



Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI

Annual Report 2025-2026

The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (FSEM) was founded in 2002 as a joint faculty of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The Faculty is committed to be the leader and prime reference in education, ethics and science for Sports and Exercise Medicine in Ireland.

The Faculty Board meets at least four times yearly and its work is supported by a number of committees and working groups which report to the Board. The Faculty is ably served by Anne Marie Creighton who serves as Faculty Administrator.

The Faculty has approximately 780 Fellows and Members, in Ireland and Overseas, and the Faculty office is based in RCSI on the St Stephen's Green campus.

Administration

Dr Philip Carolan continues as Interim Dean of the Faculty following the AGM last December. The Faculty is continuing to work closely with its parent colleges to finalise revised governance arrangements, including updated Standing Orders and a Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr Mathew Cosgrave has now taking over the role as Training Programme director.

Several Board vacancies will arise this year due to the completion of members' terms of office and two resignations. Elections are scheduled to take place in the autumn.

CPD activities

The Faculty continued to deliver Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities primarily through online webinars and journal clubs.

The 2026 Annual Scientific Conference took place on 11 September in RCSI. The theme of this year's conference was "Sports Health for All", and was very well attended. The event was delivered in collaboration with the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP), Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland (ARTI) and Irish Sport and Exercise Sciences Association (ISESA). Graduates of the 2026 Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP)/FSEM MSK Diploma programme, 42 students, together with two FSEM Associate Members, were conferred at the event. We were delighted to award Dr Felipe Contepomi his Honorary Fellowship of the faculty at this conferring too.

The FSEM Annual Spring Symposium, "Functional Fitness Racing – Fail to Prepare, Prepare to Fail", was held in collaboration with Ulster University. This took place on 15th April, 2026. The symposium attracted strong attendance and positive engagement from participants.

Higher Specialist Training in Sports and Exercise Medicine (HST SEM)

The Faculty completed a re-accreditation review of its Training Programme with the Medical Council of Ireland, receiving the final report in May 2023. The Faculty continues to engage with its parent colleges, RCSI and RCPI, regarding Medical Council recommendations and the associated Accreditation and Improvement Process (AIP) document for the current two-year Specialist Registrar (SpR) training programme.

The Faculty continues to work with the Medical Council to support the development of both two-year and four-year training pathways, as recommended by the Medical Council of Ireland to comply with EU Directive 2005/36/EC, which we plan to deliver in parallel with the current 2-year programme which is a post Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) fellowship style training program. The Training Programme Advisory Group is actively progressing both programmes to meet Medical Council and European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) requirements.

A trainee from the 2023 intake, who deferred commencement until July 2024, has just returned from maternity leave and has recommenced the programme since August 2026.

Fellows and Members

Associate Membership, Membership and Fellowship pathways for doctors, physiotherapists, athletic therapists, and sport and exercise scientists were launched in 2024. The Faculty continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries regarding eligibility and anticipates continued growth in membership. We have three categories of membership (associate membership, membership and fellowship) and various routes depending on the applicants' clinical and academic backgrounds – for information, visit www.fsem.ie or e-mail the office at sportsfac@rcsi.ie for advice if you would like to join the Faculty in any of our membership categories.

Annual subscriptions 2026

Members and Fellows were contacted in April regarding subscription renewals. Renewals continue to be received regularly, including from individuals whose memberships lapsed in 2021 and 2022. The subscription structure has also been simplified, with a single standard membership option now available.

FSEM Website

The Faculty website was upgraded in June 2026. The enhanced platform supports a more streamlined subscription process and improved membership reporting. Future developments will include online nomination and election functionality, together with integrated payment processing.

Online Board Elections

The Faculty is exploring the introduction of online Board nominations and elections. Work is ongoing with the website developer to integrate online voting functionality.

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2025/2026 Current Board Members:

Prof Michael Kerin (RCSI President), Ms Ann Hanly and Mr Hannan Mullet (RCSI College Representatives), Dr Diarmuid O'Shea (RCPI President), Prof Trevor Duffy (RCPI College Representative), Dr Natasha Jones (FSEM UK President), Dr David Pugh (FSEM UK Representative), Dr Philip Carolan (Dean), Prof Fardod O'Kelly (Vice-Dean), Dr Anthony Hoban (Hon. Secretary), Dr Paul Dobbelaar (Treasurer), Dr Matthew Cosgrave (Training Program Director), Mr Ronan Dardis, Dr Colm McCarthy, Dr Frank O'Leary, Dr Ronan Kearney, Dr Wilby Williamson, Dr Ciaran Cosgrave, Prof Phil O'Halloran, Dr Dermot Nolan, Dr Maeve Doheny, Dr Tony Gleeson, Mr Seamus Morris & Prof Niall Moyna.