



**FACULTY OF
PATHOLOGY**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

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OF IRELAND

Annual Report

for the Annual Stated Meeting

Reported by: Brian O'Murchu on behalf
of Dr Shari Srinivasan, Faculty Dean
Date: 19 October 2026



Summary of the faculty's key activities

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

The Faculty of Pathology continued to support excellence in pathology training, education, advocacy and service development across Ireland during the reporting period. Key priorities included workforce development, pathology training expansion, digital transformation projects, autopsy services advocacy, scientific meetings, quality improvement initiatives and engagement with national healthcare reform programmes. The faculty maintained active engagement with the HSE Laboratory Services Reform Programme, including MedLIS implementation and digital pathology developments. The Board also continued its advocacy work regarding the sustainability of autopsy services and pathology training requirements.

Education and Training

The faculty continued to work closely with RCPI's training bodies to support recruitment and development across all pathology specialties. The Board received regular updates on Basic and Higher Specialist Training programmes, tutor recruitment, trainee representation, curriculum delivery and workforce planning. New National Specialty Directors were appointed across a number of specialties and recruitment progressed in areas where vacancies existed.

Three ASPIRE Fellowships were approved during the reporting period:

- Autopsy Pathology
- Paediatric Transplant Microbiology
- Coagulation Medicine

The faculty also supported trainee engagement through Intern Day, careers events, Pathology Trainee Day, trainer conferences, and continued its successful online webinar series, which has provided accessible and high-quality educational opportunities for trainees, trainers, and Fellows.

Webinars delivered during the reporting period included:

- 18 September 2025 Microbes & Malignancy: the overlooked link
- 06 November 2025 Pathfinders: exploring careers in laboratory medicine
- 02 April 2026 IVDR Diagnostics Webinar

The faculty continued its work in paediatric and perinatal pathology, with a submission completed for the Medical Council and ongoing engagement regarding specialty recognition and training pathways.

Faculty Symposium

The Faculty of Pathology Annual Symposium was held on 12-13 February 2026 at No. 6 Kildare Street and brought together pathologists, trainees, researchers and healthcare leaders from across Ireland and internationally. Registrations increased from 268 to 329, with attendance increasing from 221 to 240 participants. The symposium provided updates from across all pathology specialties and showcased developments in education, research, quality improvement and laboratory reform.

The meeting opened with presentations from the faculty's Honorary Fellows. Professor John R. Srigley presented on the evolving role of the pathologist as a diagnostic oncologist, while Professor Siobhán Burns provided insights into developments in primary immunodeficiency and personalised medicine.

A major focus of the symposium was the growing challenge facing autopsy services in Ireland. Professor Linda Mulligan and Dr Laura Aalto outlined the impact of reduced autopsy provision on patient care, death investigation systems, workforce planning and postgraduate training. The symposium highlighted the faculty's advocacy work and the recommendations contained within the faculty's position paper on autopsy services.

The symposium also featured:

- Updates from the National Histopathology Quality Improvement Programme, involving 28 participating laboratories nationwide.
- The launch of the HSE *Outline Strategic Plan for Laboratory Services 2026-2035*, attended by the HSE Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Medical Officer.
- Updates on the national MedLIS programme and future digital pathology developments.
- Sessions on molecular pathology, precision medicine, biomarker testing, genomic sequencing and laboratory innovation.
- Rapid-fire trainee presentations showcasing research and quality improvement projects from across pathology specialties

Awards and Recognition

The faculty continued to recognise excellence in pathology practice, education, quality improvement and research through its annual Faculty Awards, presented during the Faculty of Pathology Symposium in February 2026.

- Paule Cotter Medal (Lifetime Achievement Award): Dr Joan Power.
- John D. Kennedy Medal, recognising an exceptional contribution by a pathologist within seven years of completion of training: Dr Grace Neville for *Somatic Malignancies Arising in Ovarian Mature Cystic Teratomas*.
- George Greene Medal, recognising outstanding trainee research: Dr Katie Ridge for *LinCD117+CD34+FcεRI+ progenitor cells are increased in chronic spontaneous urticaria and predict clinical responsiveness to anti-IgE therapy*.
- John O'Dowd Medal for quality improvement: Dr Michael O'Meara for *ADA Standards of Care on Diabetes*.
- Scientific presentation awards were also presented during the Symposium:
- Best Oral Presentation: Dr Anne Marie-Dolan for *Educating gap in tackling climate action in Clinical Microbiology*.
- Runner-Up Oral Presentation: Dr Louise Murray for *A New Lens on Perinatal Pathology*.
- Best Histopathology Poster: Dr Fidelma Karr.
- Best Microbiology Poster: Dr Grace Rothwell-Kelly.
- Best Blood Sciences Poster: Dr Lara Dungan.



Prof Michael Keane, Prof Kieran Sheahan, Prof John R. Srigley, Prof Mary Keogan,
Prof Siobhan Burns, and Dr Diarmuid O'Shea

Advocacy and Policy

A significant focus of the faculty's work during the reporting period related to autopsy services in Ireland. The faculty developed and promoted its autopsy position paper, highlighting the importance of autopsy practice for training, quality assurance, patient safety and service development. The Board continued to engage with the Department of Health, Department of Justice, RCPI Council and other stakeholders regarding the sustainability of autopsy services and workforce requirements.

The faculty also established a working group to monitor developments relating to the proposed Human Tissue Act and to advocate for pathology interests in areas including archival specimens, consent frameworks and research activity.

Digital Pathology and Laboratory Reform

The faculty remained actively engaged with national laboratory reform programmes throughout the year. Significant discussion focused on:

- National MedLIS implementation
- Digital pathology development
- Integration of pathology information systems
- European Health Data Space developments
- Quality improvement and turnaround times in Histopathology services

Faculty representatives participated in national working groups and advisory groups supporting these initiatives.

Governance and Faculty Development

Governance remained a key priority during the year. The Faculty completed Board elections, welcomed new Board members, appointed a new Vice Dean and Vice Chair, and initiated a review of Standing Orders as part of the scheduled governance review cycle. The Board also reviewed committee structures, faculty representation arrangements and opportunities for broader engagement with pathology stakeholders.

The faculty continued to strengthen patient and public involvement through engagement with lay representatives and Patients for Patient Safety Ireland

Committee Membership

30 June 2025 – 1 July 2026

Name	Position
Dr Shari Srinivasan	Dean Designate and Chair of Faculty Board (Until February 2026) Dean (from February 2026)
Prof Sean Hynes	Vice Dean and Chair of Faculty Board (from February 2026)
Dr Cynthia Heffron	Director of Education and Training
Dr Joan Power	RCPI Council Representative (until October 2025)
Dr Michael Farrell	RCPI Council Representative (from October 2025)
Dr Linda Mulligan	Honorary Treasurer
Dr Helene McDermott	Faculty Board Member
Dr Anna-Rose Prior	Faculty Board Member
Prof Vincent Tormey	Faculty Board Member
Dr SORCHA NI LOINGSIGH	Faculty Board Member (until February 2026)
Prof Karina O'Connell	Faculty Board Member (until February 2026)
Dr Niamh Keane	Faculty Board Member (from February 2026)
Dr Rama Srinivasan	Faculty Board Member (From February 2026)
Dr Laura Aalto	Vice Chair (from February 2026) and Faculty Board Member
Prof Mary Keogan	Dean (until February 2026) Immediate Past Dean (from February 2026)
Mr Tiberius Pereira	Lay Member
Dr Muiris Ó Céidigh	Lay Member (until February 2026)
Dr Robyn Traynor	Trainee Representative
Prof Aurelie Fabre	RCPI Credentials Committee Representative (until February 2026)
Dr Bernie Croal	Royal College of Pathologists Representative (Observer)
Dr Alison Watt	Northern Ireland Observer (from November 2025)
Dr Gareth McKeeman	Northern Ireland Observer (until November 2025)

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

Date: 04 September 2026



Dr Shari Srinivasan, Faculty Dean