



FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



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Annual Report to the Annual Stated Meeting

Reported by: Dr Alex Reid, Faculty Dean

Date: Monday, 19 October 2026

Reporting Period: 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026





This report summarises the key work of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine Board during the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, including governance, training, examinations, advocacy, events and 50th anniversary activity.

Board and Governance

- The Board met regularly during the reporting period, with meetings held in September, November and December 2025, and February, April and June 2026.
- The Faculty reviewed and updated governance arrangements, including changes to the Standing Orders following the AGM. These changes reflected the revised approach to Faculty Credentials Committee activity and the expanded role of Professional Affairs.
- The Board approved the controlled use of Microsoft Teams recording, transcription and Copilot to support meeting administration, with human oversight retained for validation and editing of all outputs.
- The Board continued to monitor wider RCPI governance and operational matters, including the Connect programme, cost allocation, membership data, sponsorship policy, and Faculty representation on College and external committees.

Membership, Finance and Engagement

- Membership engagement, renewal and data quality remained a key focus. The Board considered approaches to members in arrears, the impact of unpaid memberships, and the need for accurate membership data to support fair cost allocation. The Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM) board decision to remove those not in good standing for over two years from the record of members was not supported by RCPI and further discussions are required on this.
- The Board continued to engage with RCPI on the revised central allocation of costs model. The faculty welcomed high-level engagement principles while continuing to seek clarity on the methodology and impact on Faculty finances.

- The faculty approved initiatives to support wider engagement, including subsidised attendance at scientific meetings for members from low- and middle-income countries and a time-limited subsidy for Northern Ireland colleagues applying for Membership *ad eundem*.
- The faculty agreed to support closer engagement with Northern Ireland colleagues, including consideration of an accelerated Membership *ad eundem* pathway and discussion of the UK Diploma in Occupational Medicine as evidence of appropriate Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (MFOM) preparation.

Advocacy and Policy

- The Advocacy Committee continued its work on occupational medicine policy, stakeholder engagement and visibility for the specialty.
- Faculty advocacy activity included contributions to RCPI consultation responses and stakeholder engagement with organisations such as the Eustace Group, the Department of Social Protection and other occupational health-related bodies.
- The faculty contributed to the RCPI Healthy Ireland Framework consultation and continued work on occupational health research outputs, including a research guide intended to support trainees, members and Fellows.
- The Board continued to pursue promotion of the Specialty of Occupational Medicine, including engagement on consultant status with the HSE, workforce planning, inclusion on the undergraduate medical school curriculum and the representation of occupational medicine in national workforce reports.

Training and Workforce Planning

- Training capacity and workforce planning were major themes throughout the reporting period. The Board continued engagement with the National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) and HSE stakeholders on projected specialty needs, training numbers and sustainable funding models. The final report '*Expert Stakeholder Informed Workforce Review of the Specialty of Occupational Medicine 2025-2038*' has been finalised following tripartite discussions with the HSE, NDTP & FOM.
- The faculty supported continued exploration of alternative or mixed funding models, while noting the need to preserve trainee contract terms, Non-Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) contract arrangements and appropriate governance.
- Recruitment and awareness of occupational medicine remained a priority, including discussion of undergraduate medical curriculum exposure, local medical school outreach, and the development of candidate profiles for targeted recruitment.
- The faculty continued to review the International Clinical Fellowship Programme, including proposals for a longer preparatory pathway for candidates requiring additional occupational medicine experience or Licentiate'ship of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (LFOM) preparation.

Examinations

- Examination activity remained substantial across LFOM and MFOM written, portfolio, viva and Objective Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) components.
- The January 2026 written examinations were delivered with 74 LFOM candidates and 7 MFOM candidates sitting the written papers. One item was suppressed following quality control review.
- The LFOM portfolio process progressed to viva stage in April 2026, and the MFOM portfolio process also progressed to viva assessment in April 2026.
- Following the 2026 examinations, the Board noted the LFOM viva outcomes and discussed ongoing work to strengthen examiner calibration and quality assurance of the portfolio and viva assessments. Wider work on the examination regulations and AI-related risks in portfolio assessment is also continuing.
- The faculty strengthened examination governance through the appointment of a third Deputy Chief Examiner, with Dr Alison Sigrist appointed as Deputy Chief Examiner for Portfolios.
- Question bank development continued through OSPE and written examination workshops, with additional guidance planned for question writers and contributors.

Events, Education, and 50th Anniversary Activity

- The Faculty of Occupational Medicine's Autumn Conference was held on 26 September 2025 and brought together professionals in person and online to explore the evolving landscape of occupational medicine. The programme covered head and neck rehabilitation and return to work, occupational health considerations in driving, diving and aviation, and current workplace topics including intergenerational teams, psychosocial risks and neurodiversity.
- The annual Smiley Symposium took place at No. 6 Kildare Street on 14 November 2025, honouring Dr James Smiley. The James Smiley Lecture was delivered by Dr Christopher Martin, who addressed occupational medicine training in the United States, including the impact of funding cuts and the continuing need to support workforce development in the specialty.
- The Smiley Symposium also included presentations on Arctic workplace assessment, pre-placement health assessment and healthcare worker vaccination uptake, reflecting the breadth of occupational medicine practice and research.
- The Faculty's Admission Ceremony was held during the Smiley Symposium on 14 November 2025. Fifty doctors were awarded, including Honorary Fellowship of RCPI, Fellowship of RCPI in Occupational Medicine, Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training and Licentiatehip of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine.
- The faculty welcomed two Honorary Fellows at the Admission Ceremony, Dr Christopher Martin and Dr Robin Cordell, recognising their significant contributions to occupational medicine, education, workplace health and professional standards.
- The Spring Conference was held on 10 April 2026 and marked the beginning of the faculty's 50th anniversary year. The event brought together occupational health professionals to consider key issues shaping the specialty, including worker health protection, workplace health policy, airborne infection risk, occupational health in the performing arts, workplace accommodations, regulatory approaches to worker health, and clinical topics such as Parkinson's disease, functional neurological disorder, migraine and occupational lung disease.
- The Spring Conference included two 50th anniversary keynote addresses, delivered by Professor Raymond Agius and Dr Finola M Ryan. The conference also saw the official launch of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's 50th anniversary art competition, delivered in collaboration with the RCPI Heritage Centre.

- To mark the 50th anniversaries of the Faculties of Occupational Medicine and Public Health Medicine, the RCPI Heritage Centre launched the exhibition *Hard Hats & Vaccines: Fifty Years of the Faculties of Occupational Medicine and Public Health Medicine*. The exhibition explores over 320 years of history through rare books, archives and artefacts, including works by Bernardino Ramazzini, vaccination records linked to Edward Jenner, public health artefacts and exhibits reflecting Ireland's response to COVID-19.
- The Board approved a year-long 50th anniversary brand and communications plan under the theme "Celebrating 50 years of advancing occupational medicine". Planned activity included anniversary speakers, a joint Public Health event, autumn conference activity, the Smiley Symposium, the Eustace Lecture, a Gala Dinner at Mansion House, the art competition and a video history/testimonials project.

Representation and External Engagement

- Faculty representatives were confirmed or nominated to a range of College and external groups during the year, including the RCPI Working Group for Training Site Review, Reasonable Adjustments Committee, Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) guideline groups, HSE Data Retention Occupational Health Advisory Group, and Forum Global Health Education and Training Sub-Committee.
- The faculty signed a memorandum of understanding with the Society of Occupational Medicine and agreed to explore further engagement with the Irish Society of Occupational Medicine.
- The faculty continued international engagement discussions, including participation in the International Occupational Medicine Support Charity, an iHeed scholarship proposal, and consideration of Faculty input to development of specialist occupational medicine training in the United Arab Emirates in a subject matter expert capacity.
- Engagement with international membership community remains a focus for the Board. The Chief Examiner represented the faculty at the Asian Conference for Occupational Health (ACOH) in Malaysia with a view re-engaging with members and fellows in the region and explore business opportunities. In addition to participation in the educational programme, several meetings were held with key stakeholders across the region and the faculty / RCPI co-hosted an Alumni Dinner.

Committee Membership

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

The following table lists Board members who served during the reporting period and their roles. Some roles changed during the year following the AGM and Board appointments.

Name	Position
Dr Alex Reid	Faculty Dean
Dr Oghenovo / "Ovo" Oghuvbu	Vice Dean / Chair of the Advocacy Committee
Dr David Madden	Honorary Treasurer
Dr Grant Jeffery	Chair of the Scientific Meetings Committee until November 2025
Dr David Mills	Northern Ireland Representative; Chair of the Scientific Meetings Committee from November 2025
Dr Martin Hogan	Medicine Council Member
Dr Lanre Ogunyemi	Chief Examiner
Dr Hemal Thakore	Chair of the National Specialty Directors Committee
Dr Thomas O'Connell	Director of Professional Competence / Professional Affairs
Dr Martin Tohill	Northern Ireland Representative
Dr Nuala Kelly	Fellow Representative
Dr David Poots	Fellow Representative
Dr Fiona Kevitt	Fellow Representative
Dr Alison Sigrist	Fellow Representative
Dr Conor McDonnell	Fellow Representative
Dr Sujil Jacob	Member Representative
Dr Tom Branigan	Licentiate Representative
Dr Justine Fenn	Trainee Representative
Dr Ruth McCullough	Trainee Representative
Mr Stephen O'Herlihy	Lay Representative

On behalf of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine Board, I confirm that the Standing Orders are up to date and that, with the exception of the on-going discussions in relation to allocation of costs, the Board has met all obligations outlined in its Standing Orders.



Dr Alex Reid
Faculty Dean