

## Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarship for SpR Training Abroad Round 4 – 2010 Funding

### Call for Applications Specialist Registrars / Senior Registrars Applicants Information

The Health Service Executive is inviting applications for the fourth round of the Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarship. This important initiative, which was established by the HSE in 2007 provides a valuable opportunity for specialist medical trainees to spend time training in centres of excellence abroad and to bring the skills gained back to the Irish health service. This programme is aimed at supporting clinical training as distinct from research.

#### Invitation for Applications

The HSE is now inviting the recognised training bodies<sup>1</sup> to submit nominees for consideration for the award of funding as part of the fourth phase of this initiative. Training bodies are expected to nominate outstanding graduates who have demonstrated considerable potential.

The Scholarship is aimed at novel areas of medicine and patient care that will enrich the Irish health service. Nominees must be at SpR/SR<sup>2</sup> level (or in specialist GP training) and be at the latter stages of an approved higher specialist training scheme, to undertake a defined period of clinical training abroad in a specific sub-specialty in order to attain a specific skill which is unavailable or limited in Ireland.

This training must be undertaken within the duration of the SpR/SR training scheme and all recipients must be enrolled in a SpR/SR training programme with one of the recognised medical training bodies in Ireland for the entire duration of their period of sponsored training abroad.

Applicants will be expected to provide an undertaking to return to Ireland to complete their training. Failure to do so will require the reimbursement by the trainee to the HSE of funding provided for the period of training abroad under this scheme.

Funding will ordinarily be granted for posts commencing July 2010. Individual SpRs/SRs interested in this programme should contact their respective training body for information.

The completed application must be forwarded to your Training Body not later than **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009**.

<sup>1</sup> A list of the training bodies is provided at Appendix 1.

<sup>2</sup> Uniquely, psychiatry continues to use the grade and title of Senior Registrar (SR)

## The Application Process

The following details should be provided by the applicant doctor to their training body:

- Curriculum Vitae, outlining, in particular, all outstanding clinical and academic achievements to date
- Details of the training previously and currently being undertaken
- Rationale for applying for a grant to undertake training abroad
- Novel aspects of the proposed training
- Learning objectives
- Details of the skills/knowledge that will be attained in undertaking the training abroad
- Details of how the training abroad will be utilised on return to Ireland
- Details of where training will be undertaken and arrangements with the relevant university / hospital / healthcare centre etc.
- A letter from the intended host institution (preferably from the intended clinical supervisor) confirming that a position will be available at the intended time at the host institution and what salary/bursary, if any, is associated with the proposed post from the host institution or any other source.
- Full contact details for the proposed clinical supervisor / appropriate contact person at the host institution (e-mail and postal addresses and telephone number).

The completed application must be forwarded to your Training Body not later than **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009**.

## The Assessment Process

The Training Body will be responsible for assessing and ranking the applications which will then be forwarded to the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies. An expert panel, including clinical experts in different specialties will be convened by the HSE to assess the applications.

Applications will be considered in the context of speciality and service priorities.

## The Results

Applicants will be advised by the Training Body if their application was forwarded to the HSE expert panel for consideration in late October 2009.

The HSE will advise successful applicants in December 2009.

## FAQs

### **Who can apply?**

Nominees must be on an approved SpR/SR training scheme (at the latter stages of higher specialist training) and must complete the overseas training during the course of their approved training programme. Trainees at the latter stages of specialist GP training (Year 3/4 of GP training programme) are also eligible to apply. Applicants must be nominated by their training body and have a proven record of achievement. All applicants are expected to return to Ireland on completion of the period of training abroad to complete their training scheme here.

### **Who should submit the applications?**

Applicants should apply to their relevant training body.

### **What type of training may be undertaken?**

Training may be in a sub-specialty of, or particular clinical skill related to, any of the recognised specialties i.e. anaesthesia, emergency medicine, general practice, medicine, pathology, paediatrics, psychiatry, public health, obstetrics & gynaecology, occupational health, ophthalmology, radiology, sports & exercise medicine and surgery. Particular emphasis is placed on novel areas which will enrich the Irish health service. The programme is aimed at clinical training, as distinct from research.

### **How many nominations may be made by each training body?**

The number of slots is limited. Training bodies should limit the number of applications to a maximum of six and should therefore give due consideration to the applications submitted and carefully select those which will be of most benefit to the trainee and the Irish health service. If a training body is submitting more than one application, the training body is required to rank the applications in terms of the potential of the applicants, the benefit of the proposed area of training to the Irish health service etc.

### **Is there an application form?**

A prescribed application form is not necessary but the applicant and applicant training bodies should ensure that they address all of the requirements outlined in the Call for Applications section.

### **What duration of training is funded by the HSE?**

The HSE will fund a period of training abroad - minimum 3 months, maximum 12 months. Training period ordinarily commences in July 2010.

### **Will applications for flexible training be accommodated?**

Where circumstances of individual trainees require flexible training, it may be possible to undertake training in segments rather than in a block period.

### **How much funding is available per trainee?**

The HSE will provide funding for the salary of the trainee to the maximum of the trainee's current point on the SpR/SR salary scale, abated by other funding available to the trainee from their placement centre, other scholarships etc. Other arrangements (i.e. travel, accommodation, visas etc.) with trainees are the responsibility of the trainee in conjunction with the relevant training body.

### **If successful, will the trainees' pension contributions be affected?**

If you are awarded one of the scholarships, your pension contributions will not be affected for the period of your training abroad under this programme. Recipients of the scholarship will be set up as HSE employees on HSE payroll and will continue to make their usual superannuation contributions.

### **If successful, will the trainee be entitled to moving expenses?**

The funding available to the HSE for the programme is for salaries only. No funding is available for moving expenses.

### **If successful, will the trainee be permitted to apply for the NCHD training grant?**

Recipients of the scholarship will be entitled to apply to the HSE for their training grant for appropriate training expenses in line with arrangements for the training grant applicable to all NCHDs at the time of request for reimbursement. These arrangements will be communicated to successful candidates at the time of the award of the scholarships. Any alterations to arrangements (e.g. as part of NCHD contract amendments) will be communicated to recipients of the scholarship.

### **Where should applications be sent?**

SpRs/SRs should forward their applications to the relevant training body.

Applications will be considered by the individual training body.

Applications deemed appropriate by the training bodies will then be forwarded to the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.

Applications will be compiled by the Forum and will then be presented to the HSE expert panel for consideration.

### **What is the deadline for submissions?**

Deadline for submission of applications to relevant training body: **Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2009**

### **How will applications be assessed?**

An assessment panel, comprising clinical experts has been convened by the HSE to assess applications in the context of specialty and service priorities.

### **What scholarships have been awarded in previous years?**

#### **2007 Scholarships:**

- Fellowship in Laparoscopic Surgery (*Dr. Ronan Cahill, RCSI*)
- Fellowship in Maternal Foetal Medicine (*Dr. Fionnuala Breathnach, Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists*)
- Minimally invasive approaches to inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer surgery (*Dr. Conor Shields, RCSI*)
- Fellowship in Endovascular Surgery (*Dr. Graham Roche-Nagle, RCSI*)

#### **2007 Bursaries:**

- Fellowship in Spinal Surgery (*Dr. Marcus Timlin, RCSI*)
- Fellowship in Laparoscopic Urological Oncology (*Dr. Gordon Smyth, RCSI*)
- Fellowship in Palliative Medicine (*Dr. Camilla Murtagh, RCPI*)

#### **2008 Scholarships:**

- Endovascular Fellowship (*Dr. Brian Manning, RCSI*)
- Stroke Medicine (*Dr. Paul Eoin Cotter, RCPI*)
- Management and Investigation of Patients with Inflammatory Muscle Disease (*Dr. Bryan Whelan, RCPI*)
- Fellowship in Disaster Medicine (*Dr. Mick Molloy, RCSI*)

#### **2009 Scholarships:**

- Fellow in Urogynaecology & Robotic Surgery (*Dr. Gerard Agnew, Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists*)
- Fellowship in Congenital Heart Surgery (*Dr. Jonathan McGuinness, RCSI*)
- Minimally Invasive Thoracic and Foregut Fellowship (*Dr. Thomas Murphy, RCSI*)
- Clinical Fellowship in Peripheral Nerve (*Dr. Sinéad Murphy, RCPI*)

#### **2009 Bursary:**

- Colorectal Surgical Fellowship (*Dr. Calvin Coffey, RCSI*)

## **Appendix 1**

Applications are invited from the following training bodies:

College of Anaesthetists of Ireland

Advisory Committee in Emergency Medicine, RCSI & RCPI

Faculty of Occupational Medicine, RCPI

Faculty of Paediatrics, RCPI

Faculty of Pathology, RCPI

Faculty of Public Health Medicine, RCPI

Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI

Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine, CRSI & RCPI

Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, RCPI

Irish College of General Practitioners

Irish College of Ophthalmologists

Irish Committee of Higher Medical Training, RCPI

Irish Committee of Higher Surgical Training, RCSI

College of Psychiatry of Ireland

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland