



INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Annual Report for the Annual Stated Meeting

Reported by: Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan,
Institute Chair
Date: 19 October 2026
Reporting period: 1/07/25 – 30/06/26





This report summarises the key activities of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Board during the reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Board and Governance

- The Institute Board met regularly during the reporting period, including meetings on 26 September 2025, 28 November 2025, 16 January 2026, 17 April 2026 and 19 June 2026.
- The Institute Executive Committee was established to meet online in advance of Board meetings and support day-to-day training and education matters.
- The Board approved moving from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for future meetings, including controlled use of Microsoft Teams and Copilot for transcription and action capture, with coordinators retaining full editorial control.
- The Board reviewed and approved a structured Crisis Communications Plan to support timely, coordinated and appropriate media responses, in liaison with RCPI Communications.
- The Board reviewed governance issues relating to incident review requests, trainee logbook access, data protection, indemnity and appropriate safeguards for clinicians undertaking external reviews.

Representation and Leadership

- Board representation was updated during the year, including the appointment of Mr Donal McKenna as Lay Representative, Dr Oladayo Oduola as Co-opted Junior Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society (JOGS) Committee member, and Dr Keelin O'Donoghue as Council Representative.
- Dr Nikhil Purandare was confirmed as Institute representative to the national Expert Advisory Group on donor-gamete assisted reproduction.
- Dr Rishi Roopnarinesingh was appointed as the Institute representative on the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (IOG) Quality Improvement Review Working Group.
- Dr Orfhlaith O'Sullivan was confirmed as the Institute representative on the RCPI Reasonable Adjustments Committee.
- Dr Cathy Burke joined the Executive Committee with a focus on Green Maternity and continued to lead sustainability work across maternity and gynaecology services.
- Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan contributed to the RCPI Leadership Forum in April 2026, which brought together clinicians, policymakers and senior health officials to explore collaboration, medical leadership, governance and workforce planning across Ireland's health system.

Advocacy, Policy, and Professional Standards

- The Institute engaged on national policy issues affecting women's healthcare, including advocacy for equal access to treatment options for stress urinary incontinence.
- Endometriosis remained a major area of public engagement, policy focus and service discussion during the year, including public reassurance on surgical training and expertise, the Spring Conference focus on diagnosis and management, and continued emphasis on patient partnerships.
- The Institute issued a public statement on 5 September 2025 reassuring women attending endometriosis services in Ireland that surgical training and expertise meets, and often exceeds, international standards.
- The Institute approved an intercollegiate Consensus Statement on the Ethical Disposal of Nitrous Oxide, developed jointly with the College of Anaesthesiologists/RCPI, with Dr Cathy Burke acting as liaison.
- The Board reviewed and supported the Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (PAG) Endometriosis Position Statement, subject to appropriate professional presentation, referencing and sign-off.
- The Institute continued Green Maternity work, linking sustainability initiatives with maternity and gynaecology services and local sustainability groups.



Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill attends IOG Spring Conference on Endometriosis

Training and Education

- Training allocation, evaluation and certification activity continued throughout the year, including confirmation of July 2025 trainee allocations and evaluations across Basic Specialist Training and Higher Specialist Training programmes.
- The Institute noted that 18 new trainees started in July 2025 and that 8 trainees completed Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) during the reporting period.
- Changes to training leadership were implemented, including demission of HST National Specialty Directors (NSDs) Dr Orfhlaith O'Sullivan and Dr Cathy Monteith, with Dr Yvonne O'Brien and Prof Shane Higgins succeeding them.
- The Board approved the Patricia Crowley E-Journal Award, with two submission rounds per year and a €250 prize, to support academic engagement and professional development among trainees.
- The Introduction to Specialist Obstetrics Training (ISOT) course was confirmed as mandatory for BST trainees, with certification requiring full attendance across both days within the same academic year.
- Curriculum and ePortfolio improvement continued, including work to simplify ePortfolio processes, blend BST/HST curricula into a clearer continuum, and support milestone mapping for trainee progression.
- Updated BST curricula, including Core Professional Skills aligned with Medical Council requirements, were approved for implementation for the 2026 academic year.

Examinations

- Membership of RCPI Obstetrics and Gynaecology examination activity continued across written and clinical examination diets in Ireland and internationally.
- The September 2025 Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) Part II written examination had 382 candidates sitting.
- The Part II written examination took place on 5 March 2026, with 322 candidates sitting and a reported pass rate of 60%.
- The first Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)/Clinical examination of 2026 took place in Dubai on 7 and 8 February 2026, with 65 candidates and a combined pass rate of 82%.
- The May 2026 Dublin clinical examination proceeded, while the planned Muscat examination was postponed due to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East.
- Examination governance and succession planning progressed, with Dr Dafalla Elamin appointed Clinical Convenor and Dr Niamh Murphy taking over as SBA/Written Convenor following the March examination diet.
- The Board noted May 2026 MRCPI examination results, including all Institute trainees passing and overall pass rates of 89% on day one and 76% on day two.

Events, Awards, and Public Engagement

- The Institute contributed to RCPI Intern Open Day on 30 August 2025, with Prof Rishi Roopnarinesingh speaking and supporting the Institute stand.
- The annual meeting between the Institute and the Junior Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society took place at No. 6 Kildare Street on 28 November 2025. The meeting included trainee research presentations, keynote talks, presentation of JOGS prizes, the Sean Boyle Award to Prof Paul Byrne, and tribute to Prof John Murphy.
- JOGS prizewinners announced on 28 November 2025 included Dr Gillian Corbett for Best Oral Presentation, Mr Gohit Tankala for Best Medical Student Presentation, Dr Abeer Fatima for the Clinch Medal, Dr Jill Mitchell for the Turner Medal, and Anthony Sheppard for Best Poster Presentation.
- The Spring Conference took place on 6 March 2026 at No. 6 Kildare Street, Dublin, and focused on endometriosis, bringing together clinicians, researchers, patient advocates and policymakers to examine evidence, service models and patient partnerships.
- The Spring Conference was opened by Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. RCPI reported that the Minister announced ringfenced 2026 funding for an additional 65 posts for endometriosis services, representing a 180% increase in the dedicated endometriosis workforce, along with €2 million in research funding available for women's health, including endometriosis projects.
- Institute Chair Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan emphasised that women deserve timely diagnosis, coordinated care and access to the highest standards of treatment, and highlighted the importance of sustained national commitment, international collaboration and embedding lived experience in future service development.
- The Institute's annual Admission Ceremony was held at No. 6 Kildare Street on 6 March 2026 during the Spring Conference. RCPI reported that 49 doctors were awarded, including two Honorary Fellows, Prof Louise Kenny and Dr Matt Hewitt; 34 Fellows of RCPI in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; 12 CSCST recipients; and one Associate Member of the Institute.
- Institute webinars continued during the reporting period, including sessions on maternal medicine, quality improvement/human factors in maternity safety, gynaecological cancer, fetal medicine and perinatal classification.
- The Institute supported plans for the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) meeting in September 2026, including observerships across maternity units and an evening reception at RCPI, linked to the launch of updated European Training Requirements in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Dublin.

International and Partnership Activity

- International fellowship activity remained strong, with updates provided on July 2026 and January 2027 intakes and potential development of further fetal medicine fellowships.
- The Institute engaged with East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECSACOG) partnership activity, including support for examination and assessment development and approval of support connected with ECSACOG participation in RCPI Part II examinations.
- The Board agreed to proceed with a ceremonial chain/medal of office for ECSACOG, with Institute acknowledgement to appear on the presentation box.
- The Board received updates on the Irish Ethiopian Partnership focused on cervical cancer elimination and agreed that this was a promising area of international engagement.
- The Board supported progression of the UFUQ (Upgrading and Future-proofing human resources for health for Universal Health Coverage and better-Quality care) Syrian Partnership in principle, subject to clear governance, project planning and role definition, with RCPI/IOG acting in an advisory capacity.

Board Membership

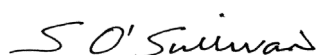
1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

The following table lists Board members who served during the reporting period and their roles where identified in the Board papers and reports.

Name	Position
Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan	Institute Chair
Prof Rishi Roopnarinesingh	Director of Training / IOG Quality Improvement Review Working Group Representative
Dr Nikhil Purandare	Board Member / Expert Advisory Group Representative
Prof Gillian Ryan	Board Member / Examiner mentor
Dr Mairead O'Riordan	Board Member
Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe	Board Member
Dr Mike O'Connell	Board Member
Dr Inez Cooke	Board Member
Dr Niamh Daly	Board Member
Dr Paula Kavanagh	Board Member
Prof Shane Higgins	Board Member / HST NSD
Dr Niamh Fee	JOGS Representative, part of reporting period
Dr Oladayo Oduola	Co-opted JOGS Committee Member
Dr Keelin O'Donoghue	Council Representative
Mr Donal McKenna	Lay Representative

Confirmation

On behalf of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Board, I confirm that the Standing Orders are up to date and that the Board has met all obligations outlined in its Standing Orders.



Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan
Institute Chair