consultant'. With the constant need to update our knowledge base and hone our technical skills, the bigger picture of planning for a career can sometimes be lost. With that in mind our speakers presented on a range of topics; from preparing for a clinical fellowship, to teamwork, performance assessment and the lure of sole private practice.

From a trainees' perspective, it offers a perspective into the leadership role of a clinician, and the qualities and skills needed to prepare for that role.

The annual Bosco O'Mahony lecture (named after one of the most sought after and popular consultant trainers) was delivered by Mr Gerry Mcentee (himself the recipient of the 2011 silver scalpel award, an accolade decided upon by the surgical trainees to recognise and award training excellence). The lecture,

entitled 'navigating a surgical career', expanded upon the theme of the session, and drawing from his own experience schooled the trainees present in the various extraneous factors necessary to succeed in a surgical career.

An additional, and unique, highlight of the meeting was the attendance of Dr Chris Burns as a representative of the American College of Surgeons residents in training group. Entirely due to the efforts of the past committees of the IHSTG, a reciprocal exchange has been set up between the trainees of the ACS and RCSI. I was delighted to be welcomed to the ACS meeting in Washington last October as the Irish representative and we hope through future exchanges to foster greater links with the United States to facilitate the progression of all trainees.

I would like to finish this report on the Charter Day Meeting by thanking the college for giving the trainees this opportunity to offer their perspective. I hope that I speak for trainees of all levels when I say that our progression can sometimes be clouded in meeting service needs, and meetings and platforms such as this offer us the opportunity to align our training with our career goals. It is important for us to be proactive in terms of the benefits and occasional deficiencies that we see in the training system, and the support given by the college and many consultants, who spoke and attended our session, was greatly appreciated by the Higher Surgical Training Group.

Adrian O'Callaghan
SpR Vascular Surgery, Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick

New Dean of Professional Development and Practice



Professor Sean Tierney

Professor Sean Tierney has been appointed the Dean of Professional Development and Practice in RCSI. His appointment was made following a strategic review undertaken within the Department of Surgical Affairs in 2010 and a reorganisation of structures due to the departure of Professor Arthur Tanner and the appointment of Eunan Friel as managing director of the department.

The introduction of the new Professional Competence Scheme in May means change is afoot within the medical profession in terms of the practice and recording of professional competence. The Act stipulates that the Irish Medical Council will maintain ultimate responsibility for all aspects of these PC schemes, including monitoring the compliance of doctors and introducing structures to deal with those who fail to comply. However, the Council has devolved responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the schemes to the various recognised postgraduate training bodies and RCSI is one of these bodies.

With the introduction of the scheme in May, part of Professor Tierney's role will be to work with surgeons to ensure the professional competence requirements are met. RCSI's role in the professional competence scheme, said Prof Tierney, is to make

sure that surgeons meet the requirements and if they can't, then to help them bridge the gap. We will be gathering the information and providing a report to the IMC at the end of each year and surgeons will be issued with a certificate from RCSI with the number of points they have obtained and how close they are to meeting the five year target."

"RCSI has developed the Colles Portal — an innovative, web-based system designed to support the training and assessment of surgical trainees in Ireland — but it will also be used to electronically record CP activity," said Prof Tierney.

In the longer term, Professor Tierney sees RCSI having a role to play in advocacy in terms of progressing and developing surgery and surgical services in Ireland. "Great interaction between the Government, the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive is needed around issues relating to surgery and developing standards and services in Ireland. If you look at the elective surgery programme and the collaborative effort with the HSE in terms of measuring its safety, efficiently and its effectiveness for patients, this cannot be done in the absence of looking at an acute surgery programme, because each of these impact on each other and this is one area that we plan on looking at" said Prof Tierney.

Commenting on Professor Tierney's role, Eunan Friel, Managing Director of the Department of Surgical Affairs said "The development of programmes and initiatives to support surgical practice in Ireland is a key strategic priority for the department and Sean's appointment is a very significant milestone in our journey towards this objective. Sean has been involved with the college for several years in support-

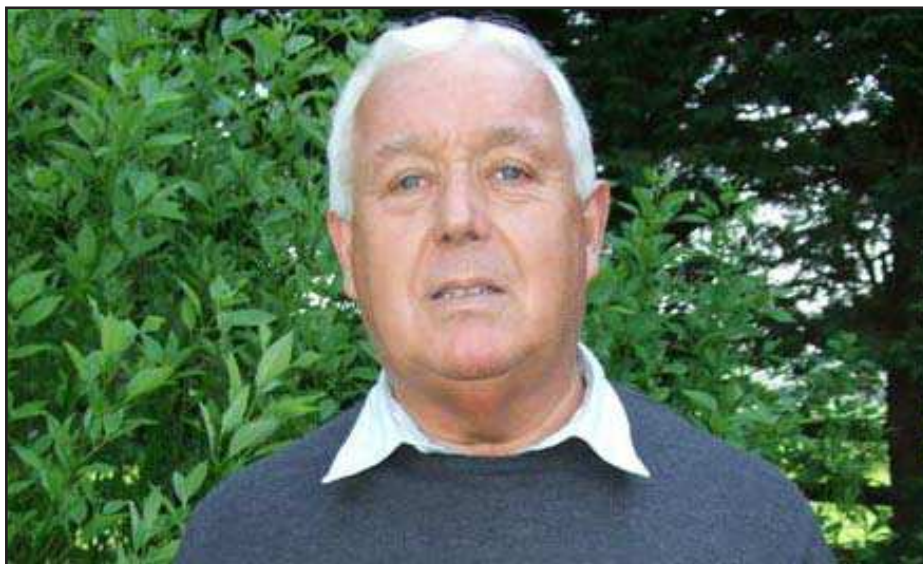
ing our surgical training curriculum and has earned the professional and personal respect of colleagues and peers alike. His strong surgical insight combined with his strong people skills will equip him well for this important new role."

Professor Sean Tierney is a Consultant Vascular Surgeon in the Adelaide and Meath National Children's Hospital (AMNCH) in Tallaght, County Dublin. In 2009 he was appointed Professor of Surgical Informatics in RCSI and in 2003 he was appointed Vice Dean for Distance Learning for Postgraduate Surgery in RCSI. Prof Tierney runs the RCSI School of Surgeons, an online case based programme for surgical trainees, which complements other aspects of the surgical training programme.

A graduate of UCD, he spent two years in John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA undertaking research into biliary physiology. Prof Tierney has more than 80 publications, including 20 original peer reviewed papers, 50 abstracts and 7 chapters and reviews. He is currently President of the Irish Medical Organisation.

Additionally within the Department of Surgical Affairs, Mr. Kieran Tangney has been appointed Associate Director of Clinical Programmes. Kieran has worked in a number of areas within the medical device industry including Business Process Improvement, Quality, Operations and New Product Development management. More recently he was appointed as the Programme Manager for a number of National Clinical Programmes on behalf of the HSE Directorate for Quality and Clinical Care, one of which is the Elective Surgery Programme which is a collaborative RCSI/HSE programme.

Interview with Joe McGlinchey – Retired Surgeon



Joe McGlinchey

Joseph (Joe) McGlinchey was born in 1947 and grew up in Tullamore, County Offaly. After graduating from Medicine in UCD in 1971 he interned in Port Laoise in Medicine and Surgery and from there moved to St. Michael's in Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin where he spent two years working as a Casualty Officer and an SHO in Surgery. When in St. Michael's Hospital, he worked with Peter Ashe and Harold Browne, whom he believes were very influential in the early stages of his career.

On leaving St. Michael's Hospital, Joe moved to Temple Street Hospital as part of the Pre-Fellowship scheme and he stayed on there once he passed his Fellowship exams in 1978. While in Temple Street, Joe worked closely with Professor Eddie Guiney, whom he is still friends

with to this day. Joe also spent sometime working in Waterford working in General Surgery before moving to Liverpool to work in the Walton Hospital in General and Vascular surgery.

On his return from Liverpool, he took up a position in Jervis Street where he worked closely with Tony Walsh and Peter McLean in renal transplants and urology. In 1983 Joe was appointed to Cashel in South Tipperary as a general surgeon where he stayed until he retired two years ago. "One of the things about those days was that it was the most general of general surgery... we had to do everything. When I was interviewing for the job, I was even asked to do caesarean sections because there was only one obstetrician in the region and if he went away for a weekend, the surgeon

was expected to do the caesareans. It was crazy," said Joe.

At that time, Cashel was purely a surgical hospital and medicine and maternity services were in Clonmel, almost 16 miles away. There was a lot of controversy with the services being separate over the years but the hospitals amalgamated about six years ago and was renamed South Tipperary General Hospital.

When asked what made Joe decide to become a surgeon, he said that he was always interested in surgery. "Even as a student my main interest was surgery. I only really worked in Medicine when I was an intern and I went directly in to surgery. I like working with my hands, so if I hadn't of become a surgeon, I would have been a carpenter. Not a very good one though!" Although Joe is now retired he is still doing 8 sessions a month, mainly in urology. "I retired on a Wednesday and went back to work the following week! I had at first planned to do sessions to help out for a year but three years later I'm still doing them."

Joe thinks it will be interesting to see what happens, especially in relation to retired surgeons with the introduction of the mandatory Professional Competence Scheme. "It will be very hard for retired surgeons to meet the criteria, but until we know exactly what will be required and what help will be avail-

able, we really just don't know and it's all speculation. We have had ongoing continuing medical education from the College for the last 15 years or more, which we did online and it worked very well, so we will just have to wait and see," he said.

Joe is still getting to enjoy some of his retired time though and he has taken up playing golf. "I hadn't time to play during my working years so it's great to get back in to it." Joe also has a passion for horse-racing and has been the honorary medical officer to the three local tracks in Tipperary for the past 20 years. Having bought an apartment in Portugal about seven years ago, Joe and his wife spend quite a bit of time out there too and he is also involved in the local rugby in Tipperary, where his two sons play and have had a very successful season.

Commenting on advice he would offer to young doctors and trainees embarking on their careers he said he would divide his advice between professional and personal. "Professionally the worst part in a peripheral hospital was the 1:2 rota which

I worked for 17 years and sometimes the 1:1 rota, which can be soul destroying. The benefits that the IHCA and the IHO have achieved over the past few years with the 1:3 and 1:4 rota are great and can make a real difference."

Personally, Joe believes it is very important to make time for family and to have a hobby. 'Your children will grow up so fast and one day they will be gone, so enjoy it while you can. Also you need to have something to do when you retire. There is nothing worse than coming to retirement and finding you have nothing to do.' Joe has four children. None of them followed him down the surgical route though and he thinks this is because "they saw from an early age the level of commitment that is required and were wise enough to avoid it!"

He also thinks it is important to stay involved in College activity. Edward Guiney got him involved in the Basic Skills Teaching in RCSI and it is something that Joe really enjoys. "The first time Eddie rang and said it's going to be fun, I doubted it at

first, but it really has been and I've been doing it for nearly 15 years," said Joe.

THE MILLIN LECTURE 2011

The 34th Millin Lecture will be delivered in November 2011.

Fellows of the College are invited to nominate candidates. **Completed applications must be received before Friday, 6th May 2011.**

This is a prestigious award open to all Surgical specialties. Usually, the successful applicant will be well advanced in his/her

surgical training or in their first five years in consultant practice. Preference will be given to candidates whose surgical research has been carried out wholly or in part in Ireland. The subject chosen should be of clinical interest embodying original research.

Further particulars may be obtained from:

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Calendar of Events

May - September 2011

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
May 11th - 13th	Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland International Surgical Congress & 16th Robert Smith Lecture "Centralisation of cancer services in Ireland: The good and the bad" delivered by Professor Arnold Hill, Professor of Surgery RCSI	Bournemouth, Australia
May 14th -17th	American Urological Association (AUA) Annual Meeting	Washington, USA
May 18th -22nd	Irish Surgical Travelers Meeting	Prague, Czech Republic
September 2nd & 3rd	36th Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture & Surgical Symposium	NUI Galway
September 22rd & 24th	Irish Society of Urology Meeting	Cavan

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