



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT THE FACULTY AND COLLEGE

Governance

The Faculty of Paediatrics was established by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) in 1982 and functions within and as an integral part of the College.

The Standing Orders of the Faculty have stated objectives which are:

- To advance the science, art and practice of Paediatrics in Ireland. To promote education, study and research in Paediatrics for the public benefit.
- To act as an authoritative body for consultation on matters of educational or public interest concerning Paediatrics.
- To represent the specialty of Paediatrics on international, national and regional councils or committees concerned with postgraduate medical education.
- To obtain and maintain recognition for itself as the body responsible for advising on all matters concerning Paediatrics under any scheme for specialist training in Ireland provided always that any benefit obtained by Members or Fellows of the Faculty as the result of such recognition should be merely incidental to the achievement of the charitable objects of the Faculty.

The Faculty acts in an advisory capacity to key stakeholders such as Government and statutory bodies in all matters pertaining to Paediatrics, which can include sitting on committees, contributing to consultation papers and advising bodies such as the Implementation Committee for the Ferns 4 Report and the National Immunisation Committee.

The Faculty is the recognised training body for postgraduate medical training in the specialty of Paediatrics in Ireland and is responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the Membership of the Faculty of Paediatrics examinations. The Faculty has developed curricula and approved posts for training, capable of furnishing all the training experiences necessary for Senior House Officers (SHO), Registrars and Specialist Registrars (SpRs) to satisfactorily meet the requirements of the Basic Specialist (BST), Registrar and Higher Specialist Training (HST) programmes.

The Faculty has developed core competencies in the specialty that the Members and Fellows are required to maintain through Continuing Professional Development and are working with the relevant bodies to fulfil the requirements of Professional Competence as laid out in the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The Faculty of Paediatrics would like to thank its Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Collegiate Members and Associate Members.

The functions and responsibilities of the Faculty of Paediatrics are devolved within its governance structure to the Board, Specialty Training Committee and other Committees and appointed Specialists such as the National Specialty Directors and Trainers. These are in turn supported by the general management and professional services of RCPI. Consistent application and delivery of these functions and responsibilities is ensured by the reporting and accountability structure of the governance framework.

Background on RCPI

RCPI is the oldest surviving medical institution in the country, as a professional organisation for Physicians, the RCPI has been involved in the setting of and of maintaining Irish professional standards in medicine since 1692 and now includes four Faculties and an Institute, which are integral parts of the College. RCPI is Ireland's largest postgraduate medical institution and is recognised by the Irish Medical Council as the training body for 29 specialties.

From a junior doctor in their first postgraduate training post through to a senior consultant undertaking their continuing professional development, RCPI delivers a wide range of training programmes, study days, masterclasses and academic meetings to ensure the very best in-patient care.

RCPI also conducts over fifty post-graduate examinations annually in Ireland and overseas. Graduates of all medical schools on this island, and from countless overseas universities, have been achieving their MRCPI qualifications since 1879.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The faculty has had a busy and productive year, continuing its work as the national professional and training body for paediatrics in Ireland. There has been a full schedule of education, training, advocacy, and policy engagement to uphold the highest standards in child health.

This has been possible as a result of exceptional engagement nationally with paediatricians and neonatologists. "The future depends on what we do in the present" Mahatma Gandhi

I would like to outline the main Faculty of Paediatrics developments this past year.

Faculty of Paediatrics Board

The faculty board met 5 times over the past year. One of the meetings was held regionally, in June, in University Hospital Limerick where we were warmly welcomed. It was very useful to visit the RCPI office in the hospital which is ideally placed to meet the needs of trainees onsite. RCPI has committed to a similar onsite office for paediatric trainees in the new children's hospital.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the board for the advice and support I have received over the past year. The discussions, expertise and contributions from the board have strongly supported the work of the faculty.

I would like to thank those demitting from the board this year-Dr John Fitzsimons, Vice Dean-who has been a constant support with his sound advice and support, Dr Sinead Murphy, Immediate past honorary secretary, who has vast experience and expertise in education and training and Dr Ahmed Khan, Joint convenor of meetings who has been so helpful in organizing faculty educational events. One of our Lay members Mr James Doorly will also step down from the board after his extended term as a lay member. We were very appreciative of his guidance with Governance matters and his help with judging for some of our awards. We look forward to welcoming Ms Hilary Coates to the board as a lay member in October. Hilary has extensive experience in clinical and corporate governance of health and social care organizations and has previously served as head of healthcare regulation in the Health Information and Quality Authority(HIQA)

We have been fortunate to have 3 wonderful trainee representatives who have been fully committed board members bringing the vital trainee perspective. Thanks to Ruth Carey, Dee Ryan and Emily Farnan. We look forward to working with Dermot Wildes who succeeds Emily Farnan who is demitting. The future is bright!

This year Dr Ellen Crushell stepped down as National Clinical lead in Paediatrics to take up a new role as Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health-we wish her the very best in this exciting new position! Dr Michael Boyle demitted from the board as National Specialty Director and Co-Chair of the Specialist Training Committee. Michael has worked tirelessly to advance training in Paediatrics and we are very grateful for his work on behalf of the faculty.

A special welcome to our 3 new board members-Dr Shoana Quinn, Dr Wasim Asif and Dr Cathy Gibbons-elected fellow representatives who joined the board in October at the 2024 AGM.

All have contributed actively to the board and I thank them sincerely.

Faculty Elections-Dean Elect and Fellow representatives on Board

This summer saw an election in the faculty of paediatrics for the role of Dean from 2026-2029 and for fellow representatives on the board. This election highlighted several things, in particular, our faculty is very fortunate to have so many fellows of a high caliber who are committed to being part of the faculty and its structures. It was also clear from the huge number who voted that there was great interest in and engagement with the election process. How lucky are we to have 4 exceptional faculty fellows putting themselves forward for the role of Dean and 6 experienced and enthusiastic faculty fellows seeking to be elected to the faculty board.

Congratulations to Prof Michael O Neill-who will take up the role of Dean in October 2026 for a 3 year term. I would also like to congratulate Dr Cilian O Maoldomhnaigh, Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Frances Neenan who will start their terms as fellow representatives on the board after the AGM October 3rd.

Faculty Initiatives

Faculty Position Paper: Engaging in Online Activity: Prioritising and protecting the mental health of children and young people

The Faculty of Paediatrics position paper “Engaging in Online Activity: Prioritising and protecting the mental health of children and young people” was launched at the Spring conference in May.

This resulted in articles in the Irish Times and the Medical Independent increasing awareness of this issue and highlighting the faculty call to action on accountability, education and awareness.

It is intended that the paper will inform the work of the Online Health Taskforce and the recommendations to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill.

I worked to produce this position paper with Evanne O Halloran, Specialist registrar in Paediatrics, Mairead Heffron, Health policy and advocacy specialist RCPI Siobhan Creaton, Head of public affairs RCPI. The authors also wrote the editorial for the June edition of the Irish Medical Journal “Regulation and Accountability for Online Platforms to Protect the Health of Children and Young People”

<https://imj.ie/regulation-and-accountability-for-online-platforms-to-protect-the-health-of-children-and-young-people/>

I would like to thank the young people from FOROIGE for their help and for reviewing this position paper for the Faculty.

Faculty Consensus Statement: Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia in Babies

The faculty launched a consensus statement on the Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia in Babies at the Spring conference. This statement includes 15 key recommendations and was developed in collaboration with experienced medical, health and social care professionals and parent advocates. This statement is on the [RCPI website](#).

I want to take this opportunity to thank the working group for their contributions. It was so important to have the multidisciplinary expertise. Hopefully, this document will provide guidance and information for all of those who are assessing and managing newborns and infants.

I would also like to thank the Chief Clinical Officer, Dr Colm Henry, for his support and endorsement of the consensus statement.

<https://www.rcpi.ie/News/report-on-assessment-and-management-of-tongue-tie-in-infants-launched-at-faculty-of-paediatrics-conference>

Faculty of Paediatrics Children’s Research Charter 2025

The Research committee of the Faculty has created the Infants and Children’s Child Health Research Charter in collaboration with children, young people, and healthcare professionals. The Charter sets out key principles to guide anyone involved in child health research.

The Charter is designed to help children, families and caregivers, and health professionals have informed conversations about child health research. Its purpose is to support open, clear conversations between families, caregivers and healthcare professionals about child health research. It helps ensure that everyone understands what the research involves, when it takes place and why it matters.

I would like to thank the Young Peoples Advisory Group (YPAG) at Children’s Health Ireland /IN4KIDS for their invaluable help with the co-design and review of this charter.

Faculty Funding Initiative 2024-2025

A faculty funding call was sent out in April 2024 to all Paediatric Units nationally. Nine applications from Paediatric Units around the country were received. All nine were approved. The funding led to interesting events and courses throughout Ireland-for example:

1. Faculty Sponsored All-Ireland Paediatric ECG Course was held 07 April 2025. The day was sponsored by an RCPI educational bursary and €1300 was raised for congenital cardiac charities.

2. The Community Child Health/Neurodisability sub committee of the Faculty held an away day in Glasheen Lakehouse Hotel on 14 November 2024. There were presentations on hot topics in neurodisability and development of national guidelines and pathways. The afternoon was focussed on key advocacy issues and developing strategies and relationships.
3. The Faculty-sponsored Wexford Paediatric Study Day took place in Wexford in September. Organized by board member Professor Muhammed Azzam and consultant paediatrician Dr Maybelle Wallis, it was a hugely successful study day with over 100 attendees-trainees, consultants, GPs and Paediatric nurses. They were well supported by Dr Sorcha Parker and Dr Jane Coleman (trainees in Paediatrics in Wexford). There was a super lineup of speakers. It was commendable that the trainees helped with registration and organisation on the day making it a real team effort!
4. Dr Daniel Onyekwere, Consultant Paediatrician, organised a Paediatric study day for NCHD'S, consultants, paediatric nurses and midwives at University Hospital Kerry. There was a series of talks on Sepsis, Paediatric Emergencies and Resuscitation and workshops for smaller groups with engagement from clinicians and management.
5. A faculty sponsored study day exploring mental health admissions to paediatric units nationally was held in University Hospital Limerick the day before the faculty board meeting and attended by board members and paediatricians, health and social care professionals and trainees. This was organised by Prof Clodagh O Gorman, Prof Siobhan Neville and Prof Elizabeth Barrett.

Communication Strategy

The Faculty of Paediatrics regularly communicates with members and fellows to support our community throughout the year, providing regular updates, news and CPD opportunities directly to their inboxes. Engagement with these communications has remained high throughout the 2024/2025 training year. The average open rate was 60%, demonstrating a strong commitment from members and fellows to know what is going on in the faculty. For comparison the industry average open rate is 25%.

The top clicked link in ezines was the RCPI statement on global conflict, followed closely by the report of assessment and management of tongue tie in infants. Across all reports, links back to explore the faculty web pages and RCPI social media – particularly Instagram – as well as CPD conferences and events, prove popular with the community. Engagement with the faculty email communications reflects the vibrant Faculty of Paediatrics community.

On social media faculty branding – logo, colours, imagery – are well received with a number of faculty trainers and ambassadors engaging to amplify the faculty messages among their own audiences. Posts featuring trainees, members and fellows, particularly featuring photos and videos perform strongly.

Advocacy

Support to Gaza and Conflict Zones

I would like to update you all on the support being provided by us as a faculty and college to Gaza and other conflict zones. Firstly, we are all equally appalled at the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and other areas of the world. The situation for the people living in these regions is intolerable - particularly for children and of course our health care worker colleagues.

As you know, the Faculty of Paediatrics is one of six faculties and institutes in RCPI. The college advocates on these issues on a collective basis, as this is a more effective and stronger voice. Wars and conflicts and their impact on health have been mentioned at every college event including all Faculty and Institute events.

There has been a number of college statements released - more recently, Dr Diarmuid O Shea, College President, wrote to Taoiseach Micheál Martin regarding [the wars and conflict zones globally](#).

Our letter was received and supported by an Taoiseach. In his reply, the Taoiseach thanked us for our message and conveyed his appreciation to “the members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland for providing expertise and support in humanitarian medical relief.”

In a further demonstration of our commitment, RCPI Council approved a charitable donation to Médecins Sans Frontières.

As a faculty and training body, we have met and worked with Dr Trish Scanlan (CHI Global, TLM,

<https://childrennotnumbers.org/who-we-are/>) and colleagues to help reestablish paediatric training in Gaza. RCPI is making its logbooks and learning materials freely available to all doctors who are training in paediatrics. We are also providing access to webinars and educational activities.

I understand the deep concern held by all for those affected by these horrific situations, and we as a faculty, along with our colleagues across RCPI, will continue to advocate and help as much as we can.

Autism Charity Faculty Support

In December the Faculty welcomed Ireland's Autism charity (AsIAm) to No 6 Kildare St where a sensory Santa was hosted for children with autism and their families. Information on practical supports and resources was provided by the charity. This is the second year this has been hosted in RCPI and was a wonderful event for all.

Helium Arts Charity Faculty Support

Helium Arts is a national children's charity committed to improving the wellbeing of children and young people living with lifelong physical health conditions through impactful creative arts workshops and programmes. The Faculty continued its support of this impactful charity by inviting them to have a stand at the Spring conference where Helene Hugel, CEO, linked with paediatricians and increased awareness of the outreach work of this charity all over Ireland.

Funding Trainees to travel with PAIRS

The Faculty also funded 2 trainees who travelled to Tanzania with PAIRS-Paediatric Acute Intervention resuscitation skills group. The Faculty is working on establishing a trainee experience working in Tanzania and is collaborating with NDTP, RCPI, and Dr Trish Scanlan on this.

Advocacy for Improved Neonatal Care

The Faculty board further advocated for the progressing of a Level 4 NICU in the new children's hospital by writing to CHI in strong support. The Faculty wrote to the Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Program in transport Medicine to advocate for the urgent commencement of the Retro transport program for Neonates.

An Extraordinary meeting of the neonatal and paediatrics Clinical Advisory Groups was held November 11th to debate the issues and concerns re the development of a Level 4 NICU. A follow up letter was sent to the CEO of CHI following this meeting advocating for an appropriately sized and staffed NICU.

Policy engagement

RCPI Strategy 2025-2029

In June, RCPI launched its [Strategic Plan: 2025-2029](#), a detailed roadmap to enhance and maintain its position as a world-leading postgraduate medical training body. Thank you to Dr Pamela O Connor, Vice President of the College, who represented our faculty on the strategy group.

Faculty representation - Dying with Dignity Bill Response from RCPI

I represented the Faculty on the RCPI Consultation group formulating an updated response to Dying with Dignity Bill from 2020. This work was completed late 2024 and reviewed by the boards of the 6 faculties and institutes in RCPI. There is no change to the RCPI position from 2017.

Faculty Consultation on National Obesity Strategy

As part of a college wide response the faculty was consulted on the national obesity strategy. This was also circulated to members and fellows via our monthly ezine. There was a focus on childhood obesity at the Spring conference with experts from Ireland and the UK speaking and our chief medical officer Prof Mary Horgan.

RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on Climate Action

Dr Joanne Balfe and I represented the Faculty on the RCPI Climate action group. Work is ongoing to embed education on climate action into SPR curricula.

Neonatal and Paediatric Clinical Advisory Groups-(CAGs)

Over the past year the Neonatal and Paediatric CAGs reviewed, advised and approved the activities of the National Clinical program (listed under National Clinical Program for Paediatrics and Neonatology) to enable national approval for the HSE. (detailed in the reports later in the report. The 2nd edition of the Neonatal Model of Care is underway-being led on by Dr John Murphy-National Clinical Lead for Neonatology. We look forward to welcoming

the incoming National Clinical Co-leads in Paediatrics Colin Hawkes and Hilary Stokes.

Thanks to my paediatric CAG co-chair Dave Mullane, and neonatal CAG co-chairs Ann Hickey and Mathew Thomas for their significant contributions to the smooth running and efficacy of the CAGs.

Faculty Events/Engaging our Community

The Faculty maintained an active event schedule this year.

Biannual Conferences

The Autumn Conference was held October 11th - the theme was "Poverty and Progress in Child Health" focussing on clinical updates and the social determinants of child health. This year's Ralph Counahan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Laura Viani, Past president of RCSI, Consultant Otolaryngologist and Neuro-Otologist at Beaumont Hospital and CHI Temple Street entitled "Journey out of Silence". Deputy Dr Leo Varadkar, TD, Former Taoiseach, delivered a keynote address entitled "Making Ireland the Best Place in Europe to Be a Child" and Professor Sir Michael Marmot spoke on Health Inequalities in Children.

The Spring Conference was held in May "Current Challenges in Paediatrics-Shaping a Healthier Future". There was a spotlight on Clinical updates, Childhood obesity, Diagnostic excellence and protecting children engaging in online activity. Speakers included: Dr Billy White Consultant Paediatrician, Great Ormond St Hospital for Children, London/UCL, Dr Jacob Ellis, Consultant Child and Adolescent Liaison Psychiatrist · University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Donal O Shea, National Clinical lead for Obesity and Professor Mary Horgan, Chief medical Officer, Department of Health.

Faculty Webinars

Three Faculty Webinars were held this year in November, January and March "Focus on Paediatric Haematology-answering some of the "bloody questions", "Insights and Innovations in Paediatric Palliative Care" and "Paediatric Emergency Medicine Uncovered: From Trauma to Treatment".

The Faculty also co-hosted an RCPI Masterclass: "Perspectives on Navigating the Transition from Paediatric to Adult Care" in January. Dr Judith Meehan and Prof Trevor Duffy Co-chaired the event.

All the Faculty events were well attended in huge numbers by Trainees, NCHD's and consultants with excellent feedback received. Paediatric doctors in non-training posts working in paediatric units can avail of free online attendance at the Spring and Autumn faculty conferences.

Education and Training

Thank you to our busy and committed NSD'S: Dr Jean Donnelly, Dr Carol Blackburn, Dr Orla Flanagan (HST General Paediatrics), Dr Orla Franklin (HST Paediatric Cardiology), Dr Lisa Mc Carthy and Dr Brian Walsh (HST Neonates), Dr Conor Hensey (BST), Dr Juan Trujillo (BST) and Dr Edina Moylett (BST). I would like to extend particular thanks to Dr Michael Boyle, who demitted from his role in July, as NSD and co- chair of the Specialist training committee. Michael has extensive knowledge and experience in training and trainee matters and has done trojan work for the faculty in this area. Thank you to Dr Conor Hensey who also demitted from his role in July as NSD (BST) for his commitment and dedication to the BST training program.

I would also like to acknowledge Prof Michael O Neill, Director of Paediatric Education and training for the Faculty and thank him for his wisdom, insight and expertise in advancing training and education for the Faculty. Welcome to Dr Mary O Dea who is starting as NSD for HST and Dr Angharad Griffiths who commences as NSD for BST. They will be valuable additions to the team.

External Fellowships

The faculty was very fortunate that one of our paediatric trainees, Dr Susan Keogh, obtained a management fellowship with PWC. This is a very competitive process.

Doctors awarded a Certificate of Successful Completion of Training (CSCST) on completion of their Higher Specialist Training may apply for an RCPI Aspire Fellowship. Paediatrics was fortunate to obtain 6 Aspire fellowships in the 24/25 year-Dr Karen Kelleher, Dr Sarah Lewis Bryony Treston, Dr Eoin Fitzgerald, Dr Karen Mc Carthy and Dr Sadhbh Hurley.

International Fellowship Training Program (ICFP)

There are 10 international fellows in paediatrics across a range of specialties with 2 new fellows due to start in January 2026. Thanks to all of the specialties, units and their staff who have been so supportive of this program.

International Residency Program (IRTP)

This year saw 3 residents on this program graduate successfully.

NDTP Funded Project 24/25 – Three Faculty of Paediatrics Projects

1. Simulation Equipment for BST Paediatrics was upgraded in 2025.

Faculty lead: Conor Hensey

A needs analysis of paediatric procedural skills training was conducted and the course updated. Funding was secured to upgrade equipment.

The key outcome was to increase accuracy of skills training through the use of paediatric-sized mannequins, in particular for lumbar puncture and PICC line insertion.

The selection of the appropriate simulators and procurement were completed. Multi-Venous IV Training Arm Kit (PICC Line) and Paediatric Lumbar Puncture Simulator II were purchased.

2. The Development of an Educational Training Programme in Neonatology and Neonatal Intubation

Faculty lead: Eoin O Currain

The Faculty of Paediatrics secured funding for a project on The Development of an Educational Training Programme in Neonatology and Neonatal Intubation led by Eoin O'Curraín. The project work is being conducted by clinical representatives from Neonatology within the National Maternity Hospital (NMH) with support from the RCPI Workplace Education Team.

(if you want to name people Anna Curley and two SpR researchers Laura Ryan and Liz Murphy)

The 2024/25 year of this project focused on defining the training needs of neonatal registrars through needs assessments and developing a new training package for neonatal intubation including laryngoscopy, 3D printed neonatal airways, intubation feedback tool, intubation skills model.

Using this funding neonatal simulation and microsims have been developed, as well as Just in Time virtual Simulation education in Neonatology

Neonatal Mask Seal; a randomised controlled trial of two-handed versus one-handed hold for delivering positive pressure ventilation with a facemask in preterm and term infants is underway.

Several paediatricians expressed an interest in attending a course run by tertiary neonatologists on neonatal airway and ventilation management.

This research group set out to create, develop and run a hands-on course for paediatricians working in non-tertiary units on neonatal intubation, video laryngoscopy and ventilation.

The course content was developed by Drs Anna Curley, Eoin O' Curraín, Elizabeth Murphy and Laura Ryan. Administration and organisation were carried out by the research team.

3. The Faculty of Paediatrics, in collaboration with the institute of medicine was successful in securing funding for the development of an Education framework in Inclusion health.

Faculty lead: Aoibhinn Walsh

The focus of this Framework is on identifying the capabilities required by doctors to address health inequities faced by people experiencing social exclusion and to work towards achieving health outcomes equivalent to those of the general population. This Framework will outline teaching and learning goals that specify the clinical skills underpinning the delivery of effective, responsive care; it will also serve as a foundation for designing clinical fellowships, special interest pathways, curricula within National Training Programmes, and other educational resources.

This project involved significant input from the faculty, and the work produced was codesigned with patients experiencing social exclusion.

Introductory workshops for the Co-Design Partners and Inclusion Medicine Working Group were held in January 2025. Co-design tools, including guides for one-to-one semi-structured interviews and workshops, were developed in January 2025, informed by the literature review, stakeholder priorities, and initial scoping discussions with the Project Team. Interviews in February 2025 with representatives from Co-Design Partner organisations generated thematic insights, which were explored further through targeted workshops in March and April 2025. These workshops facilitated the sharing of real-world insights and experiences among community participants, enabling collaboration on Inclusion Health goals through facilitated discussion. Thematic outcomes and priority learning areas were identified through an analysis and synthesis of participant contributions. Concurrently, a workshop with the Inclusion Medicine Working Group explored clinical service priorities and needs, contributing to the development of targeted, practice-informed content for the Framework.

The Education Framework is scheduled for publication.

Exams

Thank you to Dr Eoin O Currain, Associate Dean of Examinations for Paediatrics, Dr Niamh Lynch and Dr Ngozi Oketah, our convenors, for the huge work they do in progressing the paediatric examinations and ensuring the highest academic standards in doing so.

Awards/Celebrating our Community

The past year provided wonderful opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our member and fellows:

The Kathleen Lynn Medal 2024: awarded to Professor Alf Nicholson for his outstanding contribution to child health.

- Sir Henry Marsh Medal: Dr Aoife Gallagher – “Dietary Advancement Therapy Using Milk and Egg Ladders Among Children With a History of Anaphylaxis”
- Victoria Coffey Award: Dr Eimear Kelly – “Reactogenicity, immunogenicity and breakthrough infections following heterologous or fractional second dose COVID-19 vaccination in adolescents (Com-COV3): A randomised controlled trial”
- Conor Ward Essay: Dr Laura Mannion - "A Healthy Future for All Children, Children's Health and Climate Change”
- Dr Richard Steevens Scholarship 2025: Dr Tim Hurley, Paediatric trainee, who will undertake a fellowship in the Paediatric Neurodisability with a focus on early detection of cerebral palsy at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.
- National Teaching Award in Subspecialty in the tertiary Children’s Hospitals (CHI): Dr Mike Williamson, CHI Temple st
- National Teaching Award in Neonatology in tertiary and regional centres: Dr Anna Curley, National Maternity Hospital, Holles st
- National Teaching Award in General with special interest, and Community Paediatrics (tertiary and regional centres): Dr Nick Van Der Spek, Cavan General Hospital, and Dr Muhammad Tariq, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.
- National Teaching Award in General and Community Paediatrics: Dr John Fitzsimons, CHI Temple st.

Honorary Fellowships

Following the autumn conference an admission ceremony included the awarding of honorary fellowship for Professor Laura Viani, Deputy Dr Leo Varadkar and Dr Richard O Reilly.

The ceremony also included awards of CSCST to graduates of the training program and fellowship to consultant paediatricians from all around Ireland.

And Finally-I want to thank a few people:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the staff in the faculty and the college who have helped me so much over the past 2 years with their expertise and skills in so many areas. RCPI is an incredible organization of people with so much talent and enthusiasm.

In the Faculty-John Hunt and Darragh Whelan carefully guide me through the faculty affairs -their incredible support is much appreciated and valued. Special thanks for the time and effort you put into ensuring the election ran so smoothly.

Muríosa Prendergast, Head of Operations and Sinead Lucey, Business development who are always there to advise

and support the faculty with their wealth of experience.

The incredible and energetic events team who organise events with ease and efficiency and the communication department who advertise our faculty activities so impressively. Special thanks to Niamh O Sullivan for helping with our communications strategy and to Chris McCormack for specifically looking after our Faculty comms this year.

The other Deans and Chairs and Senior management team who are so experienced, collegial and supportive.

The retired paediatricians who are always there with a wise word when I ask advice.

The healthcare leadership team.

Barry Quinlan and the finance team who guide and advise.

Maria Golden – the health and wellbeing manager.

The exams, training and education teams. Harriet Wheelock for her good humour and her support.

Audrey Houlihan CEO and Diarmuid O Shea President RCPI, who provide such strong leadership and support for the faculty and the college and to me as Dean.

Magda, Linda and the reception team for the welcome they give on arrival at the college.

I would like to thank everyone in the Faculty community around the country for agreeing to represent the faculty and participate so positively in faculty affairs.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success” Henry Ford

Dr Judith Meehan
Faculty Dean

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Faculty Board

The Board convened 5 times over the past year: 08 November 2024, 17 January 2025, 21 March 2025, 20 June 2025, and 12 September 2025.

Board Members were as follows:

Dr	Judith MEEHAN	Faculty Dean
Dr	John FITZSIMONS	Vice Dean, demitting October 2025
Prof	Clodagh O'GORMAN	Honorary Secretary
Dr	Ethel RYAN	Honorary Treasurer
Dr	Ahmed KHAN	Joint Convenor of Meetings, demitting October 2025
Dr	Muhammad AZAM	Joint Convener of Meetings
Dr	Michael BOYLE	Chair of STC, demitted July 2025
Dr	Ellen CRUSHELL	Clinical Program Lead, demitted February 2025
Prof	Hilary HOEY	RCPI Director of Professional Competence
Dr	Eoin Ó CURRAÍN	Associate Dean of Examinations
Dr	Michael O'NEILL	Director of Training & Education
Dr	Shoana QUINN	Fellow Board Member
Dr	Sinéad Murphy	Fellow Board Member, demitting October 2025
Dr	Cathy GIBBONS	Fellow Board Member
Dr	Wasim ASIF	Fellow Board Member
Dr	Basil ELNAZIR	Fellow Board Member
Dr	Íde NIC DHONNCHA	Associate Board Member
Dr	Ruth CAREY	Trainee Representative
Dr	Emily FARNAN	Trainee Representative
Dr	Deirdre RYAN	Trainee Representative
Mr	James DOORLEY	Lay Person, demitting October 2025
Mr	Aidan KENNY	Lay Person

Faculty Representation

RCPI:

- RCPI Council: Dr Pamela O'Connor
- RCPI Credentials Committee: Dr Louise Kyne and Pamela O'Connor
- RCPI Education Committee: Dr Michael O'Neill
- RCPI Examinations Committee: Dr Eoin O'Curraín
- RCPI Executive Board: Dr Judith Meehan
- RCPI Fellowship Steering Group: Dr Michael Boyle
- RCPI LTFT Training Group: Dr Jean Donnelly
- RCPI Policy Group on Alcohol: Dr Turlough Bolger
- RCPI Policy Group on Obesity, Prof Hilary Hoey

- RCPI The Child Protection Peer Review Group: Dr Louise Kyne
- RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco: Prof Dr Des Cox
- RCPI Faculty's Community Child Health (CCH)/ Neurodisability Group: Dr Nick Van der Spek and Dr Niamh Lagan
- RCPI Professional Competence Assessors: Drs Michael O'Neill and Pamela O'Connor
- RCPI Professional Policy Group on GDPR: Dr Ellen Crushell
- RCPI Recruitment & Retention Group: Dr Paul Gallagher
- RCPI Research Committee: Prof Eleanor Molloy and Prof Clodagh O Gorman
- RCPI Simulation Group: Dr Robert Kieran
- RCPI Steering Group for National QI Programme: Dr John Fitzsimons
- RCPI National Tuberculosis Advisory Group: Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh
- RCPI Trainees Committee: Dr Aun Muhammad i.ie (BST), Dr Alessandra Biagini (HST)
- RCPI Training Site Accreditation: Prof John Murphy, with Prof Michael O'Neill on the TSA Working Group
- RCPI Wellness Group: Dr Juliette Lucey
- The Medical Subcommittee of the Disability Advisory Group (DAG) to the National Clinical Programme for People with Disability (NCPPD) – Dr Jacqueline McBrien
- RCPI Clinical advisory group on smoking and e-cigarettes to influence national policy for tobacco endgame – Prof Desmond Cox
- RCPI Strategy Group - Dr Pamela O Connor
- RCPI Climate Action Group - Dr Judith Meehan

External Agencies

- All Ireland Paediatric Committee: Dr Judith Meehan Co Chair, Dr Ray Nethercott Co Chair
- BPSU Scientific Committee: Prof Susan O'Connell, ROI Rep
- Children's Palliative Care Policy Development Working Group: Dr Siobhán Gallagher
- Consultant Applications Advisory Committee: Dr Carol Blackburn
- Diabetes Federation of Ireland: Prof Hilary Hoey
- European Academy of Paediatrics: Dr Louise Kyne and Dr Martin White
- European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology: Prof Hilary Hoey
- EURYP: Drs Roy Gavin Stone & Marguerite Lawler
- Forum of Postgraduate Specialist Training Bodies: Dr Judith Meehan
- Forum Global Health Working Group: Dr Ikechukwu Okafor
- Forum Health & Wellbeing: Prof Michael O'Neill
- Forum Quality and Safety Subcommittee: Dr John Fitzsimons
- Joint Forum/ NDTP Protected Training Time Working Group: Dr Anne-Marie Murphy
- Intercollegiate Transport Medicine Liaison Committee: Dr Nuala Quinn & Prof John Murphy
- Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit: Dr Robert Cunney
- Medical sub-committee of Disability Advisory Group: Prof Denise McDonald
- National Clinical Programme for Respiratory Disease: Dr Muireann Ní Chróinín
- National Immunisation Advisory Committee: Dr Julie Lucey
- National Neonatal Transport Programme: Dr Anne Twomey
- National Office for Clinical Audit Governance Board: Dr Ellen Crushell
- National Office for Clinical Audit Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon
- National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB): Dr Emma Curtis
- NOCA Governance Board: Dr G Dempsey
- NOCA Steering Group on Paediatric Diabetes: Dr Orla Neylon
- NOCA Audit: Dr Hilary Strokes
- Royal College of Paediatrics in Child Health (RCPCH): Prof Hilary Hoey
- NOCA/NPMR Rep: Dr Alan Finan
- NIAC Faculty Rep: Dr Julie Lucey
- Hiqa/Mental Health Commission Focus group: Prof Clodagh O Gorman
- Autism Assessment and Interventions Pathway Protocol: Dr Joanne Balfe, Dr Veronica Kelly, Dr Orla

- Flanagan, Dr Niamh Lagan and Dr Íde Nic Dhonnacha
- Irish Audit of Paediatric Diabetes (IAPD) - RCPI representative: Dr Orla Neylon
- Physical Abuse Peer Review – Dr Sinead Harty

Board Composition:

3 Fellow Representative and 1 Collegiate Representative have been elected on to the Faculty Board, from October 2025 to October 2028. The Board welcomes Dr Cilian O Maoldomhnaigh, Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Frances Neenan as Fellows rep and D Nese Gadzama as Collegiate Rep. Mrs Hilary Coates will be joining the board as Lay representative. The Dean and Board thank Dr John Fitzsimons, Dr Ahmed Khan, Dr Sinéad Murphy, Dr Michael Boyle, Dr Ellen Crushell and Mr James Doorley who are demitting their roles.

New Associate members of the Faculty

The Board welcomes new two Associate Members Maeve Davlin and Lavinia Panaite.

New Fellows of the Faculty

The Board and Faculty welcomes the following Fellows to the Faculty in 2025:

- Dr Huda Al Dhanhani
- Dr Saad Ahmed
- Dr Sadhbh Hurley
- Prof Susa Benseler
- Dr Caoimhe Howard
- Dr Caroline Fox
- Dr Eva Forman
- Dr Heather Cary
- Dr Irfan Ullah
- Dr Lisa Dann
- Dr Matthew McGovern
- Dr Mojahid Hassan Elbadry Ali
- Dr Naomi Bergin
- Dr Philip Stewart
- Dr Rebecca Finnegan
- Dr Samar Almontaser
- Dr Sean Casey
- Dr Susan Harvey
- Dr Syed Rizvi
- Dr Jennifer Jones
- Dr Aisling Smith
- Dr John Allen
- Dr Elinor Jenkins
- Dr Lorrain Stallard
- Dr Claire Connellan
- Dr Doireann Pereira
- Dr Sarah Richards
- Dr Niamh Ryan
- Dr John Joyce
- Dr Leah Halpenny

New Honorary Fellows of the Faculty

The Board and Faculty welcomes Prof Anthony Costello and Prof David Walker to Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty in 2025.

Prof Clodagh O’Gorman, Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary Net Contribution for Financial Year ended 30th June 2025 Commentary

General

An overall surplus, excluding investment income, of €295,830, was achieved for the 12 months to end June 2025.

Net Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year end June 2025 was €2,759,062.

Income is classed under four broad headings, further detail in Appendix 1:

- Subscriptions and Admission Fees
- Event Fee Income and Sponsorship
- HSE Grant Income
- Miscellaneous Income

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €46,865 in 2024/2025 versus €36,365 in 2023/2024, an increase of €10,500 (28.9%) on last year.

In 2024/2025, 55% of Associate Members, 61% of Collegiate Members and 93% of Fellows paid their subscriptions. In 2023/2024, 56% of Associate Members, 53% of Collegiate Members and 82% of Fellows paid their subscriptions.

Faculty Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

Event fee income for 2024/2025 was €55,870, an increase of 64%. This is made up of €23,645 Autumn Conference, €18,725 Spring Conference, and release of deferred Europaediatrics funding dating back to 2019, €13,500.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training, costs for providing SLA activities exceeded funds received by €1,322,495, and this is reflected in the share apportioned to the faculty. Income earned from international activities contribute to the costs associate with the national training scheme.

Faculty Related Income

This relates to income generated by other areas of the business relating to the faculty. Exams posted strong returns for Paediatrics Part I & II online exams as well as the clinical exams held in Ireland and Oman, with net income €160,942 being allocated to the faculty. International trainees specialising in Paediatrics led to income apportioned of €413,558 to the faculty. Independent Courses (including iHeed), net contribution of €44,135 apportioned to the faculty.

Other Costs

This relates to costs of other areas, detailed in Appendix 1, with €48,437 allocated to the faculty as a cost.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2025 were €10,159,662 of which €32,543 were apportioned to the faculty – an increase of €1,244 when compared to 2023/2024.

Appendix 1

Income and costs are classified and allocated as follows:

Income	Basis of Allocation
Subscriptions	Per Faculty
SLA	Trainee Numbers
Exams	By Speciality/Faculty
International	International Trainee Numbers
Independent Courses iHeed	By Speciality/Faculty
Independent Courses	PCS Registrants
Faculty Courses	By Speciality/Faculty
Other Costs	
Other - Communications, Professional Competence Scheme, Specialist Division of the Register, National Quality Improvement SLA, Speciality Quality Improvement SLA, Private Income, Clinical Care, Forum, National Immunisation Advisory Committee, Medical Training Independent, Finance, Heritage, Executive Office, Equals, Research & NDTP Development	Membership/Fellowship numbers

Faculty of Paediatrics
Net Contribution Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2025

	12 Months to June 2025		
	Income	Total Costs	Net Contribution
Net Income			
Faculty Subscriptions	46,865	(7,009)	39,856
SLA	883,981	(1,080,398)	(196,417)
Exams	409,896	(248,954)	160,942
International	1,146,683	(733,125)	413,558
	2,440,560	(2,062,477)	378,083
Independent Courses (incl iHeed)	211,059	(166,923)	44,136
Income Allocation Wolveridge	4,708	(14,733)	(10,025)
Paediatrics Events & Faculty Activity	55,870	(163,653)	(107,783)
	271,637	(345,309)	(73,672)
Other Income		(48,437)	(48,437)
	0	(48,437)	(48,437)
Surplus before Investment Gain	2,759,062	(2,463,232)	295,830
Investment Income & Bank Interest Received	1,244	0	1,244
Net Surplus including Investment Gain	2,760,306	(2,463,232)	297,074

* Income earned from international activities contributes to the costs associated with the national training scheme.

NATIONAL SPECIALTY DIRECTORS' REPORTS

HST General Paediatrics

The year has been a busy one for the four HST NSDs of Dr Carol Blackburn, Prof Michael Boyle, Dr Orla Flanagan and myself Dr Jean Donnelly. We relied heavily on the exemplary co-ordination and organisational skills of our Programme Coordinator, Ms Irene Poltronieri. In addition, Dr Deirdre Ryan and Dr Emily Farnan and Dr Ruth Carey (maternity leave) have been wonderful trainee reps. They have liaised with their colleagues and fed back to us as needed and also disseminated information as needed. The OBE curriculum is on its third year on HST in July 2025 and trainees and trainers are positive about the changes.

173 trainees are registered on the HST scheme in General Paediatrics in Ireland for the 2025-26 academic year. There were 10 HST study days in the 2024/2025 academic year including one in Cork for the second year running. These were run as in person events and recordings of the study days are available to trainees who could not attend.

For the first time shortlisting was required prior to the HST interviews due to the popularity of the HST scheme and 40 candidates were interviewed over a two-day period in February 2025. 36 appointments were made with 34 first-year trainees taking up their positions in July 2025. End of year evaluations were held in May and June including penultimate evaluations. A total of 135 trainees were assessed. Interim assessments will be held again in November/December 2025. CSCSTs were awarded to 14 trainees in July 2025 and a further 5 trainees are scheduled complete the programme on or before January 2026. The recruitment process for July 2026 will open in September 2025.

Dr Jean Donnelly, National Specialty Director

HST Neonatology

Eleven trainees are registered on the HST scheme in Neonatology in Ireland for the 2025-2026 academic year. Interviews were held on 4th February 2025 and 1 new trainee was successfully appointed to the scheme. Four trainees are in full-time clinical placements, 6 are doing OCPE, in research posts, and 1 is currently on a leave of absence. There were 9 Neonatal Study Days in the 2024/2025 academic year, these were hybrid in-person and remote events. The end of year assessments were held on 19th of June. There were 2 graduates from the scheme in July 2025. One of whom has chosen to obtain further General Paediatric training in Ireland and the second is going on a leave of absence, with an overseas clinical fellowship in neonatology arranged for the following year in Australia. The recruitment process for the July 2026 intake will open in October 2025 with interviews due to be held in January/February 2025.

Prof Brian Walsh, National Specialty Director

HST Paediatric Cardiology

The HST All Island Paediatric Cardiology programme continues to successfully train SpRs both north and south of the border on the CHI@Crumlin, Dublin and The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast sites. This year we were delighted to see the first consultant appointment of the first trainee, Dr Nicola McKay who was trained on the All Island scheme. She will take up her post in the Department of Paediatric Cardiology in the Royal Victoria, Belfast in October 2025.

The strong emphasis on postgraduate education continues with two of our trainees Dr Sean Kelleher and Dr Sophie Duignan pursuing higher degrees and Dr Ross Foley relocating to Sick Kids in Toronto to complete a fellowship in Advanced Medical Imaging and Dr Niall Linnane taking up his Adult Congenital Heart Disease fellowship in UCLA. The new competency based curriculum in Paediatric Cardiology is now published. We are grateful for the help of the educational team in RCPI for their considerable assistance in the development of this new curriculum.

We are delighted to announce that our meetings with the team from the GMC has resulted in Paediatric Cardiology being recognised as eligible for RSQ (Recognition of Specialist Qualification) enrolment to the GMC. This will

considerably improve the job prospects for Irish Trainees seeking consultant employment in the UK and is of course essential for employment of our trainees in our sister site in The Royal Victoria Hospital In Belfast. I would like to acknowledge the very strong support that we had from senior faculty including the Dean of the Faculty of Paediatrics Dr Judith Meehan and Past Dean Dr Louise Kyne in this regard. Our link with the Faculty of Paediatrics has been very fruitful this year and we have benefited greatly from joint participation in training days with both the general paediatric and neonatal HST groups.

Dr Orla Franklin, National Specialty Director

BST

Trainees

There are currently 108 trainees enrolled in the paediatric BST scheme. 53 trainees are commencing year one this July, with many trainees entering having previous experience in Paediatrics either in Ireland or overseas. Interviews for BST took place via video conference in January 2025. We had a high number, and calibre of applicants and this year had to shortlist primarily due to many overseas applicants. There were 352 applications, 144 candidates were interviewed, and 68 were deemed appointable. We will have formal shortlisting criteria for the next intake that will aim to support trainees with experience in Ireland and those who wish to join the scheme directly from intern year if it is their preference.

This year we have introduced a trial of regionally based rotations in Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick with two candidates in each region assigned 2-year rotations within that region. All rotations include experience in neonatology, general paediatrics, and specialty paediatrics.

NSDs and Coordinator

Drs. Edina Moylett (Galway), and Juan Trujillo (Cork) continue as BST NSDs, Angharad Griffiths is commencing as BST NSD this year, with Conor Hensey stepping down after completing his term as BST NSD. Ms. Mairéad O’Hea is the Programme Coordinator and we would like to thank her for the high quality support she provides to trainees and the Programme. There are virtual monthly NSD meetings during the training year to review and discuss acute trainee concerns; address issues arising with the training programme; and feedback to trainees efficiently.

Training Site Inspections

Training sites are inspected as per RCPI schedule in addition to site inspections triggered by trainee feedback. Seven training sites were inspected this year with a commitment to training, and supporting trainees demonstrated during all inspections. Recommendations are made following all site inspections. This year one site had training accreditation suspended with a plan for a further inspection this year after implementation of recommended changes.

Study Days and Mandatory Courses

There were eight BST study days in the 2024/2025 academic year, these are in person events giving trainees the opportunity to meet and develop with their peers and to support each other as a network. The study days are generally very well attended. A new online BST Taught Programme with regular tutorials has been launched to support professional development of trainees and is complemented by a number of face-to-face courses.

Trainee Wellbeing and Assessment

We continue to support trainees with flexible training requirements with the support of the RCPI Health and Wellbeing Department. We have noticed an increase in trainees requiring reasonable accommodation and support secondary to health or personal issues and we expect that training schemes will need to adapt and provide greater flexibility in this context. Virtual trainee assessments took place in June, inclusive of trainer feedback and logbook/training progress review. Approximately 70% plan to apply to HST with most others taking the opportunity to travel or gain additional experience prior to HST; a small number will pursue alternative specialties, e.g., public health. We appreciate the support trainers and colleagues have provided to the BST programme, we welcome any feedback.

Dr Conor Hensey, National Specialty Director
Dr Edina Moylett, National Specialty Director
Dr Juan Trujillo, National Specialty Director

IMC APPLICATIONS TO THE SPECIALIST DIVISION OF THE REGISTER (SDR)

Applications numbers from July 2024 to July 2025

New Applications Received: 15 in total (all Paediatrics)

Written Reviews/Re-Apps Received: 10 in total

Recommendations made during this period

*Note recommendations made during period may not reflect the number of applications above as these reflect the outcomes being returned to the IMC during this period.

Initial Assessments (New applications):

Recommended – 1

Not Recommended - 12

Written Reviews

Written Reviews: Recommended – 4

Not Recommended - 5

Re-Applications

Recommended: 0

Not Recommended: 0

FORUM & IMC Review of SDR Process &SLA

It has been over 10 years since the last formal review leading to the signing of the SLAs. The Forum and IMC have agreed it is now timely to commence a review to ensure the overall quality of the process of assessment of these applications under Section 47(1)(f) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. Terms of reference have been approved and a working group established with representation from each Training body and the IMC. Dr Michael O'Neill and Ms Siobhán Kearns will represent the Faculty of Paediatrics on this group.

The following are some of the areas the review will cover:

- Review of SLA to ensure it is fit for purpose for all parties and in line with current legislation e.g. GDPR.
- Overall review of the process (what's working well, what needs improvement).
- Review areas not yet implemented from current SLA e.g. Record Management, Final RCPC outcomes being sent to PGTBs
- Review of current Guidance and proforma templates provided to applicants as part of the application pack supplied by the IMC to bring them in line with the newly implemented OBE curricula. This project will be undertaken with the RCPI Education Department and a workplan along with a timeline for same will be developed in the coming months.

Regular updates on this review will be provided to the Faculty of Paediatrics SDR Committee and Board.

SDR Assessors:

The Faculty are always happy for new members to join the panel of assessors for the assessment of applications received from the IMC. Training will be provided. If you wish to join please contact us at <mailto:sdr@RCPI.ie> Information and Guidance for Applicants along with a recording of the Webinar held in October 2022 with the IMC are available on the RCPI website [Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Website > Learn and Develop > SDR Advice \(rcpi.ie\)](https://www.rcpi.ie)

Ms Siobhán Kearns, Specialist Register Applications & IMC Accreditation, Accreditation & Improvement Projects, RCPI

EXAMINATIONS

In this past year the Paediatric Examinations Committees have focussed on content development, exam development and the national and international expansion of our clinical exam centres.

Committees:

A small, dedicated group of paediatric consultants from around the country voluntarily contribute their expertise to ensure the successful facilitation of the examination to high standards. The group is organised into two committees, each with a convenor. The work of the committees includes question writing, editing, review and approval, standard setting, corrections, and preparation for and facilitation of clinical examinations. I wish to extend my gratitude to both committees and the Convenors for their dedication and substantial commitment to the examinations.

Single best answer (SBA) committee: Dr Ngozi Osuafor (Convenor), Dr Ciara McDonnell, Dr Michael Riordan, Dr Turlough Bolger, Dr Joanne Beamish, Dr Ciara Martin, Dr Sheena Durnin, Dr Roy Gavin Stone, Dr Sarah Lewis, Dr Bridget Freyne and Dr Emer Ryan. Short answer question (SAQ)/Clinical examination committee: Dr Niamh Lynch (Convenor), Dr Cathy Gibbons, Dr Muhammad Azam, Dr Louise Kyne, Prof Naomi McCallion, Dr Juan Trujillo, Dr Madeleine Murphy, Dr Orla Walsh and welcome to Dr John Allen who joined the committee in 2025. My sincere thanks to Dr Clodagh Sweeney, who demitted from her role this year, for her dedication, help and advice.

The examinations would not be possible without the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the Examinations team (Sinead, Louise, Rachel, Virginia, Sirpa & Rebecca) and the Education team (Aisling, Keith & Maurice) who support the committees and facilitate the efficient running of the examinations.

Examination Format: Written exams are computer-based and run by remote invigilation allowing access to candidates worldwide.

Table 1. Examination Schedule

Examination	Format	Dates
MRCPI Part I Written	100 question Single Best Answer (SBA)	Held in January & April/May
MRCPI Part II Written	Paper 1: 20 Short Answer Questions (SAQ) Paper 2: 80 Question Single Best Answer (SBA)	Held in March & August
MRCPI Part II Clinical	6 clinical stations	Held in May & November

Clinical examinations: There is an agreement in place with Children's Health Ireland (CHI) to host the examinations at Tallaght Hospital twice per year in May and November. My sincere thanks to Dr Hisham Ali, Dr Louise Baker, Dr Claire Purcell and Dr Rioghnach O'Neill for their diligence and hard work as patient recruiters for the examinations. In November 2024 we successfully held the examination in Galway Croi House for the first time. The examination was coordinated by local convenor Dr Ana-louise Hawke and Dr Edina Moylett with excellent local representation for clinical examiners, with support on the day from the RCPI coordinator and the Clinical Convenor Dr Niamh Lynch. This centre ran extremely well and had very positive feedback from all involved. We plan to establish further new centres in Ireland over the coming year.

International sitting for the clinical examinations: A number of candidates each year travel to Ireland to take the clinical examination. To help to facilitate these candidates we have aimed to establish international examination centres. Our first sitting in Royal Hospital Muscat, Oman was held on 29 November 2024 where the RCPI currently run clinical examinations in General Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, who kindly agreed to facilitate the Paediatric Clinical examination. Dr Tariq Al-Farsi Consultant Paediatrician, was appointed as the local organiser. Dr Tariq had travelled to Riyadh in October 2023 to observe the Paediatric Clinical Examination. Members of the examination department and I, travelled to the centre to support the exam, complete examiner training and standard setting.

Governance: The Associate Dean of Examinations reports to the Board of the Faculty of Paediatrics and to the RCPI Examinations Committee. The RCPI Examinations Regulations, covering issues such as candidate conduct and restrictions on mobile phone use, were updated in 2023. All candidates applying to sit an exam must agree to abide by all applicable college policies and regulations. The Paediatric Examination review conducted in 2019-2020

included the creation of terms of reference for both committees as well as a blueprint for the examination process. The terms of reference were updated in 2023.

Table 2. Examination candidates and pass rate 2024/2025

Examination		Candidates	Pass Rate
Paediatrics Part I	January 2025	102	73 %
	May 2025	84	55 %
Paediatrics Part II Written	August 2024	91	74 %
	March 2025	94	81 %
Paediatrics Part II Clinical	November 2024 (Ireland)	49	78 %
	November 2024 (Oman)	11	91%
	May/June 2025 (Ireland)	81	83 %

I would like to extend my gratitude to the College for their wholehearted support, in particular to the examinations department, the examination committees and my paediatric consultant colleagues who continue to show such commitment to ensuring the ongoing success of the examinations. I would encourage all Fellows of the Faculty to contribute to the examinations process through question writing, examining or committee membership so we can continue to consolidate the strong standards set for our trainees in future years.

Is mise le meas

Dr Eoin Ó Curraín, Associate Dean of Examinations

NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR PAEDIATRICS AND NEONATOLOGY

Reporting Period: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Programme Leadership:

Clinical Lead for Children: Dr Ellen Crushell (to March 2025)

Clinical Lead for Neonatology: Prof John Murphy

Clinical Lead for Paediatric Diabetes: Prof Michael O' Grady

Chair Paediatric Clinical Advisory Group: Dr Judith Meehan, Dr David Mullane

Programme Manager: Ms Jacqueline de Lacy

Overview:

The NCP Paediatrics and Neonatology are awaiting appointment of a new Clinical lead for Children. Dr Ellen Crushell, who was Clinical Lead for Children, vacated the role in March 2025 to take up a new post in the Department of Health. The post of Clinical Lead for Children was advertised in May 2025.

CAG Meetings within Reporting Period:

September 13 th	2024	Hybrid
December 13 th	2024	Hybrid
March 7 th	2025	Hybrid
June 13 th	2025	Hybrid

Programme Progress Update:

A. Guidelines and other documents

1. National Clinical Guideline: [General Principles in the Management of Children with Diabetes Requiring Surgery \(published\)](#)
2. National Clinical Guideline: [Management of Paediatric Diabetic Ketoacidosis \(published\)](#)
3. National Clinical Guideline: [General Principles in the Management of Children with Diabetes requiring Surgery \(published\)](#)
4. National Clinical Guideline: [Management of Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Patient with a HbA1c > 75mmol/mol \(9%\) \(published\)](#)
5. National Clinical Guideline: [Care of the Child Newly Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes without DKA \(published\)](#)
6. National Clinical Guideline: Gastroschisis Management prior to transfer to surgical centre *(reviewed by P-CAG- feedback provided)*
7. National Clinical Guideline: Integrated discharge guidance for children and young people transitioning to an alternative care setting for end-of-life care *(approved by CAG and NCAGL for publication in September 2025)*
8. National Clinical Guideline: Status Epilepticus: Management in children/adolescents from 1 month to 18 years *(reviewed and approved by CAG- NCAGL review pending)*
9. National Clinical Guideline: Home Enteral Feeding of Children. [Primary Care Access and Integration.](#) *(reviewed by CAG, feedback provided)*
10. National Clinical Guideline: Neonatal Seizures. [National Women and Infants Health Programme.](#) *(reviewed by CAG, feedback provided)*
11. Management of Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Patient who did not attend (DNA), were not brought or repeatedly cancels their appointments *(for NCAGL approval)*
12. National Clinical Guideline: Treatment of XLH with Burosumab. [Access & Integration Drug Management Programme.](#) *(reviewed by CAG, feedback provided)*
13. Paediatric Assessment Unit: Guiding Principles *(for NCAGL approval)*
14. Emergency Care Plan (ECP) & Ambulance Care Directive (ACD) for children with life-limiting conditions. *(Reviewed by CAG, feedback provided).*
15. Parent Information: Safer Sleep Advice. [National Healthy Childhood Programme \(reviewed by CAG, feedback provided\).](#)

B. Models of Care

1. Model of Care for Interventional Radiology -Adults and Paediatrics. [National Clinical Programme for](#)

Interventional Radiology.

2. Second Edition Emergency Medicine Programme Model of Care. Emergency Medicine Programme
3. Second Edition MoC for Neonatal Services. National Clinical Programme Paediatrics and Neonatology & The National Women and Infants Health Programme.
4. Model of Care: General Paediatric Surgery. National Clinical Programme for Surgery.
5. A Vision for the Health and wellbeing of Children and Young People in Ireland. NCAGL, National Healthy Childhood Programme & NCP Paediatrics and Neonatology. *(Published 20th November 2024)*

Additional CAG and NCPPN activities

1. Extraordinary meeting of the Neonatal and Paediatric Clinical Advisory Groups to discuss progress of the neonatal intensive care unit in the New Childrens' Hospital
2. Establishment of an expert group for the development of a Consensus Statement: The Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia in Babies.
3. Letter of support of the expansion of the National Retro-Transfer Neonatal Programme
4. Letter to CHI regarding the establishment of PICU in the New Children's Hospital and concerns raised by CAG members
5. Publication of Consensus Statement: The Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia in Babies.
6. Review of Paediatric CAG membership in line with the Faculty of Paediatrics Governance model *(in progress)*
7. Consultation with the National Doctor's Training and Planning Programme (NDTP) regarding onerous rotas particularly in respect of Model 3 hospitals.
8. All-Ireland Paediatric ECG course sponsored and funded by the RCPI in April 2025
9. The NCPPN provided consultation and contributed to the development of the Radiology Workforce in Ireland 2024-2040: Preliminary Stakeholder Informed Review in collaboration with the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning Programme.

Clinical Advisory Group Membership

Name	Position
Dr Judith Meehan	Co-Chair
Dr David Mullane	Co-Chair
Dr Ellen Crushell	Clinical Lead for Children (to March 2025)
Prof John Murphy	Clinical Lead for Neonatology
Dr Louise Kyne	Member
Dr Aideen Byrne	Member
Dr Ann Hickey	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Mathew Thomas	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Aoife Carroll	Member
Dr Clodagh O’Gorman	Member
Dr Paula Cahill	Member
Dr Davina Healy	Member
Dr Edna Roche	Member
Dr Elizabeth Barrett	Member
Dr Ethel Ryan	Member
Dr Jacqueline McBrien	Member
Prof John Murphy	Member
Dr John Twomey	Member
Dr Karl McKeever	Member
Dr Martin White	Member
Dr Mary Devins	Member
Dr Muhammad Azam	Member
Dr Niamh McSweeney	Member

Dr Jacqueline Delacy, Clinical Lead for Children

Prof John Murphy, Clinical Lead for Neonatology

Prof Michael O’ Grady, Clinical Lead for Paediatric Diabetes

CLINICAL ADVISORY GROUPS

CAG in Paediatrics

Remit of Clinical Advisory Group in Paediatrics: The CAG is a subcommittee of the Faculty of Paediatrics and is in place to provide medical oversight for the development of National Clinical frameworks/pathways along with providing support and advice to the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology (NCPN) and the NCP for Paediatric Diabetes. The Clinical Advisory group reports to the Board of the Faculty of Paediatrics, RCPI.

Membership: All the members of CAG are medical practitioners working in child health. There are representatives from tertiary, regional and local units, primary care, Public Health, surgery, anaesthesia/critical care and also Northern Ireland. The membership is reviewed every 3 years. Rotation of membership is currently ongoing with new nominations being requested to replace those finishing their terms.

Co-Chairs: Dr Judith Meehan and Dr Dave Mullane

Meetings of CAG: The CAG convened hybrid meetings on: 13/09/24, 13/12/24, 07/03/25 and 13/06/25.

CAG Activity:

Over the past year the Paediatric CAG reviewed, advised and approved the activities of the National Clinical program (listed under National Clinical Program for Paediatrics and Neonatology) to enable national approval for the HSE.

Guidelines and other documents

1. National Clinical Guideline: [General Principles in the Management of Children with Diabetes Requiring Surgery \(published\)](#)
2. National Clinical Guideline: [Management of Paediatric Diabetic Ketoacidosis \(published\)](#)
3. National Clinical Guideline: [General Principles in the Management of Children with Diabetes requiring Surgery \(published\)](#)
4. National Clinical Guideline: [Management of Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Patient with a HbA1c > 75mmol/mol \(9%\) \(published\)](#)
5. National Clinical Guideline: [Care of the Child Newly Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes without DKA \(published\)](#)
6. National Clinical Guideline: Gastroschisis Management prior to transfer to surgical centre (*reviewed by P-CAG- feedback provided*)
7. National Clinical Guideline: Integrated discharge guidance for children and young people transitioning to an alternative care setting for end-of-life care (*approved by CAG and NCAGL for publication in September 2025*)
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9. National Clinical Guideline: Home Enteral Feeding of Children. Primary Care Access and Integration. (*reviewed by CAG, feedback provided*)
10. National Clinical Guideline: Neonatal Seizures. National Women and Infants Health Programme. (*reviewed by CAG, feedback provided*)
11. Management of Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Patient who did not attend (DNA), were not brought or repeatedly cancels their appointments (*for NCAGL approval*)
12. National Clinical Guideline: Treatment of XLH with Burosumab. Access & Integration Drug Management Programme. (*reviewed by CAG, feedback provided*)
13. Paediatric Assessment Unit: Guiding Principles (*for NCAGL approval*)
14. Emergency Care Plan (ECP) & Ambulance Care Directive (ACD) for children with life-limiting conditions. (*Reviewed by CAG, feedback provided*).
15. Parent Information: Safer Sleep Advice. National Healthy Childhood Programme (*reviewed by CAG, feedback provided*).
- 16. Models of Care**
 1. Model of Care for Interventional Radiology -Adults and Paediatrics. National Clinical Programme for Interventional Radiology.
 2. Second Edition Emergency Medicine Programme Model of Care. Emergency Medicine Programme

3. Second Edition MoC for Neonatal Services. National Clinical Programme Paediatrics and Neonatology & The National Women and Infants Health Programme.
4. Model of Care: General Paediatric Surgery. National Clinical Programme for Surgery.
5. A Vision for the Health and wellbeing of Children and Young People in Ireland. NCAGL, National Healthy Childhood Programme & NCP Paediatrics and Neonatology. *(Published 20th November 2024)*

Additional CAG activities

1. Extraordinary meeting of the Neonatal and Paediatric Clinical Advisory Groups to discuss progress of the neonatal intensive care unit in the New Children's Hospital
2. Establishment of an expert group for the development of a Consensus Statement: The Assessment and Management of Ankyloglossia in Babies. Consensus statement recently published.
3. Letter of support of the expansion of the National Retro-Transfer Neonatal Programme
4. Letter to CHI regarding the establishment of PICU in the New Children's Hospital and concerns raised by CAG members
5. Review of Paediatric CAG membership in line with the Faculty of Paediatrics Governance model *(in progress)*
6. Consultation with the National Doctor's Training Programme (NDTP) in relation to onerous rotas particularly in Model 3 hospitals.
7. All-Ireland Paediatric ECG course sponsored and funded by the RCPI in April 2025

Clinical Advisory Group Membership:

Name	Position
Dr Judith Meehan	Co-Chair
Dr David Mullane	Co-Chair
Dr Ellen Crushell	Clinical Lead for Children (to March 2025)
Prof John Murphy	Clinical Lead for Neonatology
Dr Louise Kyne	Member
Dr Aideen Byrne	Member
Dr Ann Hickey	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Mathew Thomas	Co-Chair Neonatal CAG
Dr Aoife Carroll	Member
Dr Clodagh O'Gorman	Member
Dr Paula Cahill	Member
Dr Davina Healy	Member
Dr Edna Roche	Member
Dr Elizabeth Barrett	Member
Dr Ethel Ryan	Member
Dr Jacqueline McBrien	Member
Dr John Twomey	Member
Dr Karl McKeever	Member
Dr Martin White	Member
Dr Mary Devins	Member
Dr Muhammad Azam	Member
Dr Niamh McSweeney	Member

Finally, thank you to Jacqueline De Lacy, Programme manager, National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics & Neonatology and Paediatric Diabetes. and Sandra Cavanagh for their ongoing support of the CAG in Paediatrics

Dr Judith Meehan Co-Chair

Dr Dave Mullane Co-Chair

Neonatal Clinical Advisory Group (NCAG)

Dates of meetings: 1st September 2024, December 12th 2024, 06th March 2025, 3rd July 2025

There were 2 other meetings of the group:

- An extraordinary meeting of the Neonatal and paediatric CAGs was held on November 11th 2024 with the single item agenda of the CHI NICU
- A special purpose meeting was held on May 20th 2025 to discuss the pending 2nd edition of the Neonatal Model of Care

The NCAG group met six times during the year continuing their remit to ensure structured and formal professional involvement in and support for the programmes being developed in neonatology. The group determines and inputs into the development of the clinical management guidelines under the governance structure of the Clinical Care Programmes developed between the HSE and faculty of paediatrics at RCPI. Meetings included representation from the 19 maternity hospitals and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) neonatal services.

Co-chairs: Dr Ann Hickey and Dr Mathew Thomas
Clinical Programme lead: Professor John Murphy

A wide variety of topics were brought to the group for discussion and support including the following:

- **The Model of Care for Neonatal Services in Ireland 2025:**

The second edition of the model of care for neonatal services is now at an advanced stage. A second draft of the document has been circulated and received wide interest with a large volume of replies. A special purpose meeting of the neonatal CAG was held on the 20th May to discuss the document that was attended by 26 consultants (9 in person and 17 on zoom). The key issues for neonatology were discussed including the volume of work, acuity, designation of neonatal units, data ascertainment and analysis, the advent of the NICU at CHI, the neonatal workforce, and the skill mix across the spectrum medical, nursing, and HSCP care. A further final draft is being prepared. It is expected that the document will be finalised by the end of 2025.

- **Threshold of Fetal Viability**

A review of the perinatal management of extreme preterm birth at the threshold of viability 22⁺⁰ to 23⁺⁶ weeks by an advisory committee commenced in June '24. Representatives from the neonatal CAG, NWIHP including obstetrics and midwifery have participated in the review. The current consensus statement from 2020 set the threshold at 23 weeks gestation. One of the issues that the latest review is considering whether the threshold should be further lowered to 22 weeks gestation. The final draft is currently under review and will then be presented to the NCAG.

- **Level 4 NICU at CHI**

A Level 4 NICU for the new children's hospital has been given the go-ahead. A steering committee and operations group have been established to implement the project. It will consist 12 NICU, 6 HDU, and 16 ward cots. It will receive referrals from all 19 maternity hospitals. The case mix will include neonatal general surgery, neurosurgery, urology, ENT, orthopaedics and a wide range of medical subspecialties. Following an extraordinary meeting of the CAGs in November 2024, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Judith Meehan wrote to the CHI executive and HSE representatives to support this development

- **Sudden Unexpected Postnatal Collapse:**

A SOP on sudden unexpected postnatal collapse (SUPC) was developed and circulated to the midwifery and neonatal staff across all 19 maternity hospitals. There are 4 cases annually. The importance of correct positioning of the infant during skin-to-skin care is emphasised. An accompanying teaching video is being developed.

- **DDH (developmental dysplasia of the hip) in Ireland.**

On May 10, 2024, HIQA published its health service technology report on 'Evidence review of universal ultrasound screening for DDH (developmental dysplasia of the hip) in Ireland. It did not recommend the introduction of universal hip ultrasound screening. The reasons were a) the high rate of spontaneous resolution of hip instability b) over-diagnosis leading to the potential complications of unnecessary treatment. The plan is to continue with

selective hip ultrasound screening of infants with the risk factors- breech birth or positive family history. In future developments it is planned to bring further standardisation for case finding and hip ultrasound surveillance.

- **Nirsevimab Immunisation in the Prevention of Respiratory Virus Infection**

A major body of work for the HSE and NWIHP, supported by the national clinical programmes and CAGs was the introduction and implementation of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) immunisation (Nirsevimab) Pathfinder Programme. Nirsevimab is a monoclonal antibody which is highly effective in the prevention of RSV bronchiolitis in young infants. It is long acting and one dose protects the infant throughout the winter months. In order to achieve maximum benefit from Nirsevimab it needs to be given shortly after birth when infants are most vulnerable. The decision was made to administer Nirsevimab to all newborn infants born between September 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025, before they were discharged from the maternity hospital. The immunisation was administered by midwives. The uptake has been high at 83%. In the '24/'25 winter compared with the '23/'24 winter, there were a significant reduction in RSV cases – hospitalisations 77.5%, ICU admissions 70.8%, ED presentations 60.3%, NNTP retrievals 85%, IPATS 73%. The Pathfinder 2 programme for the winter '25/'26 is being expanded and will include the maternity administration of RSV and a catch-up provision for infants under 6 months on September 1, '25.

- **The National Neonatal Transport Programme (NNTP)**

NNTP undertook 545 acute retrievals in 2024. It has now been in existence for 23 years. The NNTP team is mobilised within 40 mins and the average time taken to complete a transport is 5 hours 19 mins. Sixty per cent of transports are by day and 40% by night.

In addition, a new repatriation service (bidirectional flow) for the transport of infants from the tertiary centres back to their local hospitals went into operation in May '25. It is a 5 day service, Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. It is already very successful and is undertaking at least 1 transport daily. The other major future issue is to increase the availability of air transports for time critical transports. Currently only 2% of transports are by air.

- **ROP Screening**

The national ROP screening criteria are being changed in line with the UK 2022 guideline and were ratified by the CAG. It is proposed all preterm infants less than 31⁺⁶ weeks be screened for ROP. The national ROP (retinopathy of prematurity) co-ordinator is now well established in her role.

In 2023, 1230 infants were screened for ROP. Of the infants screened, each infant will have an average of 3.5 screens during the screening process (more if ROP is detected).

There are 21 centres who screen for the ROP (19 maternity hospitals, CHI Temple Street & Crumlin). Twelve centres have an onsite specialist paediatric ophthalmology service. The other nine centres have to transport their infants for ROP screening centres.

- **CMV Testing When an Infant Doesn't Pass the Newborn Hearing Screening Test**

CMV testing of infants with a failed newborn hearing screening test is now live across all 19 maternity hospitals. The programme is based on the fact that some cases of congenital deafness are due to antenatal CMV infection. If an infant is CMV positive they are referred to paediatric infectious disease department for a course of anti-viral treatment in order to reduce the ultimate hearing loss. In 2024, 275 were referred for urine CMV testing. Five infants were identified and have received antiviral treatment.

- **The New Patient Safety Act and Notifiable Incidents**

The patient safety act (notifiable incidents and open disclosure) came into effect from September 26, 2024. It mandates the disclosure of certain serious adverse events that result in unanticipated and unintended death. The clinical programme has provided advice and input into the National Open Disclosure Team, QRS Incident Office.

In the case of perinatal deaths, the reporting is confined to infants > 37 weeks gestation and/or >2.5 Kg. In addition, all infants with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy requiring therapeutic hypothermia must be reported, including those who are not cooled. The notification is made by the hospital through NIMS (national incident management system). This platform informs HIQA. Also, the practitioner must inform the families around the sequence of medical events in relation to the case. Discussions at CAG have highlighted the specific challenges for neonatology in implementing the new act.

- **Guidelines** Guidelines on neonatal seizures, pulse oximetry screening, and tongue-tie have been completed.

- **T21 Catch up Screening** A programme of 'catch up screening for infants who missed karyotype testing in COVID was approved by CAG and successfully delivered from CHI over the last year.
- **Obstetric Event Support Team** During '24 the OEST (obstetric event support team) reviews all cases of neonatal encephalopathy requiring therapeutic hypothermia. The team consists of the risk manager, obstetrician, midwife, and neonatologist. During '24 the team made approximately 30 on-site maternity hospital visits. The overall purpose of the project is identify the learning points that can be applied both for the index hospital and also nationally.

- **The Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia Reports**

The Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia in Ireland reports. The data for 2021, 2022, 2023 is now nearing completion. A composite 3 year report will be published.

- **The Folic Acid Fortification of Flour**

The Department of Health has established a committee to examine the folic acid fortification of flour for the prevention neural tube defects which the NCAG support. The committee is currently finalising its deliberations which will be published in the near future. The UK is commencing folic acid fortification this autumn.

- **Transfer Pathway from the Neonatal Services to CDNT (community disability network services).**

The pathways for the follow-up assessment and implementation of services for newborn infants at high risk of neurodevelopmental delay and cerebral palsy are both unclear and underdeveloped. In particular when they should be transferred to and come under the care of consultant paediatricians S/I disability and their therapists. A working party group has been established develop the optimal pathways.

- **Training programme** The low number of consultants in post to mentor and train in some centres is impacting NCHD training numbers. Work with NDTP is ongoing to map future training and consultant numbers. The new CHI neonatal service will create a significant demand on training posts and overall neonatal consultant requirements nationally.
- **Neonatal Nursing** The group raised concerns about the shortage of trained neonatal nurses nationally, likely to be further impacted by the new CHI neonatal service. Neonatal nurse tutors posts funded by NMIHP were appointed at both the Coombe and Cork University Maternity Hospital. These posts will further develop the access to the foundation and the postgraduate diploma in neonatal intensive care nursing. The centre of midwifery education CUMH have advertised for QQI accredited programme certificate in neonatal high dependency and special care (level 8).

Dr Ann Hickey Co-Chair

Dr Mathew Thomas Co-Chair

BRITISH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT (BPSU)

About the BPSU

The BPSU is a world-leading centre for rare paediatric disease surveillance. By collecting reports from clinicians across the UK and Republic of Ireland, it provides vital evidence on how many children are affected by rare diseases, conditions or treatments each year, helping to shape research, policy and clinical care.

The BPSU was founded in 1986. Its partners are the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), University College London Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and the Department of Health and Social Care. Participation of paediatricians in Ireland in the BPSU is supported by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) Faculty of Paediatrics, in collaboration with the Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit (IPSU), led by Dr Robert Cunney. Until recently, Professor Susan O'Connell represented Ireland on the BPSU Scientific Committee, and we would like to thank her for her excellent contribution over many years. We are now seeking a new representative from the Republic of Ireland to join the Committee – interested clinicians are warmly encouraged to get in touch.

How does the BPSU surveillance system work?

All BPSU studies are led by investigators with ethical approval from the relevant research committee. Through the BPSU's central reporting platform, clinicians can notify new cases of rare conditions quickly and securely. Investigators then gather further details via a short confidential questionnaire, designed in line with data protection requirements. This system ensures wide participation from paediatricians across the UK and Ireland, resulting in robust case data and reliable estimates of disease incidence.

What has the BPSU achieved?

The BPSU has now facilitated research into over 100 rare conditions. Findings have had a significant impact on clinical practice and policy for many conditions, and the BPSU continues to provide a rapid and effective surveillance system for new and emerging situations. In 2025, the BPSU supported the RCPCH Annual Conference through the creation of the Rare Disease Hub. This space, which showcased a wide range of presentations including our own, successfully brought rare disease research to the forefront of delegates' minds and strengthened awareness of the role of rare disease surveillance. The BPSU is also supporting its bursary winners in delivering their research studies, and working through a strong pipeline of phase 1 and phase 2 applications ready for surveillance launch in the coming year.

Irish participation in the BPSU

We are delighted to report a significant improvement in Irish participation over the past year. The response rate has now reached around **81%**, thanks to increased sign-ups, a review of consultant contact details, and improved engagement across the paediatric community. We would like to thank all Irish clinicians who have contributed to this success.

The data collected from Irish consultant paediatricians are central to the BPSU's methodology and ensure our publications reflect both UK and Irish incidence rates. These studies positively impact patient care, training and research. Irish trainees are also encouraged to apply for the Sir Peter Tizard Bursary to lead a rare disease study. Applications for this bursary are welcome until the deadline 20th October 2025.

If you are a practising paediatrician or neonatologist in Ireland, please sign up to the BPSU or update your contact details at: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/form/bpsu-sign-up-ereporting>. Monthly reporting cards are received electronically and do not add significant workload. For further information, please email: bpsu@rcpch.ac.uk <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/british-paediatric-surveillance-unit>

Prof Susan O'Connell, BPSU ROI Representative

RETIRED PAEDIATRICIANS GROUP

The Retired Paediatric group (RPG) met twice over the past 12 months. The first gathering was held last October in The College of Physicians and there were two main speakers. Dr. Bob FitzSimons presented a paper entitled "The Health and and well being of Jonathon Swift and Esther Johnson" which was both informative and entertaining. The second presentation was given by Dr. Trish Scanlon entitled "Israel and Gaza - 12 months of Hell and and Irish Health care workers response workers". This presentation was also very informative but very disturbing rather than entertaining. The discussion that followed both talks was so animated and enduring that the rest of the agenda that involved Faculty and RPG issues was abandoned due to time constraints.

The RPG annual away gathering was in The Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on May 21st this year when Dr. Kevin Connelly told us about his many visits working in Africa. His talk was entitled "What I think about when I think about Africa" . He certainly made us think about Africa, her children and the challenges for both the resident and visiting health care personnel who work there. He was followed by Dr. Marie Hanlon who has returned relatively recently from England having worked in the NHS as a consultant paediatrician for many years. Her talk entitled "John Major's NHS legacy" stimulated much discussion particularly from those who worked in the U.K. during the last decade of the last millennium and have watched how the N.H.S. has developed since that period.

In April of this year members of the R.P.G.organising committee met with Dr Judith Meehan, The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Trevor Duffy and Fiona McKenna from The Academy of R.C.P.I. primarily to explore how paediatricians could contribute to the Faculty after they had retired from clinical practice. Among other activities considered were the mentoring newly appointed consultants, short term filling of consultant post vacancies that awaited permanent appointees, teaching of clinical skills to paediatric trainees and overseas work with various agencies. Members The Faculty should be made aware of ways they can contribute to The Faculty after they retire if they wish to and should inform The Faculty office when they retire so that their names can be added to the RPG list. This would ensure they are kept informed about the various activities they may wish to consider becoming involved with. Some of these rolls may require C.M.E. accreditation but this has become much more accessible through the availability 'online' of many CME approved educational meetings. It was also suggested that a contemporary summary of RPG activities be made available to retirees through The Faculty.

The next meeting of the RPG is scheduled to occur on November 7th, 2025.

Dr Terry Bate, RPG Convenor

Education

CORE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

In the 2024-25 college year, RCPI convened a working group consisting of clinical leads from all faculties and institutes to review and design an updated Core Professional Skills framework that reflects the standards of practice and professionalism established by all RCPI specialties, aligns with current best practices and guidance, and responds to evolving healthcare needs.

The revised version is structured according to the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice (Irish Medical Council, 2024), with domain-specific overviews and action-oriented outcome sets. This change is intended to enhance clarity, traceability, and alignment with assessment practices. Each faculty and institute will be afforded the opportunity to provide specialty specific feedback and lay representative feedback will be sought to ensure all key stakeholders have contributed to the process. The revised version will be completed in the 2025-26 college year with publication set for July 2026.

OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION (OBE)

The OBE development process for all curricula within the Faculty of Paediatrics concluded with HST Neonatology and HST Paediatric Cardiology going live in July 2024. The RCPI Education team have developed several resources for trainers to access via the Trainer Hub, all of which provide guidance on how to support your trainee using OBE. The Education team supported by the specialty coordinator have provided implementation sessions online/in-person to facilitate the uptake of OBE. Considering the paradigm shift that OBE is, the successful implementation of this concept will be an iterative process and require ongoing support for several years to come.

IRISH CLINICIAN EDUCATION TRACK (ICET)

In the 2024-25 college year, RCPI completed its first pilot of a new Irish Clinician Education Track (ICET) through Higher Specialist Training. This innovative programme, appealing to Trainees seeking professional development as clinical educators, provides to doctors on a HST programme funding towards two years of out-of-clinical-programme experience (OCPE), wherein they'll be involved in supervised teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Two Trainees who participated in the ICET pilot 2023-24 training year: Dr Karen Dennehy (HST Geriatric Medicine) and Dr Clare Kennedy (HST Obstetrics & Gynaecology) have since graduated.

The RCPI will be actively seeking opportunities to expand the programme across all faculties and institutes within RCPI to facilitate the development of the next generation of clinical educators.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PAEDIATRICS

The Professional Diploma in Paediatrics continues to perform well. Across 4 intakes in the Academic 2024-25, 288 learners were enrolled from more than 20 countries. The programme was first developed in 2020, and is subject to ongoing development to ensure it remains up to date and relevant. In 2024/25, additional materials have been provided for fluid management and sleep topics, and additional content is being developed around the care of adolescents. Likewise, oversight of assessment is rigorous and reviews have continued to adapt communication skills exercises and assessment rubrics and provide additional exemplars to learners.

Health and Wellbeing

Our health and wellbeing service is a key support for those trainees who are experiencing challenges or difficulties or just need a little support during their training programmes. Apart from supporting individual doctors, this office is very proactive with various initiatives and projects related to health and wellbeing and improvement of the training experience overall. It is also supporting a number of trainers in challenges they may have or supporting them with trainees.

In supporting trainees via a number of pathways (e.g. reasonable accommodation), we deliver an infrastructure to back up trainees and those who support them (e.g. NSDs, RPDs, Deans, Directors of Education and Training, RCPI

staff). The Department also ensures that there is excellent communication transfer between the RCPI, hospital sites, the HSE NCHD Hub (this sits under the Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit) and the HSE National Doctors Training Programme to ensure that supports are maintained throughout the individual's training programme. Appropriate referrals for additional care are advised to the HSE as the employer.

This year a number of trainees from the Faculty of Paediatrics reached out to the health and wellbeing department and we were able to work with them in a number of different ways. We also have a number of paediatrics trainees sit on the health and wellbeing trainee committee and the lead for the inaugural wellbeing day was a paediatric trainee.

The health and wellbeing department are always looking for ways to support trainees, trainers and improve the training programmes overall, so if anyone has any ideas or would like support on their own initiatives, please do reach out to wellbeing@rcpi.ie

[Dr Diarmuid Breathnach, Head of Education](#)

Healthcare Leadership

Dr Trevor Duffy, Head of Healthcare Leadership

Overview

Clinical leadership is at the heart of the college's mission to advance healthcare. We are committed to supporting our members and fellows throughout every stage of their careers, offering meaningful opportunities to engage with the College and shape the future of medicine. Through dedicated leadership forums, and a strong professional network, RCPI empowers physicians to lead with confidence, drive innovation, and influence positive change across the healthcare system.

RCPI provides healthcare leadership broadly through advocacy, influence, expertise and support. In partnership with a range of stakeholders, RCPI actively leads via the National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes and National Clinical Programmes. The Healthcare Leadership function aims to strengthen formal leadership education in addition to supporting doctors in their day-to-day roles as leaders, while equipping doctors with the skills to become future leaders. RCPI strives to enhance its established leadership role with a strategic approach to advocacy.

Healthcare Leadership Initiatives

Regional Engagement

In January and February 2025, Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, President of RCPI, Audrey Houlihan, CEO, and Professor Trevor Duffy, Director of Healthcare Leadership, along with other College officers and staff, visited Tipperary University Hospital, Wexford General Hospital, and University Hospital Limerick. During these visits, the RCPI delegation engaged with trainees, trainers, consultants, and NCHDs to better understand the current challenges facing medical teams across the country. The discussions focused on identifying opportunities to strengthen medical training and service delivery, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality and structure of postgraduate training.

Leadership Forum

The RCPI Leadership Forum was established in 2024 with three core objectives.

- To educate and empower leaders by developing new leadership courses for members.
- To provide leadership support and strengthen understanding of governance for those in key roles, including Clinical Leads and Clinical Advisory Group Chairs.
- To build a connected community of members interested in contributing to the work of the college.

Engagement during the year was strong, with 35 Clinical Leads and CAG Chairs actively participating in forum meetings. This year will see enhanced communication and collaboration within this leadership group through networking events, seminars, and targeted training to support them in their roles.

Mentorship Programme

Mentorship for early-stage consultants was piloted in 23-2024, the second phase of the mentorship programme commenced with an additional eleven retired doctors trained as mentors this year. Twenty-five early-stage consultants from all regions sought to participate in this phase. Feedback from the first cohort of mentors and mentees was very positive and provided valuable insights on the considerable benefits of mentorship to new consultants, which has further informed the programme.

RCPI Academy for retired doctors

The Academy, established in 2023, is a unique opportunity for retired members and fellows to share their expertise and stay connected with the college. During St Luke's Symposium in 2024, RCPI hosted a social event for academy members, many of whom now contribute greatly to the college through their involvement in mentorship, examinations, CPD audits, representation on committees and heritage projects. To date, twenty retired members have participated in mentorship training to support early-stage consultants.

Advocacy

RCPI regularly contributes to health policy and legislation through expert input, public consultations, and media engagement. It raises awareness among members via events and educational masterclasses. RCPI is part of several alliances, including the Alcohol Health Alliance, Health Promotion Alliance, Tobacco 21 Alliance, and Climate and

Health Alliance.

Details of lobbying activities undertaken by RCPI are available at www.lobbying.ie

Engaging in Online Activity: Prioritising and protecting the physical and mental health of children and young people

In May 2025 at its Spring Conference, the Faculty of Paediatrics launched a position paper on the impact of online activity on young people's wellbeing. It called for ethical platform design, restrictions on harmful content, and accountability from online platforms. It is intended that the paper will inform the work of the Online Health Taskforce and the recommendations to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. The paper was published online and covered in the Irish Medical Independent and in an Editorial in the IMJ.

Priorities for Health for the Next Government

RCPI's 2024 manifesto, developed with its Faculties and Members, outlined key health priorities for the next Government. These include increasing healthcare capacity in both community and hospital settings; keeping people and the planet well; public health legislation to reduce harms from tobacco, vaping, and alcohol; addressing health inequalities; and additional resources for services meeting needs of children with disability. The manifesto also called for scrutiny of corporate influence in health policymaking.

Advocacy Achievement- passing of Tobacco 21 Legislation

In Nov 2024, the Public Health (Tobacco) (Amendment) Act 2024 was passed into law, raising the legal age of sale of tobacco to 21 years. This was a major advocacy achievement for RCPI, following years of work via the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco (now reconstituted as the RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on Smoking and E-Cigarettes) and as an instrumental partner in the Tobacco 21 Alliance. Prof Des Cox, of the Faculty of Paediatrics was chair of this group for many years and led much of RCPI's advocacy for this legislation.

Healthcare Sustainability and Climate Action

A Clinical Advisory Group on Climate and Health was formed in 2024 to implement RCPI's 2023 position paper. This group has advised internally on integration of healthcare sustainability into core professional skills, simulation opportunities, and is working on speciality specific curricula recommendations for healthcare sustainability. With the Irish Climate and Health Alliance RCPI is also supporting a position paper on Active Travel and has contributed to their manifesto.

Consultation Submissions

In 2024/25, RCPI made submissions on social inclusion, procurement, climate strategy, transport, tobacco legislation, and rare diseases. These reflect its commitment to shaping health policy across sectors.

Prebudget Submission

In August 2025, RCPI released its pre-budget submission, calling for investment in health services, expanding workforce capacity, consultant posts, hospital beds, and community care. It calls for improved disability services for children, support for transition from adult to paediatric care, chronic disease programmes, and universal occupational health access. Additional budget priorities include climate action, digital health, fiscal measures to reduce tobacco use and alcohol harm.

Masterclasses – raising awareness and building advocacy capacity

RCPI hosted several masterclasses in 2024/25 to engage members on advocacy topics. These included sessions on paediatric-to-adult care transition, healthcare sustainability, cannabis and health, and the Coroner's Court. A paper from the January masterclass (paediatric-to-adult care transition) will be published in Q3 2025.

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

At present there are four National Quality Improvement (NSQI) Programmes managed by RCPI: Histopathology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Radiology and Bronchoscopy. Three of the programmes are funded by the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety while Bronchoscopy is funded by the HSE and the NCCP.

The programmes continue to strengthen their role in advancing quality of patient care across the Irish healthcare system, by facilitating and supporting the use of evidence-based quality improvement in diagnosis and reporting. During the NSQI Annual Conference, which took place in November 2024, three national data reports in GI Endoscopy, Histopathology, and Radiology were presented, along with the official launch of the first Summary

Reports. These new reports, developed with patient and public representatives, aim to make findings more accessible and support broader engagement across clinical and non-clinical audiences. The Programmes have continued assigning owners to key recommendations based on data findings, with the view that this approach will facilitate the development, execution, and monitoring of appropriate implementation plans.

National Bronchoscopy Quality Improvement (NBQI) Programme

The National Bronchoscopy QI Programme finalised five key quality areas and set national targets for sedation, comfort, and complication rates across adult bronchoscopy, EBUS, and combined procedures. The working group are focusing on a first round of target setting for KQIs using local clinical audit findings, national and international best practice, and clinical expertise as guidance. A network of local QI clinical leads has been established, with 24 out of a possible total of 27 respiratory consultants on board to date. This network is key in ensuring the programme can be run locally. The NBQI Programme plays key role in reviewing the bronchoscopy module in the new uniform endoscopy reporting system (ERS), Solus to ensure it will meet the day-to-day needs of respiratory teams. The development of a data collection tool, which will enable participating hospitals to collect and upload data to a national dataset, is also underway.

National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement (NEQI) Programme

The 9th national data report launched at the NSQI annual conference in November 2024, presented data collected in 2023 from 36 HSE and voluntary hospitals and 15 private hospitals, accounting for 295,237 procedures performed by 898 endoscopists across the country over the year. Findings highlighted improvements in the percentage of endoscopists meeting the target for caecal intubation rates, comfort scores, sedation doses, polyp detection rates and duodenal intubation rates. A new key quality area has been developed by the working group and programme management, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). Key quality indicators and associated targets for ERCP will be included in version 7 of the NEQI Guidelines, due for release in Q4 2025. Additionally, a study based on programme data, titled “Continuous Improvements in Endoscopic Performance Captured at a National Level through Quality Improvement”, was published in Endoscopy International Open.

National Radiology Quality Improvement (NRQI) Programme

The 5th national data report was published by the NRQI Programme in November 2024 with the launch at the NSQI annual conference. This report presented anonymous quality improvement data collected from 48 participating HSE and voluntary hospitals in 2023. The data findings revealed an 5.5% increase in workload between 2022 and 2023 in participating radiology departments, reaching over 3 million cases. The NRQI Programme reported on four key quality areas including report turnaround times (TAT) and peer reviews. The findings for report TAT were found to be similar to the previous year with almost half of hospitals meeting the recommended target. The report highlighted ongoing challenges faced by participating hospitals in meeting the recommended target for the authorisation of X-ray cases. The NRQI working group welcomed a Trainee Radiologist to the group to support the programme through research. A national consultation, including an online workshop and survey, was held to guide future steps on target setting. The NRQI Programme continues to emphasize the issues due to rising workload, growing complexity of cases and the need for adequate resourcing.

National Histopathology Quality Improvement (NHQI) Programme

The NHQI Programme launched its 11th annual national data report in November 2024 during the NSQI annual conference. The report presented anonymous aggregated findings on national data collected in 21 HSE and voluntary and seven private laboratories between 1 January and 31 December 2023. The data reveal continuous increase of workload figures since 2019, reported the highest figures to date for cases, specimens and blocks across all participating laboratories in 2023. Aggregated findings presented in the report revealed that laboratories met targets for intradepartmental consultations, multidisciplinary team reviews, addendum reporting and frozen section concordance rates. Report highlighted the fact that laboratories continue to face challenges in meeting the turnaround time targets for histology, cytology and autopsy cases. The Programme is in the process of developing a regional reporting tool which will enable more granular analysis of performance for each of the six HSE Health Regions.

Quality Improvement RCPI SAFE Collaborative

Two cohorts of the Situation Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) Collaborative QI programme ran in the academic year 2024-25, Cohort 7 with 10 teams and Cohort 8 with 11. Teams work to understand the safety and communication

risks in healthcare and tailor the improvement or implementation of a bespoke scripted short (5-10 minute) safety huddle in their setting. Of these 21 teams, 20 were from HSE paediatric, maternity, care of the elderly, palliative care, intensive care, emergency department and acute adult medical/surgical services and one was a self-funding private hospital team. All teams completed their SAFE collaborative programme. At the end of the course, teams submitted abstracts and/or newspaper articles, digital posters and a short video story of their experiences and outcomes.

At Wexford General Hospital, the introduction of structured safety huddles, ISBAR tools, and multidisciplinary escalation processes has significantly improved early identification and management of the deteriorating child, with measurable gains in communication, compliance, and safety culture. This paediatric-focused initiative has fostered a proactive, collaborative approach to patient care, embedding shared situational awareness into daily ward practice.

All eight cohorts from 2018 – 2024 were tailored from the original Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK) and delivered in Ireland by Dr Peter Lachman. We wish to acknowledge Dr Lachman's essential contribution to this and other QI programmes in RCPI and congratulate him on his retirement. Two new cohorts of the situation awareness (huddle) programme, now known as RCPI Being Safe Together, have been funded for 2025-26 and will be directed by Dr John Fitzsimons.

RCPI Quality Improvement in Action

Two cohorts of Quality Improvement in Action were run with 21 and 24 registered novel Learners, of whom the majority are doctors. Learners conduct a bespoke small QI project in their setting and report on the outcomes at the final session. This year's medical projects included addressing improvements in detection, communication and surveillance of Lewy Body Dementia, documentation of intra articular injections in a rheumatology clinic, recording of peak flow in ED and introducing criteria led discharge to two units.

Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership

The 2024-2025 cohort of the Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership comprised 10 multidisciplinary teams from specialties including paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, general internal medicine, psychiatry, and endocrinology. As part of the programme, participants collaborated on team-based Quality Improvement (QI) projects and completed a range of formative and summative assessments. This year's projects focused on key healthcare improvements, such as eliminate patient and staff non-value added time in a post transplant Cystic Fibrosis clinic, appropriate sepsis management in a maternity hospital, reducing outpatient waiting list in a mental health facility, and improving patient satisfaction in patients transitioning from acute to community services.

Advancing Leadership for Integrated Care Excellence

A new bespoke programme, Advancing Leadership for Integrated Care Excellence (ALICE) was launched in partnership with the National HSCP Office (NHSCPO). Running from December 2024 to June 2025, ten multidisciplinary HSCP-led teams are participating in the blended learning programme of in person and virtual learning sessions, targeted project and leadership coaching sessions whilst conducting a quality improvement intervention in the workplace to address access, coordination or delivery of the care service. Half of the cohort teams represented paediatric care services.

Across paediatric services, quality improvement projects have driven more timely, coordinated, and family-centred care. In the South West, CAREDS enhanced communication for young people with eating disorders admitted to hospital, achieving near-universal uptake of personalised communication packages. Monaghan CDNT increased Individual Family Service Plans for 16–19 year olds from 30% to over 80% through IFSP clinics and team training, while the North Inner City CDNT ensured all babies under one with complex needs were seen within 14 days of referral.

At CHI Crumlin, delays in the Combined Orthoptic and Optometry Clinic were reduced through triage, scheduling improvements, and regular huddles, with progress toward reducing overdue reviews from 48% to 25% by late 2025. Cork North Lee introduced a joint SLT/OT assessment model that halved service touchpoints, improved efficiency, and raised parental confidence in needs being met from 54% to 94%. In Donegal South and West, a single referral pathway for children's therapy services is streamlining access and supporting multidisciplinary care in line with Sláintecare.

Building on the success of Cohort 1, a second cohort will launch in late 2025, with refinements to structure, evaluation and follow-on supports. A new, NHSCPO funded 12-month Leadership in Practice component for the initial cohort will deepen the impact of learning, promote project sustainability, and expand a national community of HSCP-led QI leaders.

Global Training Partnerships

Sinéad Lucey, Head of Business Development

1) International Residency Training Programme (IRTP)

The International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is designed for doctors who have completed their internship. It offers the opportunity to undertake Residency training in Ireland, leading to a qualification equivalent to the Saudi/Arab Board and membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Paediatrics and Internal Medicine have long been established within the IRTP. This year, the programme has expanded to include Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Histopathology.

Within the IRTP in Paediatrics, there are currently three doctors on the programme. To date, twenty trainees have successfully graduated from the overall programme, including two from the Paediatrics. All graduates are from Saudi Arabia. RCPI plans to expand the initiative to include other Gulf countries in the near future.

2) International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP)

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training for post-Residency doctors who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen speciality or sub-specialty. Currently, sixty-nine doctors are enrolled across all specialties, with twenty-five training under the Faculty of Paediatrics. Now in its eleventh year, one hundred and eighty-two trainees have graduated from the Clinical Fellowship Programme, forty-one of whom trained in Paediatrics—returning home to embed their newly acquired knowledge and skills in the health services of their home countries.

Feedback received in the Residency and Clinical Fellowship Programmes has consistently reflected excellence. Both trainees and sponsorship bodies have expressed their appreciation for the high quality of training and support received.

3) EQUALS Initiative

In August 2024, February 2025 and June 2025 three more 40ft containers of equipment were shipped to Zambia. This will take the total number of 40ft containers shipped since 2013 to 19 (18 to Zambia and 1 to Uganda). The equipment was tested pre shipment by clinical engineers of the EQUALS Initiative and on arrival it will be distributed across the country to larger teaching hospitals and smaller health clinics.

ZACOMS invited delegates from EQUALS Initiative to attend the June 2025 graduation ceremony for their trainees. Prof David Weakliam and Prof Diarmuid O'Donovan attended on behalf of EQUALS. While there they met with key stakeholders, including the Irish Embassy in Zambia. Separately in June 2025, a delegation of 4 biomedical engineers from EQUALS travelled from Ireland to Zambia and presented at the Biomedical Engineers Association of Zambia annual symposium. While there they also met colleagues from the Zambian Ministry of Health and visited hospitals to see the equipment that has been donated through EQUALS in use.

4) Global Health

The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies completed the process of developing a competency framework on Global Health which takes the form of a 2 hour, 2 CPD points module. This module is free to access and went live on the RCPI website for Members, Fellows and Trainees to access in November 2024. 140 learners have enrolled on the course to date and 50 have completed the module.

In April 2025 a call for funding proposals was issued to all RCPI Members, Fellows and Trainees for current global health initiatives. There were 13 successful applications and all funds have now been claimed.

5) Membership and Fellowship

59 new members conferred in Paediatrics in between June 2024-June 2025. This number remains strong, driven by the continued growth of RCPI examinations, particularly overseas. The Fellowship recruitment campaign which began in February 2024 had very strong results in 2024 with a total of 27 Fellows being approved from these invitations and thus invited to confer at the October 2024 ceremony. The campaign for 2025 has already

commenced, with 11 Fellows being approved through the May 2025 Credentials. Further invitations have been sent out and received applications from these will be approved through September Credentials in time to be invited to confer at the October 2025 ceremony.

The Trueology Research Project commenced in July 2024 and was delivered in February 2025. This consisted of an updated state of the nation data analysis, a membership survey and focus groups. The results of these findings have been presented to Faculty and Institute Boards and Council and Executive of the college. Recommendations from this project and the Membership and Engagement Steering Group report will continue to be explored and developed for implementation where possible.

International Alumni Network activity commenced with an event in Riyadh in February 2025. This was held at the Embassy of Ireland and hosted by H.E Ambassador Gerry Cunningham and RCPI President Dr Diarmuid O'Shea. There was a strong turn out with 63 Members and Fellows attending and attendance from local stakeholders and Irish Business Network members taking the attendance to over 80 people. There was positive and constructive feedback received about during and after the event. The next International Alumni Network Meeting will be held in Bahrain on Wednesday 5 November 2025 at Crown Prince Center for Training and Medical Research, which is also the location of our exams in Bahrain.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

Key administrators in RCPI who conduct work on behalf of the Faculty of Paediatrics include:

Faculties Manager:	Darragh Whelan	01 4853 461 darraghwhelan@rcpi.ie
Programme Coordinator:	John Hunt	01 8639 633 johnhunt@rcpi.ie
Training Coordinator:	Irene Poltronieri	01 863 9630 irenepoltronieri@rcpi.ie
Examinations Administrator:	Louise Treacy	01 8639 614 LouiseTreacy@rcpi.ie
Head of Operations	Muríosa Prendergast	01 8639 711 muriosaprendergast@rcpi.ie
Professional Competence Scheme Administrator:	Deirdre Donegan	01 8639 703 DeirdreDonegan@rcpi.ie
Specialist Division of the Register	Siobhán Kearns	01 863 9720 SiobhanKearns@rcpi.ie
Training Site Accreditation	Georgina Farr	01 8639 695 GeorginaFarr@rcpi.ie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Conferences:

- Spring Conference 8th May 2026
- Autumn Conference 9th October 2026

Webinars:

- Faculty Webinar 11th November 2025
- Faculty Webinar 20th January 2026
- Faculty Webinar 24th March 2026



FACULTY OF PAEDIATRICS

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND**

19 South Frederick Street, Dublin D02 X266, Ireland

Email: paediatrics@rcpi.ie

Tel: +353 (0)1 8639 728

Social Media links:

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