



**FACULTY OF  
PATHOLOGY**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN

# HISTOPATHOLOGY



**This curriculum of training in Histopathology was developed in 2015 and undergoes an annual review by Prof Cecily Quinn, Clinical Lead, Leah O’Toole, Head of Postgraduate Training and Education, and by the Histopathology Training Committee. The curriculum is approved by the Faculty of Pathology.**

Version	Date Published	Last Edited By	Version Comments
5.0	01 July 2019	Keith Farrington	None

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## Introduction

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) provides a route for overseas doctors wishing to undergo structured and advanced postgraduate medical training in Ireland. The ICFP enables suitably qualified overseas postgraduate medical trainees to undertake a fixed period of active training in clinical services in Ireland.

The purpose of the ICFP is to enable overseas trainees to gain access to structured training and in active clinical environments that they cannot get in their own country, with a view to enhancing and improving the individual's medical training and learning and, in the medium to long term, the health services in their own countries.

This Programme will allow participants to access a structured period of training and experience as developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to specifically meet the clinical needs of participants as defined by their home country's health service.

### Aims

Upon satisfactory completion of the ICFP, the doctor will be **competent** to undertake comprehensive medical practice in their chosen specialty in a **professional** manner, in keeping with the needs of the healthcare system.

**Competencies**, at a level consistent with practice in the specialty, will include the following:

- Patient care that is appropriate, effective and compassionate dealing with health problems and health promotion.
- Medical knowledge in the basic biomedical, behavioural and clinical sciences, medical ethics and medical jurisprudence and application of such knowledge in patient care.
- Interpersonal and communication skills that ensure effective information exchange with individual patients and their families and teamwork with other health professionals, the scientific community and the public.
- Appraisal and utilisation of new scientific knowledge to update and continuously improve clinical practice.
- Capability to be a scholar, contributing to development and research in the field of the chosen specialty.
- Professionalism.
- Ability to understand health care and identify and carry out system-based improvement of care.

### Professionalism

Medical professionalism is a core element of being a good doctor. Good medical practice is based on a relationship of trust between profession and society, in which doctors are expected to meet the highest standards of professional practice and behaviour. It involves partnership between patient and doctor that is based on mutual respect, confidentiality, honesty, responsibility and accountability. In addition to maintaining clinical competence, a doctor should also:

- Show integrity, compassion and concern for others in day-to-day practice
- Develop and maintain a sensitive and understanding attitude with patients
- Exercise good judgement and communicate sound clinical advice to patients
- Search for the best evidence to guide professional practice
- Be committed to continuous improvement and excellence in the provision of health care whether working alone or as part of a team

Prior to commencing their sponsored clinical placements, all participants will also be required to undergo the mandatory screening requirements of the relevant clinical site/service including occupational health assessment and Garda/Police clearance.

## Training Programme Duration & Organisation of Training

The period of clinical training that will be provided under the International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) for medical specialities is up to 3 years, after which the overseas doctors will be required to return to their country of origin. It should be noted that the standard programme length is two years and that to progress to the third year of training, trainees must hold the full MRCPI/UK.

- Each ICFP is developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland will be specifically designed so as to meet the training needs of participants to support the health service in their home country.
- All appointees to the ICFP will be assessed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to ensure that they possess the necessary requirements from a training and clinical service perspective.
- Each overseas doctor participating in the ICFP will be enrolled with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and will be under the supervision of a consultant doctor who is registered on the Specialist Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council and who is an approved consultant trainer.
- Appointees to the ICFP will normally be registered on the Supervised Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland.
- Appointees will agree a training plan with their trainers at the beginning of each training year.
- For the duration of their International Medical Graduate (IMG) programme and associated clinical placements, all participants will remain directly employed and directly paid by their sponsoring state at a rate appropriate to their training level in Ireland and benchmarked against the salary scales applicable to NCHD's in Ireland;
- Successful completion of an ICFP will result in the participant being issued with a formal Certificate of completion for the Fellowship Programme by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. This Certificate will enable the participant's parent training body in their sponsoring home country to formally recognise and accredit their time spent training in Ireland.

The training programme offered will provide opportunities to fulfil all the requirements of the curriculum of training. There will be posts in both general hospitals and teaching hospitals.

Each post within the programme will have a named trainer/educational supervisor and programmes will be under the direction of the National Specialist Director of the relevant medical speciality to be confirmed by the College. Programmes will be as flexible as possible consistent with curricular requirements, for example to allow the trainee to develop their sub-specialty interest.

### ePortfolio logbook

Each trainee is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date record of progress through training and compiling a portfolio of achievements for presentation at each annual assessment review. The trainee also has a duty to maximise opportunities to learn, supplementing the training offered with additional self-directed learning in order to fulfil all the educational goals of the curriculum.

Up-to-date training records and an ePortfolio of achievements will be maintained by the trainee throughout. The training records will be countersigned as appropriate by the trainers to confirm the satisfactory fulfilment of the required training experience and the acquisition of the competencies set out in the training plan. They will remain the property of the trainee and must be produced at their annual assessment review.

Trainees must co-operate with the College in completing their training plan.

It is in a trainee's own interest to maintain contact with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and to respond promptly to all correspondence relating to training. At review, your ePortfolio will be examined.

**Review**

A consultant trainer/educational supervisor will be identified for each participant in the programme. He/she will be responsible for ensuring that the educational potential of the post is translated into effective training which is being fully utilized. Only departments approved for Training by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and its constituent training bodies will be used.

The training objectives to be secured should be agreed between each trainee and trainer at the commencement of each posting in the form of a written training plan. The trainer will be available throughout, as necessary, to supervise the training process. In each year trainees undergo a formal review by an appropriate panel. The panel will review in detail the training record, will explore with the trainee the range of experience and depth of understanding which has been achieved and consider individual trainer's reports. An opportunity is also given to the trainee to comment on the training being provided; identifying in confidence any deficiencies in relation to a particular post.

A quarterly and annual review of progress through training will be undertaken on behalf of the International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP). These will include assessments and reports by educational supervisors, confirmation of achievements and the contents of the ePortfolio will be reviewed. At some or all of these annual reviews a non-specialty assessor will be present capable of addressing core competencies.

The award of a Certificate of completion will be determined by a satisfactory outcome after completion of the entire series of assessments.

## **Generic Components**

**This chapter covers the generic components which are relevant to international trainees of all specialties but with varying degrees of relevance and appropriateness, depending on the specialty.**

**As such, this chapter needs to be viewed as an appropriate guide of the level of knowledge and skills required from all trainees with differing application levels in practice.**

## Good Professional Practice

**Objective:** Trainees must appreciate that medical professionalism is a core element of being a good doctor and that good medical practice is based on a relationship of trust between the profession and society, in which doctors are expected to meet the highest standards of professional practice and behaviour.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Relating to Patients, Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Professionalism, Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Effective Communication

- How to listen to patients and colleagues
- The principles of open disclosure
- Knowledge and understanding of valid consent
- Teamwork
- Continuity of care

#### Ethics

- Respect for autonomy and shared decision making
- How to enable patients to make their own decisions about their health care
- How to place the patient at the centre of care
- How to protect and properly use sensitive and private patient information in accordance with data protection legislation and how to maintain confidentiality
- The judicious sharing of information with other healthcare professionals where necessary for care following Medical Council Guidelines
- Maintaining competence and assuring quality of medical practice
- How to work within ethical and legal guideline when providing clinical care, carrying research and dealing with end of life issues

#### Honesty, openness and transparency (mistakes and near misses)

- Preventing and managing near misses and adverse events.
- When and how to report a near miss or adverse event
- Incident reporting; root cause and system analysis
- Understanding and learning from errors
- Understanding and managing clinical risk
- Managing complaints
- Following open disclosure practices
- Knowledge of national policy and National Guidelines on Open Disclosure

#### Raising concerns about patient safety

- Safe working practice, role of procedures and protocols in optimal practice
- The importance of standardising practice through the use of checklists, and being vigilant
- Safe healthcare systems and provision of a safe working environment
- Awareness of the multiple factors involved in failures
- Knowledge and understanding of Reason's Swiss cheese model
- Understanding how and why systems break down and why errors are made
- Health care errors and system failures
- Human and economic costs in system failures
- The important of informing a person of authority of systems or service structures that may lead to unsafe practices which may put patients, yourself or other colleagues at risk
- Awareness of the Irish Medical Councils policy on raising concerns about safety in the environment in which you work

**SKILLS**

- Effective communication with patients, families and colleagues
- Co-operation and collaboration with colleagues to achieve safe and effective quality patient care
- Being an effective team player
- Ethical and legal decision making skills
- Minimising errors during invasive procedures by developing and adhering to best-practice guidelines for safe surgery
- Minimising medication errors by practicing safe prescribing principles
- Ability to learn from errors and near misses to prevent future errors
- Managing errors and near-misses
- Using relevant information from complaints, incident reports, litigation and quality improvement reports in order to control risks
- Managing complaints
- Using the Open Disclosure Process Algorithm

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): prioritisation of patient safety in practice
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- Medical Council Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics
- Reflective learning around ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical practice
- Quality improvement methodology course - recommended

## Infection Control

**Objective:** To be able to appropriately manage infections and risk factors for infection at an institutional level, including the prevention of cross-infections and hospital acquired infection

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Management (including Self-Management).

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Within a consultation

- The principles of infection control as defined by the HIQA
- How to minimise the risk of cross-infection during a patient encounter by adhering to best practice guidelines available, including the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene guidelines
- The principles of preventing infection in high risk groups e.g. managing antibiotic use to prevent *Clostridium difficile*
- Knowledge and understanding of the local antibiotic prescribing policy
- Awareness of infections of concern, e.g. MRSA, *Clostridium difficile*
- Best practice in isolation precautions
- When and how to notify relevant authorities in the case of notifiable infectious disease
- Understanding the increased risk of infection to patients in surgery or during an invasive procedure and adhering to guidelines for minimising infection in such cases
- The guidelines for needle-stick injury prevention and management

#### During an outbreak

- Guidelines for minimising infection in the wider community in cases of communicable diseases and how to seek expert opinion or guidance from infection control specialists where necessary
- Hospital policy/seeking guidance from occupational health professional regarding the need to stay off work/restrict duties when experiencing infections the onward transmission of which might impact on the health of others

### SKILLS

- Practicing aseptic techniques and hand hygiene
- Following local and national guidelines for infection control and management
- Prescribing antibiotics according to antibiotic guidelines
- Encouraging staff, patients and relatives to observe infection control principles
- Communicating effectively with patients regarding treatment and measures recommended to prevent re-infection or spread
- Collaborating with infection control colleagues to manage more complex or uncommon types of infection including those requiring isolation e.g. transplant cases, immunocompromised host
- In the case of infectious diseases requiring disclosure:
  - Working knowledge of those infections requiring notification
  - Undertaking notification promptly
  - Collaborating with external agencies regarding reporting, investigating and management of notifiable diseases
  - Enlisting / requiring patients' involvement in solving their health problems, providing information and education
  - Utilising and valuing contributions of health education and disease prevention and infection control to health in a community

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): practicing aseptic techniques as appropriate to the case and setting, investigating and managing infection, prescribing antibiotics according to guidelines
- Completion of infection control induction in the workplace
- Personal Protective Equipment Training Course (In hospital)

## Self-Care and Maintaining Well-Being

### Objectives:

1. To ensure that trainees understand how their personal histories and current personal lives, as well as their values, attitudes, and biases affect their care of patients so that they can use their emotional responses in patient care to their patients' benefit
2. To ensure that trainees care for themselves physically and emotionally, and seek opportunities for enhancing their self-awareness and personal growth

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care, Relating to Patients, Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Collaboration and Teamwork, Management (including self-management).

### KNOWLEDGE

- Self-awareness including preferences and biases
- Personal psychological strengths and limitations
- Understand how personality characteristics, such as need for approval, judgemental tendencies, needs for perfection and control etc., affect relationships with patients and others
- Knowledge of core beliefs, ideals, and personal philosophies of life, and how these relate to own goals in medicine
- Know how family-of-origin, race, class, religion and gender issues have shaped own attitudes and abilities to discuss these issues with patients
- Understand the difference between feelings of sympathy and feelings of empathy
- Know the factors between a doctor and patient that enhance or interfere with abilities to experience and convey empathy
- Understanding of own attitudes toward uncertainty and risk taking and own need for reassurance
- How own relationships with certain patients can reflect attitudes toward paternalism, autonomy, benevolence, non-maleficence and justice
- Recognise own feelings in straightforward and complex patient-doctor interactions
- Recognising the symptoms of stress and burn out

### SKILLS

- Exhibiting empathy and showing consideration for all patients, their impairments and attitudes irrespective of cultural and other differences
- Ability to create boundaries with patients that allow for therapeutic alliance
- Challenge authority appropriately from a firm sense of own values and integrity and respond appropriately to situations that involve abuse, unethical behaviour and coercion
- Recognise own limits and seek appropriate support and consultation
- Work collaboratively and effectively with colleagues and other members of health care teams
- Manage effectively commitments to work and personal lives, taking the time to nurture important relationship and oneself
- Ability to recognise when falling behind and adjusting accordingly
- Demonstrating the ability to cope with changing circumstances, variable demand, being prepared to re-prioritise and ask for help
- Utilising a non-judgemental approach to patient's problem
- Recognise the warning signs of emotional ill-health in self and others and be able to ask for appropriate help
- Commitment to lifelong process of developing and fostering self-awareness, personal growth and well being
- Be open to receiving feedback from others as to how attitudes and behaviours are affecting their care of patients and their interactions with others
- Holding realistic expectations of own and of others' performance, time-conscious, punctual
- Valuing the breadth and depth of experience that can be accessed by associating with professional colleagues

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- On-going supervision
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- Wellness Matters Course (Mandatory)
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice course

## Communication in Clinical and Professional Setting

**Objective:** To demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their relatives, carers and with professional colleagues in different situations.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Relating to Patients; Communication and Interpersonal Skills.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Within a consultation

- How to effectively listen and attend to patients
- How to structure an interview to obtain/convey information; identify concerns, expectations and priorities; promote understanding, reach conclusions; use appropriate language.
- How to empower the patient and encourage self-management

#### Difficult circumstances

- Understanding of potential areas for difficulty and awkward situations
- How to negotiate cultural, language barriers, dealing with sensory or psychological and/or intellectual impairments and how to deal with challenging or aggressive behaviour
- Knowing how and when to break bad news
- How to communicate essential information where difficulties exist, how to appropriately utilise the assistance of interpreters, chaperones, and relatives.
- How to deal with anger and frustration in self and others
- Selecting appropriate environment; seeking assistance, making and taking time

#### Dealing with professional colleagues and others

- How to communicate with doctors and other members of the healthcare team
- How to provide a concise, written, verbal, or electronic, problem-orientated statement of facts and opinions
- The legal context of status of records and reports, of data protection confidentiality
- Freedom of Information (FOI) issues
- Understanding of the importance of legible, accessible, records to continuity of care
- Knowing when urgent contact becomes necessary and the appropriate place for verbal, telephone, electronic, or written communication
- Recognition of roles and skills of other health professionals
- Awareness of own abilities/limitations and when to seek help or give assistance, advice to others; when to delegate responsibility and when to refer

#### Maintaining continuity of care

- Understanding the relevance of continuity of care to outcome, within and between phases of healthcare management
- The importance of completion of tasks and documentation, e.g. before handover to another team, department, specialty, including identifying outstanding issues and uncertainties
- Knowledge of the required attitudes, skills and behaviours which facilitate continuity of care including, being available and contactable, alerting others to avoid potential confusion or misunderstanding through communications failure

#### Giving explanations

- The importance of possessing the facts, and of recognising uncertainty and conflicting evidence on which decisions have to be based
- How to secure and retain attention avoiding distraction
- Understanding how adults receive information best, the relative value of the spoken, written, visual means of communication, use of reinforcement to assist retention
- Knowledge of the risks of information overload
- Tailoring the communication of information to the level of understanding of the recipient
- Strategies to achieve the level of understanding necessary to gain co-operation and partnership; compliance, informed choice, acceptance of opinion, advice, recommendation

**Responding to complaints**

- Value of hearing and dealing with complaints promptly; the appropriate level, the procedures (departmental and institutional); sources of advice, and assistance available
- The importance of obtaining and recording accurate and full information, seeking confirmation from multiple sources
- Knowledge of how to establish facts, identify issues and respond quickly and appropriately to a complaint received

**SKILLS**

- Ability to appropriately elicit facts, using a mix of open and closed-ended questions
- Using “active listening” techniques such as nodding and eye contact
- Giving information clearly, avoiding jargon, confirming understanding, ability to encourage co-operation, compliance; obtaining informed consent
- Showing consideration and respect for other’s culture, opinions, patient’s right to be informed and make choices
- Respecting another’s right to opinions and to accept or reject advice
- Valuing perspectives of others contributing to management decisions
- Conflict resolution
- Dealing with complaints
- Communicating decisions in a clear and thoughtful manner
- Presentation skills
- Maintaining (legible) records
- being available, contactable, time-conscious
- Setting realistic objectives, identifying and prioritising outstanding problems
- Using language, literature (e.g. leaflets) diagrams, educational aids and resources appropriately
- Establish facts, identify issues and respond quickly and appropriately to a complaint received
- Accepting responsibility, involving others, and consulting appropriately
- Obtaining informed consent
- Discussing informed consent
- Giving and receiving feedback

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Mastering Communication course (Year 1)
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
  - Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
  - Educational supervisor’s reports on observed performance (in the workplace): communication with others e.g. at handover. ward rounds, multidisciplinary team members
- Presentations
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice Course

## Leadership

**Objective:** To have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to act in a leadership role and work with colleagues to plan, deliver and develop services for improved patient care and service delivery.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Communication and Interpersonal Skill; Collaboration and Teamwork; Management (including Self-Management); Scholarship.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Personal qualities of leaders

- Knowledge of what leadership is in the context of the healthcare system appropriate to training level
- The importance of good communication in teams and the role of human interactions on effectiveness and patient safety

#### Working with others

- Awareness of own personal style and other styles and their impact on team performance
- The importance of good communication in teams and the role of human interactions on effectiveness and patient safety

#### Managing services

- The structure and function of Irish health care system
- Awareness of the challenges of managing in healthcare
  - Role of governance
  - Clinical directors
- Knowledge of planning and design of services
- Knowledge and understanding of the financing of the health service
  - Knowledge of how to prepare a budget
  - Defining value
  - Managing resources
- Knowledge and understanding of the importance of human factors in service delivery
  - How to manage staff training, development and education
- Managing performance
  - How to perform staff appraisal and deal effectively with poor staff performance
  - How to rewards and incentivise staff for quality and efficiency

#### Setting direction

- The external and internal drivers setting the context for change
- Knowledge of systems and resource management that guide service development
- How to make decisions using evidence-based medicine and performance measures
- How to evaluate the impact of change on health outcomes through ongoing service evaluation

**SKILLS**

- Effective communication with patients, families and colleagues
- Co-operation and collaboration with others; patients, service users, carers colleagues within and across systems
- Being an effective team player
- Ability to manage resources and people
- Managing performance and performance indicators

**Demonstrating personal qualities**

- Efficiently and effectively managing one-self and one's time especially when faced with challenging situations
- Continues personal and professional development through scholarship and further training and education where appropriate
- Acting with integrity and honesty with all people at all times
- Developing networks to expand knowledge and sphere of influence
- Building and maintaining key relationships
- Adapting style to work with different people and different situations
- Contributing to the planning and design of services

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Mastering Communication course (Year 1)
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice (Year 3 – 5)
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): on management and leadership skills
- Involvement in hospital committees where possible e.g. Division of Medicine, Drugs and Therapeutics, Infection Control etc.

## Quality Improvement

**Objective:** To demonstrate the ability to identify areas for improvement and implement basic quality improvement skills and knowledge to improve patient safety and quality in the healthcare system.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Collaboration and Teamwork; Management; Relating to Patients; Professionalism

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Personal qualities of leaders

- The importance of prioritising the patient and patient safety in all clinical activities and interactions

#### Managing services

- Knowledge of systems design and the role of microsystems
- Understanding of human factors and culture on patient safety and quality

#### Improving services

- How to ensure patient safety by adopting and incorporating a patient safety culture
- How to critically evaluate where services can be improved by measuring performance, and acting to improve quality standards where possible
- How to encourage a culture of improvement and innovation

#### Setting direction

- How to create a 'burning platform' and motivate other healthcare professionals to work together within quality improvement
- Knowledge of the wider healthcare system direction and how that may impact local organisations

### SKILLS

- Improvement approach to all problems or issues
- Engaging colleagues, patients and the wider system to identify issues and implement improvements
- Use of quality improvement methodologies, tools and techniques within every day practice
- Ensuring patient safety by adopting and incorporating a patient safety culture
- Critically evaluating where services can be improved by measuring performance, and acting to raise standards where possible
- Encouraging a culture of improvement and innovation

#### Demonstrating personal qualities

- Encouraging contributions and involvement from others including patients, carers, members of the multidisciplinary team and the wider community
- Considering process and system design, contributing to the planning and design of services

### ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Involvement in hospital committees where possible e.g. Division of Medicine, Drugs and Therapeutics, Infection Control etc.

## Scholarship

**Objective:** To develop skills in personal/professional development, teaching, educational supervision and research

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Scholarship

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Teaching, educational supervision and assessment

- Principles of adult learning, teaching and learning methods available and strategies
- Educational principles directing assessment methods including, formative vs. summative methods
- The value of regular appraisal / assessment in informing training process
- How to set effective educational objectives and map benefits to learner
- Design and delivery of an effective teaching event, both small and large group
- Use of appropriate technology / materials

#### Research, methodology and critical evaluation

- Designing and resourcing a research project
- Research methodology, valid statistical analysis, writing and publishing papers
- Ethical considerations and obtaining ethical approval
- Reviewing literature, framing questions, designing a project capable of providing an answer
- How to write results and conclusions, writing and/or presenting a paper
- How to present data in a clear, honest and critical fashion

#### Audit

- Basis for developing evidence-based medicine, kinds of evidence, evaluation; methodologies of clinical trials
- Sources from which useful data for audit can be obtained, the methods of collection, handling data, the audit cycle
- Means of determining best practice, preparing protocols, guidelines, evaluating their performance
- The importance of re-audit

### SKILLS

- Bed-side undergraduate and post graduate teaching
- Developing and delivering lectures
- Carrying out research in an ethical and professional manner
- Performing an audit
- Presentation and writing skills – remaining impartial and objective
- Adequate preparation, timekeeping
- Using technology / materials

### ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Health Research (online) – An Introduction
- Effective Teaching and Supervising Skills course (online) - recommended
- Educational Assessment Skills course - recommended
- Performing audit (online) course –mandatory
- Health Research Methods for Clinicians - recommended

## Management

**Objective:** To understand the organisation, regulation and structures of the health services, nationally and locally, and to be competent in the use and management of information on health and health services, to develop personal effectiveness and the skills applicable to the management of staff and activities within a healthcare team.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Management.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Health service structure, management and organisation

- The administrative structure of the Irish Health Service, services provided in Ireland and their funding and how to engage with these for best results
- Department of Health, HSE and hospital management structures and systems
- The national regulatory bodies, health agencies and patient representative groups
- Understanding the need for business plans, annual hospital budgets, the relationship between the hospital and PCCC

#### The provision and use of information in order to regulate and improve service provision

- Methods of collecting, analysing and presenting information relevant to the health of a population and the apportionment of healthcare resources
- The common ways in which data is presented, knowing of the sources which can provide information relevant to national or to local services and publications available

#### Maintaining medical knowledge with a view to delivering effective clinical care

- Understanding the contribution that current, accurate knowledge can make to establishing clinical effectiveness, best practice and treatment protocols
- Knowledge of sources providing updates, literature reviews and digests

#### Delegation skills, empowerment and conflict management

- How to assess and develop personal effectiveness, improve negotiating, influencing and leadership skills
- How to manage time efficiently, deal with pressure and stress
- How to motivate others and operate within a multidisciplinary team

### SKILLS

- Chairing, organising and participating in effective meetings
- Managing risks
- Managing time
- Delegating tasks effectively
- Managing conflicts
- Exploring, directing and pursuing a project, negotiating through the relevant departments at an appropriate level
- Ability to achieve results through an understanding of the organisation and its operation
- Ability to seek / locate information in order to define an issue needing attention e.g. to provide data relevant to a proposal for change, establishing a priority, obtaining resources
- Ability to make use of information, use IT, undertake searches and obtain aggregated data, to critically evaluate proposals for change e.g. innovative treatments, new technologies
- Ability to adjust to change, apply management, negotiating skills to manage change
- Appropriately using management techniques and seeking to improve these skills and personal effectiveness

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Mastering Communication course
- Performing Audit online course
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Annual audit
- Consultant feedback on management and leadership skills
- Involvement in hospital committees

## Standards of Care

**Objective:** To be able to consistently and effectively assess and treat patients' problems

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Relating to Patients; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Collaboration and Teamwork: Management (including Self-Management); Clinical Skills.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Diagnosing Patients

- How to carry out appropriate history taking
- How to appropriately examine a patient
- How to make a differential diagnosis

#### Investigation, indications, risks, cost-effectiveness

- The pathophysiological basis of the investigation
- Understand the clinical significance of reference ranges, positive and negative predictive value and potential risks of inappropriate tests
- The procedures for commonly used investigations, common or/and serious risks
- Understanding of the sensitivity and specificity of results, artefacts, PPV and NPV
- Understanding significance, interpreting and explaining results of investigations
- Logical approach in choosing, sequencing and prioritising investigations

#### Treatment and management of disease

- Natural history of diseases
- Quality of life concepts
- How to accurately assess patient's needs, prescribe, arrange treatment, recognise and deal with reactions / side effects
- How to set realistic therapeutic goals, to utilise rehabilitation services, and use palliative care approach appropriately
- Recognising that illness (especially chronic and/or incapacity) has an impact on relationships and family, having financial as well as social effects e.g. driving

#### Disease prevention and health education

- Screening for disease: methods, advantages and limitations
- Health promotion and support agencies; means of providing sources of information for patients
- Risk factors, preventive measures, and change strategies applicable to smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, and lifestyle
- Disease notification; methods of collection and sources of data

#### Notes, records, correspondence

- Functions of medical records, their value as an accurate up-to-date commentary and source of data
- An understanding of the need and appropriate use of problem-orientated discharge notes, letters, more detailed case reports, concise out-patient reports and focused reviews
- Appreciating the importance of up-to-date, easily available, accurate information, and the need for communicating promptly e.g. with primary care

#### Prioritising, resourcing and decision taking

- How to prioritise demands, respond to patients' needs and sequence urgent tasks
- Establishing (clinical) priorities e.g. for investigations, intervention; how to set realistic goals; understanding the need to allocate sufficient time, knowing when to seek help
- Understanding the need to complete tasks, reach a conclusion, make a decision, and take action within allocated time
- Knowing how and when to conclude

**Handover**

- Know what are the essential requirements to run an effective handover meeting
  - Sufficient and accurate patients information
  - Adequate time
  - Clear roles and leadership
  - Adequate IT
- Know how to prioritise patient safety
  - Identify most clinically unstable patients
  - Use ISBAR (Identify, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations)
  - Proper identification of tasks and follow-ups required
  - Contingency plans in place
- Know how to focus the team on actions
  - Tasks are prioritised
  - Plans for further care are put in place
  - Unstable patients are reviewed

**Relevance of professional bodies**

- Understanding the relevance to practice of standards of care set down by recognised professional bodies – the Medical Council, Medical Colleges and their Faculties, and the additional support available from professional organisations e.g. IMO, Medical Defence Organisations and from the various specialist and learned societies

**SKILLS**

- Taking and analysing a clinical history and performing a reliable and appropriate examination, arriving at a diagnosis and a differential diagnosis
- Liaising, discussing and negotiating effectively with those undertaking the investigation
- Selecting investigations carefully and appropriately, considering (patients') needs, risks, value and cost effectiveness
- Appropriately selecting treatment and management of disease
- Discussing, planning and delivering care appropriate to patient's needs and wishes
- Preventing disease using the appropriate channels and providing appropriate health education and promotion
- Collating evidence, summarising, recognising when objective has been met
- Screening
- Working effectively with others including
  - Effective listening
  - Ability to articulate and deliver instructions
  - Encourage questions and openness
  - Leadership skills
- Ability to prioritise
- Ability to delegate effectively
- Ability to advise on and promote lifestyle change, stopping smoking, control of alcohol intake, exercise and nutrition
- Ability to assess and explain risk, encourage positive behaviours e.g. immunisation and preventive measures
- Involve patients' in solving their health problems, by providing information and education
- Availing of support provided by voluntary agencies and patient support groups, as well as expert services e.g. detoxification / psychiatric services
- Act in accordance with, up to date standards on palliative care needs assessment
- Valuing contributions of health education and disease prevention to health in a community
- Compile accurate and appropriate detailed medical notes and care reports including the results of examinations, investigations, procedures performed, sufficient to provide an accurate, detailed account of the diagnostic and management process and outcome, providing concise, informative progress reports (both written and oral)
- Transfer information in an appropriate and timely manner

- Maintaining legible records in line with the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners in Ireland
- Actively engaging with professional/representative/specialist bodies

#### **ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Consultant feedback
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace)
- Audit
- Medical Council Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics

## Dealing with & Managing Acutely Ill Patients in Appropriate Specialties

**Objectives:** To be able to assess and initiate management of patients presenting as emergencies, and to appropriately communicate the diagnosis and prognosis. Trainees should be able to recognise the critically ill and immediately assess and resuscitate if necessary, formulate a differential diagnosis, treat and/or refer as appropriate, elect relevant investigations and accurately interpret reports.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care, Clinical Skills.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Management of acutely ill patients with medical problems

- Presentation of potentially life-threatening problems
- Indications for urgent intervention, the additional information necessary to support action (e.g. results of investigations) and treatment protocols
- When to seek help, refer/transfer to another specialty
- ACLS protocols
- Ethical and legal principles relevant to resuscitation and DNAR in line with National Consent Policy
- How to manage acute medical intake, receive and refer patients appropriately, interact efficiently and effectively with other members of the medical team, accept/undertake responsibility appropriately
- Management of overdose
- How to anticipate / recognise, assess and manage life-threatening emergencies, recognise significantly abnormal physiology e.g. dysrhythmia and provide the means to correct e.g. defibrillation
- How to convey essential information quickly to relevant personnel: maintaining legible up-to-date records documenting results of investigations, making lists of problems dealt with or remaining, identifying areas of uncertainty; ensuring safe handover

#### Managing the deteriorating patient

- How to categorise a patients' severity of illness using Early Warning Scores (EWS) guidelines
- How to perform an early detection of patient deterioration
- How to use a structured communication tool (ISBAR)
- How to promote an early medical review, prompted by specific trigger points
- How to use a definitive escalation plan

#### Discharge planning

- Knowledge of patient pathways
- How to distinguish between illness and disease, disability and dependency
- Understanding the potential impact of illness and impairment on activities of daily living, family relationships, status, independence, awareness of quality of life issues
- Role and skills of other members of the healthcare team, how to devise and deliver a care package
- The support available from other agencies e.g. specialist nurses, social workers, community care
- Principles of shared care with the general practitioner service
- Awareness of the pressures/dynamics within a family, the economic factors delaying discharge but recognise the limit to benefit derived from in-patient care

**SKILLS**

- BLS/ACLS (or APLS for Paediatrics)
- Dealing with common medical emergencies
- Interpreting blood results, ECG/Rhythm strips, chest X-Ray, CT brain
- Giving clear instructions to both medical and hospital staff
- Ordering relevant follow up investigations
- Discharge planning, including complex discharge
- Knowledge of HIPE (Hospital In-Patient Enquiry)
- Multidisciplinary team working
- Communication skills
- Delivering early, regular and on-going consultation with family members (with the patient's permission) and primary care physicians
- Remaining calm, delegating appropriately, ensuring good communication
- Attempting to meet patients'/ relatives' needs and concerns, respecting their views and right to be informed in accordance with Medical Council Guidelines
- Establishing liaison with family and community care, primary care, communicate / report to agencies involved
- Demonstrating awareness of the wide ranging effects of illness and the need to bridge the gap between hospital and home
- Categorising a patients' severity of illness
- Performing an early detection of patient deterioration
- Use of structured communication tools (e.g. ISBAR)

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- ACLS course
- Record of on call experience
- Mini-CEX (acute setting)
- Case Based Discussion (CBD)
- Consultant feedback

## Therapeutics and Safe Prescribing

**Objective:** To progressively develop ability to prescribe, review and monitor appropriate therapeutic interventions relevant to clinical practice in specific specialities including non-pharmacological therapies and preventative care.

**Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice:** Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care.

### KNOWLEDGE

- Pharmacology, therapeutics of treatments prescribed, choice of routes of administration, dosing schedules, compliance strategies; the objectives, risks and complications of treatment cost-effectiveness
- Indications, contraindications, side effects, drug interaction, dosage and route of administration of commonly used drugs
- Commonly prescribed medications
- Adverse drug reactions to commonly used drugs, including complementary medicines
- Identifying common prescribing hazards
- Identifying high risk medications
- Drugs requiring therapeutic drug monitoring and interpretation of results
- The effects of age, body size, organ dysfunction and concurrent illness or physiological state e.g. pregnancy on drug distribution and metabolism relevant to own practice
- Recognising the roles of regulatory agencies involved in drug use, monitoring and licensing e.g. IMB, and hospital formulary committees
- Procedure for monitoring, managing and reporting adverse drug reaction
- Effects of medications on patient activities including potential effects on a patient's fitness to drive
- The role of The National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) in promoting safe and efficient use of medicine
- Differentiating drug allergy from drug side effects
- Know the difference between an early and late drug allergy, and drug side-effects
- Good Clinical Practice guidelines for seeing and managing patients who are on clinical research trials
- Best practice in the pharmacological management of cancer pain
- The management of constipation in adult patients receiving palliative care

### SKILLS

- Writing a prescription in line with guidelines
- Appropriately prescribing for the elderly, children and pregnant and breast feeding women
- Making appropriate dose adjustments following therapeutic drug monitoring, or physiological change (e.g. deteriorating renal function)
- Reviewing and revising patients' long term medications
- Anticipating and avoiding defined drug interactions, including complementary medicines
- Advising patients (and carers) about important interactions and adverse drug effects including effects on driving
- Providing comprehensible explanations to the patient, and carers when relevant, for the use of medicines
- Being open to advice and input from other health professionals on prescribing
- Participating in adverse drug event reporting
- Take and record an accurate drug allergy history and history of previous side effects

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Consultant feedback
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): prioritisation of patient safety in prescribing practice
- Guidance for health and social care providers - Principles of good practice in medication reconciliation (HIQA)

## Specialty Section

## Core Modules

### General Laboratory Knowledge and Skill

**Objectives:** To demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for working in a laboratory setting.

#### KNOWLEDGE

- Health and Safety aspects of working in a histopathology laboratory and autopsy environment
  - Transmission and protection e.g. HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis
  - Vaccination
- Formalin fixation, tissue processing, sectioning and staining
- Workflow within the histopathology laboratory
- Principles of histochemical and immunohistochemical staining
- Principles of light microscopy and electron microscopy
- Principles of the common molecular pathology techniques
- The laboratory information system
- Departmental protocols for the handling of specimens including identification, documentation, entering patient data onto computer and measures to prevent specimen mix-ups
- Specimen reporting, including use of hard-copy and electronic reports, urgent reports and protocols, direct contact with clinicians
- Principles of Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement in histopathology, causes and types of error, clinical audit
- Role of multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings and clinicopathological meetings

#### SKILLS

- Experience with health and safety aspects of working in a laboratory and autopsy room environment
- Experience with workflow within a laboratory including laboratory information systems
- Use of departmental protocols for handling of specimens including patient identification, documentation, entering patient data onto computer and measures to prevent specimen mix-ups
- Competently handle the range of specimens encountered in a histopathology laboratory including description, dissection and sampling
- Handling the high risk specimen (e.g. hepatitis, HIV, tuberculosis)
- Experience with writing and issuing reports
- Liaising with clinicians
- Participation at MDT and clinicopathological meetings

#### ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING METHODS

- Department education sessions (black box, journal club, tutorials)
- Study days
- Textbooks and journals
- e-learning
- Personal study
- Attending national and international courses and meetings
- Log book reporting of number and range of specimens handled
- In-house reviews by trainers/Lead Trainer
- Annual assessment
- FRCPath Part II

## Surgical Pathology

**Objective:** To demonstrate the knowledge and skills of laboratory procedures associated with surgical pathology.

### KNOWLEDGE

- Broad general clinical knowledge including current practice and major changes in trends of diagnosis and treatment
- Comprehensive knowledge of general and systemic pathology and its role in diagnosis and patient management
- Knowledge of the details of specimen dissection, macroscopic description and block selection in neoplastic and non-neoplastic disease
- Knowledge of dissection and sampling of all standard cancer resection specimens to enable completion of template-based reporting of cancer cases
- Knowledge of laboratory procedures to be able to evaluate problems including accessioning and staining problems to ensure accurate and high quality diagnostic material is available
- Knowledge of the microscopic features of the range of common disease for each of the major organs systems, including the role of special stains, immunocytochemistry, molecular pathology and other ancillary techniques such as electron microscopy, flow cytometry, immunofluorescence
- Know when to use additional techniques including further sampling, deeper sectioning, special and immunocytochemical stains, molecular techniques or other ancillary tests

### SKILLS

- Perform tissue dissection safely, accurately, without unnecessary damage to tissue integrity, and with attention to detail during description and block selection
- Photography and radiography of specimens
- Accurately complete the macroscopic and microscopic components of specimen reporting templates
- Respect the role of scientific and other staff in the preparation of diagnostic material, and of administrative staff in the generation of reports
- Progress specimens in a timely manner, including minimising delays in specimen accession, appropriate early initiation of special techniques, avoiding delays in reporting, and use of expedited reporting
- Ensuring that request form and specimen identification details are accurate and be able to resolve any issues of discordance
- Be able to report routine histopathology (including frozen sections), and to know one's own limitations, recognising the cases that can be confidently reported and those that need to be referred for further opinions
- Request and source additional techniques and correctly interpret the results
- Understand the budgetary background to histopathology, and the cost/benefit implications of timely reporting and of routine and ancillary tests
- Produce a comprehensive report that includes macroscopic and microscopic detail, results of any supplementary techniques, with appropriate clinicopathological correlation, notes or comments to the clinician and with a final conclusion or diagnosis
- Offer opinion to clinicians as to the choice of biopsy material most likely to yield relevant information for the suspected disease process being investigated
- Liaise with clinicians and explain the limitations of biopsies in the formulation of clinicopathological correlations
- Participate in MDT – Preparation and presentation

## **ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING METHODS**

- Annual assessment
- FRCPATH Part II

## Optional Modules depending on placement

### Non-Gynaecological Cytopathology

**Objectives:** To be able to diagnose malignancy with confidence and to give clear and accurate reports.

#### KNOWLEDGE

##### Technical aspects

- Basic knowledge of preparation and staining techniques for common specimen types
- Knowledge of use of special techniques, e.g. immunocytochemistry
- Knowledge of panels of antibodies for particular diagnostic applications, e.g. mesothelioma

##### Diagnosis

- Features of malignancy in sites commonly investigated with cytopathology
- Features of specific non-malignant diagnoses, e.g. infection

##### Reporting

- Requirements for a report
- Relevant datasets
- Coding systems
- Knowledge of the likely outcome in terms of further investigation or management of the patient

#### SKILLS

- Able to recognise faults and artefacts of preparation, e.g. air-drying
- Ability to work with medical scientific staff
- Able to diagnose malignancy with confidence in specimens from breast, gastro intestinal (GI) tract, respiratory tract, urinary tract, head and neck, lymphoreticular system, serous fluids and thyroid
- Ability to integrate clinical information and histology or other investigations into diagnosis
- Ability to recognise when definitive diagnosis is beyond capability
- Ability to write an accurate report that gives clinicians the information they need
- Understand multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and management

#### ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Record of number of specimens handled

## Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology

**Objectives:** To demonstrate the ability to carry out and report paediatric and perinatal pathology and to appropriately sample internal organs for histological examination.

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Basic knowledge

- Possess basic knowledge of the normal structure, function and development of all major organ systems
- Be familiar with basic clinical, radiological and genetic information required to ensure accurate pathological diagnoses

#### Surgical cut-up

- Understand principles of specimen dissection, macroscopic description and block selection in neoplastic and nonneoplastic paediatric diseases
- Understand the relationship between the prognosis and the various genetic abnormalities in the most common paediatric neoplasms

#### Surgical reporting

- Knowledge of the microscopic features of the range of normality within tissues and the major common pathological processes and pattern of disease as applied to the paediatric age range
- Be able to complete datasets for paediatric neoplasms

#### Perinatal autopsies

- Possess basic information about development of the major systems such as CNS, GI, respiratory, lympho-reticular and genito-urinary systems
- Aware of the changes occurring after death in utero in macerated stillbirths and implications for interpretations of abnormalities identified on macroscopic and histological examination
- Aware of major fetal features of the most common chromosomal abnormalities (e.g. trisomy 21, 18 and 13) in fetal life
- Aware of the most common complications of prematurity (e.g. lung disease, necrotising enterocolitis, CNS complications)
- Possess sufficient knowledge of anatomy, macroscopic features of major disease processes in fetal and perinatal life and common tissue dissection techniques relevant to perinatal/paediatric autopsies

#### Placenta

- Possess basic knowledge of the most common disorders affecting the placenta (e.g. inflammatory lesions, infarction and placental insufficiency)

#### Paediatric autopsies

- Possess basic knowledge related to the subject of sudden infant deaths

**SKILLS**

- Be able to triage fresh tumour specimens securing sufficient material for histological diagnosis
- Understand importance of accuracy and requirement for attention to detail during specimen description, marking the margins (if necessary) and block selection
- Be able to recognise the microscopic features of tissue structure in normality, as related to the age of the patient and in common disease processes
- Understand requirement for attention to detail during surgical reporting and the need for correlation with the clinical situation
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of timeliness and accuracy of reporting.
- Demonstrate manual dexterity sufficient to perform perinatal autopsies, including post-mortem dissection techniques specific to paediatric cases (the examination of the heart and CNS)
- Skills in the presentation and demonstration of the salient macroscopic findings
- Recognise basic dysmorphic features, assess gestational age (using published tables and growth charts); recognition of major features of intrauterine growth restriction
- Appropriately sample internal organs for histological examination; develop awareness of appropriate sampling for ancillary investigations (microbiology, virology, cytogenetics and biochemistry)
- Be able to apply photography and X-rays as an accurate way of documentation of abnormalities
- Be able to recognise signs of maceration and timing of intrauterine death in stillbirths.
- Understand issues of autopsy consent, tissue/organ retention, implications of sampling for cytogenetics, coroners' practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of autopsy findings for genetic counselling, from the parental and clinicians' point of view
- Be able to recognise major features of iatrogenic lesions related to procedures in intensive care unit (e.g. pneumothorax in a premature ventilated baby)
- Be able to appropriately examine singleton and twin placenta with sampling for histology.
- Assist in at least one autopsy on sudden infant death (natural or unnatural)
- Understand issues related to dual (forensic and paediatric) investigations of suspicious deaths

**ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS**

- Record of number and range of specimens handled

## Neuropathology

### General Neuropathology

**Objectives:** To accurately diagnose and report pathological neurological disorders.

#### KNOWLEDGE

##### Basic knowledge

- Knowledge of the normal structure, function and development of the nervous system
- Be familiar with the clinical, radiological and genetic information required to ensure accurate pathological diagnoses of neurological disorders

##### Surgical neuropathology

- Tumours: Knowledge of the major primary and metastatic tumours of the brain, spinal cord and their surrounding tissues, in particular the pathology of astrocytic tumours
- Be aware of the genetics of nervous system tumours and their relevance to treatment
- Non-neoplastic lesions: Knowledge of the range of common inflammatory and degenerative lesions and malformations in neurosurgical pathology practice

##### Medical neuropathology

- Muscle disease: Knowledge of histology and histochemistry of skeletal muscle and the major pathological and genetic features of neurogenic and myopathic and dystrophic muscle diseases
- Peripheral nerve diseases: Knowledge of the histology and pathology of peripheral nerves
- Central spinal fluid (CSF) cytopathology: Knowledge of CSF cytopathology in the diagnosis of diseases of the brain and spinal cord

#### SKILLS

- Develop the ability to solve clinical problems by applying knowledge of basic principles of pathology to the nervous system
- Smears and frozen sections: Develop the ability to prepare smears; interpret smears and cryostat sections; to recognise the limitations of intraoperative diagnoses
- Histology and immunocytochemistry: Develop ability to interpret histology and immunocytochemistry for the accurate diagnosis of tumours and nonneoplastic lesions of the central and peripheral nervous system tumours
- Develop the practice of integrating clinical, radiological and pathological data in formulating accurate pathological diagnoses
- Develop the practice of integrating clinical, radiological (CT, MRI, etc.) and pathological data for accurate diagnosis
- Develop the ability to interpret muscle and nerve histology and histochemistry for accurate diagnosis of disease
- Acquire skill in the interpretation of CSF cytopathology
- Understand the importance of genetics in the diagnosis and management of muscle, nerve and central nervous system (CNS) disease

#### ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Record of number and range of specimens handled

## Neuropathology Autopsies and Post-Mortem Brain Pathology

**Objectives:** To develop skills in autopsy techniques for the examination of the central and peripheral nervous system at autopsy.

### KNOWLEDGE

- Autopsies: Possess sufficient knowledge of the anatomy and pathology of the central and peripheral nervous systems and how the nervous system interacts with the other organ systems in the body
- Fixed brains: possess sufficient knowledge of anatomy and pathology of the nervous system in all age groups including foetuses for the selection of appropriate blocks for histology and for evaluating trauma, vascular disease, infections, tumours, multiple sclerosis, dementias, epilepsy, fetal and childhood disorders of the nervous system
- Forensic neuropathology: possess sufficient knowledge for the evaluation, reporting of pathological findings and their presentation in court
- Know the procedures for liaising with garda, lawyers and courts
- Possess knowledge of health and safety, law, ethics and legal practices as they apply to the practice of neuropathology

### SKILLS

- Develop skills in autopsy technique for the examination of the central and peripheral nervous system at autopsy
- Recognise limitations and when to refer cases or specimens to a specialist laboratory.
- Interpret histological and immunocyto-chemical preparations for the evaluation of major pathological lesions of the nervous system
- Develop the manual dexterity for cutting brains and taking appropriate blocks
- Develop skills in reporting of pathological findings and the presentation of evidence in court.
- Understand the relevance of clinical and radiological data in planning and successfully completing a neurological autopsy

### ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Record of the number and range of specimens handled

## Documentation of Minimum Requirements for Training

- These are the minimum number of cases you are asked to document as part of your training. It is recommended you seek opportunities to attain a higher level of exposure as part of your self-directed learning and development of expertise.
- You should expect the demands of your post to exceed the minimum required number of cases documented for training.
- If you are having difficulty meeting a particular requirement, please contact your specialty coordinator.

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement		Reporting Period	Form Name
<b>Section 1 - Training Plan</b>					
<b>Personal Goals Plan</b> (Agreed Training Plan for your current training post signed by both Trainee & Trainer)	Required	1		Training Post	Personal Goals Plan
<b>Section 2 - Training Activities</b>					
<b>Surgical Pathology</b> (number of cases handled)		Resection	Biopsy		Clinical Activities
• Breast	Required	10	40	Year of Training	
• Skin (biopsies include small skin ellipses)	Required	10	60	Year of Training	
• Gynaecology	Required	10	20	Year of Training	
• Soft Tissue Tumours	Required	5	20	Year of Training	
• Liver (including medical liver biopsies)	Required	5	50	Year of Training	
• Kidney (including medical renal biopsies)	Required	4	4	Year of Training	
• Lung	Required	4	10	Year of Training	
• Haematopathology				Year of Training	
○ Lymph Node	Required	N/A	20		
○ Bone Marrow	Required	N/A	6		
• GI Specimens					
○ Oesophagus	Required	2	20	Year of Training	
○ Stomach	Required	2	20	Year of Training	
○ Small Bowel	Required	2	20	Year of Training	
○ Colon	Required	2	40	Year of Training	
○ Rectum	Required	10	20	Year of Training	
• Bone	Required	5	10	Year of Training	
• Bladder	Required	5	25	Year of Training	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement		Reporting Period	Form Name
• Testes	Required	2	1	Year of Training	
• Penis	Required	1	1	Year of Training	
• Prostate	Required	3	20	Year of Training	
• Pancreas	Required	1	4	Year of Training	
• Head and Neck	Required	4	10	Year of Training	
• Frozen Sections	Required	10		Year of Training	
<b>Autopsies</b>					Clinical Activities
• Adult Autopsies	Required	100		Year of Training	
• Paediatric autopsies (observations)	Desirable	5		Year of Training	
• Brain cuts (attendance)	Required	20		Year of Training	
<b>Cytopathology</b>	Required	200		Year of Training	Clinical Activities
<b>Special Techniques</b>					Clinical Activities
Immunocytochemistry	Required	200		Year of Training	
Immunofluorescence				Year of Training	
• Skin	Desirable	5			
• Renal	Desirable	5			
Molecular Pathology	Required	10		Year of Training	
Other (e.g. electron microscopy)	Desirable	1		Year of Training	
<b>Complicated cases handled</b> (Cases requiring extensive investigations or external consultation)	Required	10		Year of Training	Cases
<b>Additional Special Experience</b>					Clinical Activities
• Gynaecological Cytopathology experience (2 weeks desirable during training)	Desirable	10		Year of Training	
• Inquest	Required	3		Year of Training	
• Health & Safety	Desirable	2		Year of Training	
• Medico legal cases	Desirable	1		Year of Training	
• Mortality conferences attended	Desirable	2		Year of Training	
<b>Relatively Unusual Cases</b>	Desirable	1		Year of Training	Cases

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
<b>Section 3 - Educational Activities</b>				
<b>Mandatory Courses</b>				Course Attendance
• Core pathology I	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Core pathology II	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Core pathology III	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Ethics for Histopathology	Required	1	Training Programme	
• An Introduction to Health Research	Required	1	Training Programme	
• HST Leadership for Pathology (Year 3+)	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Mastering Communications (Year 1)	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Performing Audit (Year 1)	Required	1	Training Programme	
• Wellness Matters	Required	1	Training Programme	
<b>Non – Mandatory Courses</b>	Desirable	1	Training Programme	Course Attendance
<b>Study Days</b>	Required	5	Year of Training	Study Day Attendance
<b>Participation at in-house activities</b>				Attendance at Hospital Based Learning
• Grand Rounds	Required	5	Year of Training	
• Journal Club Attendance	Required	10	Year of Training	
• MDT Meetings	Required	20	Year of Training	
<b>Examinations</b>				Examinations

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
FRCPATH Part I examination	Required	1	Training Programme	
FRCPATH Part II examination	Required	1	Training Programme	
<b>Delivery of Teaching</b>				Delivery of Teaching
Lecture	Desirable	1	Year of Training	
Tutorial	Desirable	1	Year of Training	
Presentation	Desirable	1	Year of Training	
<b>Publications</b>	Desirable	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
<b>Audit activities and Reporting</b> (1 per year either to start or complete, Quality Improvement (QI) projects can be uploaded against audit)	Required	1	Year of Training	Audit and QI
<b>National/International meetings</b>	Required	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
<b>Additional Qualifications</b>	Desirable	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
<b>Committee Attendance</b> (1 per year)	Required	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
<b>Section 4 - Assessments</b>				
<b>DOPS</b>				
• Cut up Gross Specimen	Required	10	Training Programme	DOPS
• Selection of Blocks for Microscopy				
• Microscopy (surgical specimens)	Required	10	Training Programme	DOPS
• Immunohistochemistry – reporting stains on a Carcinoma or Lymphoma case	Required	5	Training Programme	DOPS
• Adult Autopsy	Required	1	Training Programme	DOPS
<b>Case Based Discussion (CBD)</b>	Required	2	Year of Training	CBD

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
6-monthly Assessments/End-of-Post Assessment	Required	1	Year of Training	Quarterly Assessment/End of Post Assessment
End of Year Evaluation	Required	1	Year of Training	End of Year Evaluation