



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

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OF IRELAND

Annual Report

For the Faculty of Paediatrics Annual Stated Meeting

Reporting period: 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Reported by: Dr Judith Meehan, Dean
of the Faculty of Paediatrics
ASM Date: Monday, 19 October





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Faculty Board

The Faculty Board met five times over the reporting period. The Board continued to support the faculty's work across training, examinations, advocacy, education, events, awards and representation for paediatrics and neonatology.

Children's Health Research Charter

The Faculty launched a new Infant and Children's Health Research Charter during the Autumn Conference on 3 October 2025 at No. 6 Kildare Street. The Charter was developed by the Faculty Research Committee in consultation with young people and is designed to help children, families, caregivers and health professionals have informed conversations about child health research. The Charter places the child at the centre of the research process and sets out principles for consent and care, honesty, inclusivity, listening, dignity, responsibility, empathy and neutrality.

Advocacy

The Consensus Statement on the Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia was made available online in August 2025 following its launch at the Faculty Spring Conference in May 2025.

A Faculty position paper was launched at the Spring conference in May 2025-addressing protecting children online- "Engaging in Online Activity: Prioritising and protecting the physical and mental health of children and young people". This paper was sent to the Oireachtas and also informed a government led taskforce on the issue.

The faculty's e-scooter position paper was launched in December 2025 and achieved significant national media coverage. The faculty also engaged with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) towards a joint statement on the issue.

The faculty continued engagement with the Irish Medical Council National Graduate Outcomes Survey, supporting participation to inform training development and workforce planning.

Conferences

The Faculty Autumn Conference "Opening Doors to Excellence-Child Health in a Time of Change" took place on 3 October 2025. There were 286 people registered for the event, with 122 attending in person and 118 joining virtually. Speakers spotlighted paediatric oncology, pioneering brain tumour diagnosis protocols, cancer genetics, e-scooter safety, care for children with special needs and tic disorders. The Ralph Counahan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Anthony Costello, and Ms Lucy Nugent, CEO of Children's Health Ireland, joined the programme to discuss the future of children's healthcare.

The Faculty Spring Conference, "Partnerships in Paediatrics and Neonatology", took place on 8 May 2026. The conference explored collaboration across paediatric and neonatal care, with sessions addressing children's rights, national clinical programmes and the influence of commercial industries on child health. Session 3, "Neonatology – In Memory of Professor Anthony Ryan", recognised the significant contribution of the late Professor Anthony Ryan to neonatal care. A total of 270 participants were registered, with 126 attending in person and 144 joining virtually.



Speakers at the Faculty of Paediatrics Spring Conference, May 2026

Webinar Series

The faculty delivered a strong webinar programme during the year:

- “Joint Ventures: Inside the World of Paediatric Rheumatology” was held on 11 November 2025 and had 214 registrations.
- “At the Heart of Paediatric Cardiology” was held on 20 January 2026 and had 219 registrations.
- “To Sleep or Not to Sleep...That is the Question!” was held on 24 March 2026 and had 153 registrations.
- “Newborn Screening Updates – Guidance for Paediatricians & Neonatologists” was held on 28 April 2026 and had 225 registrations.

Training

Strong demand for paediatric training continued throughout the year. There were 224 applications for Basic Specialist Training (BST) Paediatrics, with interviews scheduled in January 2026. For Higher Specialist Training (HST) Paediatrics, 64 applications were received, with approximately 44 interviews proceeding and 30 to 36 appointments anticipated, subject to National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) numbers and site capacity.

Twelve international trainees were confirmed to commence in July 2026. Dr Declan Cody and Dr Basil Elnazir were appointed as joint co-leads of the International Fellowship and Residency programmes.

The Paediatric Pocket Tutorials resource continued to be used by trainees and consultants. The resource now totals approximately 130 short consultant-led videos across 14 sections.

Examinations

The faculty continued to support significant examination activity and development during the year.

- The Part II Clinical Examination took place in Ireland on 14 and 21 November 2025 in Limerick and Tallaght, with 55 candidates and an 82% pass rate.
- The Part II Written Examination moved to a new format from March 2026, replacing the Short Answer Question paper with a second Single Best Answer paper. The March 2026 sitting had 151 candidates and a 78% pass rate, with a 90% trainee pass rate.
- The Part I Paediatrics Examination on 23 January 2026 was the first paediatric examination to run on TestReach's new platform. There were 104 candidates and a 70% pass rate, with a 95% trainee pass rate.
- The 8 May 2026 Part I Examination had 106 candidates. Results were pending at the time of the May Council report.
- The Board approved a five-year review of Part I, Part II Written and Part II Clinical examinations, beginning with a consolidated internal analysis to inform an independent external review of validity, reliability and equity across sittings.

Faculty Funding Initiative

The Faculty Call for Funding Proposals 2025-2026 closed on 1 February 2026, with seven applications received. The Board approved a number of educational events and research supports nationally in addition to equipment such as the purchase of a dermatoscope device to support rheumatology and dermatology clinics and teaching.

Faculty Awards

The Autumn Conference provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of members, fellows, trainees and colleagues across paediatrics:

- Kathleen Lynn Medal: Dr Kevin Connolly.
- Sir Henry Marsh Medal: Dr Shauna Quinn.
- Victoria Coffey Award: Dr Lucy Geraghty.
- Conor Ward Essay Competition: Dr Danielle Clifford.
- Dean's Wellbeing Award: Dr Dubhfeasa Slattery.
- Dean's Special Commendation Award for Wellbeing: The Gentle Landing Project for International Trainees.
- Special Recognition Award: Professor Bee Wee.
- National Teaching Award in Subspecialty Paediatrics in the tertiary children's hospitals: Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh.
- National Teaching Award in Neonatology in tertiary and regional centres: Dr David Corcoran.
- National Teaching Award in General with special interest, and Community Paediatrics: Dr Orla Flanagan.
- National Teaching Award in General and Community Paediatrics: Dr Paul Gallagher.

Professor Anthony Costello and Professor David Walker were admitted as Honorary Fellows at the 2025 admission ceremony. The faculty also welcomed 27 Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST), 2 Associate Members, 20 Fellowship RCPI (Paediatrics) and 2 honorary fellows at the admission ceremony on 3 October 2025.



Prof Anthony Costello signs the Honorary Fellows role at No. 6 Kildare Street

Governance and Representation

There were a number of changes to Faculty Board representation during the reporting period. Professor Michael O'Neill was appointed Dean Elect following an election, succeeding Dr John Fitzsimons who demitted from the role of Vice Dean. Dr Jean Donnelly succeeded Dr Michael Boyle as Lead National Specialty Director and Co-Chair of the Specialist Training Committee. Professor Michael Boyle succeeded Prof Michael O'Neill as Director of Education and Training for the Faculty in August 2026. Dr Ann Hickey, Dr Frances Neenan and Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh joined the Board as Fellow representatives. Dr Nese Gadzama was appointed as Collegiate Member representative, Ms Hilary Coates succeeded Mr James Doorly as Lay Board Member, and Dr Ruth Carey and Dr Dermot Wildes succeeded Dr Dee Ryan and Dr Emily Farnan as Trainee representatives.

Faculty Board Membership 2025-2026

Name	Position
Dr Judith Meehan	Faculty Dean
Prof Michael O'Neill	Dean Elect / Vice Dean
Prof Clodagh O'Gorman	Honorary Secretary
Dr Ethel Ryan	Honorary Treasurer
Dr Muhammad Azam	Convenor of Meetings
Dr Eoin Ó Curraín	Associate Dean of Examinations
Prof Hilary Hoey	Professional Competence Lead
Dr Jean Donnelly	Chair of Specialty Training Committee
Dr Shoana Quinn	Fellow Representative
Dr Frances Neenan	Fellow Representative
Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh	Fellow Representative
Dr Ann Hickey	Fellow Representative / National Clinical Lead for Neonatology
Dr Cathy Gibbons	Fellow Representative
Dr Wasim Asif	Fellow Representative
Dr Basil Elnazir	Fellow Representative
Dr Íde Nic Dhonncha	Associate Member Representative
Dr Nese Gadzama	Collegiate Member Representative
Dr Hilary Stokes	Joint Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Children
Prof Colin Hawkes	Joint Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for Children
Dr Ruth Carey	Trainee Representative
Dr Dermot Wildes	Trainee Representative
Ms Hilary Coates	Lay Representative
Mr Aidan Kenny	Lay Representative

On behalf of the Faculty of Paediatrics, I confirm that the terms of reference and standing orders are up to date and that the committee has met all obligations outlined in its terms of reference.

Date: 19/10/2026

Signed: 

Dr Judith Meehan, Faculty Dean