



FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Annual Report for the Annual Stated Meeting

Reported by: Brian O'Murchu on behalf of

Dr Kevin Kelleher, Faculty Dean

Date: 19 October 2026





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The faculty's 50th (1976-2026) anniversary has formed a major focus of activity during the reporting period. Planning commenced during late 2025 and culminated in a highly successful Summer Scientific Meeting in May 2026, which celebrated 50 years of the faculty.

The faculty also honoured past Deans at a Dinner hosted by the President and the Dean on the 50th Anniversary of the first meeting of the faculty. At the dinner each past dean was presented with the newly inaugurated Dean's Medal.

At the AGM in December 2025, Dr Kevin Kelleher was installed as the Dean by the outgoing Dean Professor Cecily Kelleher.

Training

The faculty continued to support Higher Specialist Training (HST) in Public Health Medicine throughout the reporting period. Recruitment to the training programme remained strong, with 9 new Specialist Registrars commencing training in July 2026 with 42 in total. Training site development continued with progress on accreditation and engagement with sites including the Department of Health, Malta and international placement opportunities.

Curriculum validation work progressed through the Core Curriculum Group, with ongoing review of assessment methods, trainer engagement, and competency documentation. Trainer workshops and site visits continued to support consistency in training delivery across accredited sites.

The Board also considered future workforce requirements, including consultant replacement rates and long-term public health workforce planning, as part of ongoing engagement with national stakeholders.

Examinations

The Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine (MFPHMI) examinations continued to be delivered successfully during the reporting period.

Part I: The examination was delivered online using remote invigilation. A sitting took place in April 2026 with nine candidates with a 78% pass rate.

Part II: Public Health Reports examinations were held in person. The faculty implemented enhanced safeguards relating to artificial intelligence and plagiarism, following approval of amended examination regulations and policies. A Task and Finish Group was established to review the Part II examination process and support future development. The June 2026 sitting achieved a pass rate of approximately 90%.

Part III: Oral Examinations of Professional Competence continued to be delivered successfully, with scheduled sittings and an additional sitting planned in September 2026 to support candidate progression. In 2025-2026 12 candidates sat the examination and 7 passed.

The faculty approved revisions to examination regulations relating to plagiarism policies and the use of artificial intelligence. The Board also endorsed an increase in the permitted number of attempts at Part III examinations from two to three.

Education and Professional Competence

The faculty's 50th anniversary formed a major focus of activity during the reporting period. The highly successful Summer Scientific Meeting in May 2026, celebrated 50 years of the faculty and included keynote presentations, scientific abstracts, trainee participation, poster sessions and historical reflections on the development of Public Health Medicine in Ireland. The Summer Scientific Meeting was considered highly successful by the Faculty Board, with strong attendance and engagement. Financially, the meeting generated a surplus of approximately €10,000.

The faculty also continued to support the Winter Scientific Meeting, study days, continuing professional development activities and educational events for trainees and Fellows. Work commenced on a potential Faculty-led Diploma in Population Health, which was referred to the Strategy Committee for further consideration.

The faculty welcomed updates on implementation of the Public Health Strategy 2025-2030 and continued engagement with national public health reform initiatives.

Awards and Recognition

The faculty continued to recognise excellence in public health research, education and innovation through its Summer and Winter Scientific Meetings. Both meetings attracted strong participation and showcased high-quality research across all domains of public health practice.

Winter Scientific Meeting 2025

Long Oral Presentations

- 1st Place: Dr Ellen Cosgrave (Dr Kevin Kelleher Medal) for *Suboptimal adherence to periconceptional folic acid supplementation in Ireland: A retrospective analysis of 66,690 pregnancies (2014-2022)*.
- 2nd Place: Dr Niamh Bambury for *Barriers to efficient patient care and safe discharge in acute hospitals at the weekend in the HSE South West*.

Short Oral Presentations

- 1st Place: Dr AnneMarie Murray for *Predictors of women's intentions towards human papilloma virus self-sampling in Ireland*.
- 2nd Place: Dr Grainne Larkin for *Decolonisation of chronic VTEC shedding with antibiotic therapy – a case series*.
- 3rd Place: Dr Sinead O'Riordan for *Evaluation of the South-East EUROCAT Registry of Congenital Anomalies 2011-2022*.

Poster Presentations

- 1st Place: Dr Aine Varley for *Economic Evaluation of Early Talk Boost: A Targeted Intervention for Preschool-Aged Children with Language Delay in Ireland*.
- 2nd Place: Sydney Harper for *Care journey mapping of children and young people with a disability in the Mid-West: an engagement study with service providers*.
- 3rd Place: Tessa O'Gorman for *Pioneering perspectives on the Age Friendly Health System 4Ms Framework: Multidisciplinary insights from three early adopter sites in Ireland*.

Summer Scientific Meeting 2026

The Summer Scientific Meeting formed a central part of the Faculty's 50th anniversary celebrations and highlighted the past, present and future of Public Health Medicine in Ireland.

Long Oral Presentations

- 1st Place and Zachary Johnson Medal: Dr Caroline Mason Mohan for *Past, present and future: The road from public health burden to elimination of cervical cancer in Ireland.*
- 2nd Place: Dr Ian Darbey for *A public health-led approach to designing a data-driven method to allocate the GP Social Deprivation Grant.*
- 3rd Place: Dr Emer Liddy for *Building the case for a national congenital anomaly surveillance system: a cross-sectional study to determine Neural Tube Defect prevalence in Ireland, 2018-2022.*

Short Oral Presentations

- 1st Place: Dr Andrea Bowe for *Early cognitive disadvantage and school outcomes at age 9: Findings from a national prospective cohort.*
- 2nd Place: Dr Rachel McNamara for *Area-level deprivation and low birth weight in the Mid-West of Ireland.*
- 3rd Place: Dr Ian Darbey for *Establishing a public health-led consistent approach to health service demand modelling to improve health planning in Ireland.*

Poster Presentations

- 1st Place: Dr Emma Kearney for *Shaping the future of alcohol and drug prevention in Ireland: Findings from a national survey.*
- 2nd Place: Dr Tomas Barry for *Starting from scratch: de novo development of a regional model of rabies post-exposure treatment in HSE Dublin and Midlands.*
- 3rd Place: Thomas Cronin for *Understanding and addressing frailty in people experiencing homelessness.*

In addition to the Summer and Winter Scientific Meeting awards, the faculty marked a number of notable achievements during the reporting period.

The Valentine Barry Perpetual Trophy, awarded in recognition of exceptional performance in the faculty examinations, was presented to Dr Ciara Carroll. The faculty also recognised Dr Ellen Cosgrave on completion of the ASPIRE Fellowship programme in January 2026.

As part of the faculty's 50th anniversary celebrations, a special bursary competition was established to explore the future of public health. Dr Alan Smith was announced as the recipient of the faculty's 50th Anniversary Bursary and will present his work at the Summer Scientific Meeting 2027.

Membership and Fellowship

The faculty celebrated the achievements of its members and trainees during a conferring ceremony held on 19 May 2026 as part of the Summer Scientific Meeting and the faculty's 50th anniversary celebrations. The ceremony saw the admission of one Honorary Fellow, 22 Fellows, eight Members and two Diplomate Members, together with the conferring of 12 Certificates of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST).

Professor John Middleton, former President of the UK Faculty of Public Health and current President of the Global Network for Academic Public Health, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of RCPI in recognition of his significant contribution to public health nationally and internationally.

The faculty also recognised individual achievement through the presentation of the Valentine Barry Perpetual Trophy to Dr Ciara Carroll for exceptional performance in the Faculty examinations. Completion of the ASPIRE Fellowship programme by Dr Ellen Cosgrave was also recognised during the ceremony.

Governance and Representation

The faculty continued implementation of governance reforms introduced following the Governance Review. The Strategy Committee became established as a standing committee and supported the development of faculty priorities and future planning.

During the reporting period the Board:

- Appointed new Faculty Officers, including a new Vice Dean, Honorary Secretary and Hon treasurer.
- Continued implementation of revised governance structures.
- Approved Faculty principles relating to commercial engagement and conflicts of interest.
- Supported national and international engagement activities, including collaboration with global health initiatives, Northern Ireland colleagues, Malta training discussions, and curriculum discussions with New Zealand.
- Participated in Medical Council quality assurance returns and ongoing accreditation activities.

Board Membership

30 June 2025 – 1 July 2026

Name	Position
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Dean and Chair
Dr Ina Kelly	Faculty Board Member (from Dec 2025) Honorary Secretary (from May 2026)
Dr Lois O'Connor	Honorary Treasurer
Prof Mairín Boland	Vice Dean
Dr Anne Sheahan	National Specialty Director
Dr Jennifer Martin	RCPI Council Representative (from October 2025)
Dr Anna Clarke	RCPI Council Representative (until October 2025)
Prof Alan Baird	Lay Member
Ms Janis Morrissey	Lay Member
Dr Howard Johnson	Faculty Board Member
Dr Fionnuala Cooney	Faculty Board Member
Prof Lourda Geoghegan	Faculty Board Member
Dr Christopher Carroll	Faculty Board Member (from Dec 2025)
Dr Keith Ian Quintyne	Faculty Board Member
Dr Paul Kavanagh	Honorary Secretary (until May 2026) Chair of Examinations
Dr Domhnall McGlacken Byrne	Trainee Representative
Prof Cecily Kelleher	Immediate Past Dean and Faculty Board Member
Prof David Weakliam	Faculty Board Member (until Dec 2025)
Dr Mai Mannix	Faculty Board Member (until Dec 2025)

On behalf of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine 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



Chair Dr Kevin Kelleher
Board of Faculty of Public Health Medicine