



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
MEDICINE**

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND**

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Cover picture: *Faculty of Public Health Medicine Conferring Ceremony, at RCPI on 20 May 2025*

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About the Faculty of Public Health Medicine

The Faculty of Public Health Medicine, RCPI, has been an integral part of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland since 1976. Its aim is to advance the science, art and practice of Public Health Medicine in Ireland, and to promote education, study and research in Public Health Medicine.



The Faculty achieves this aim through:

- Acting as an authoritative body for consultation on matters of educational or public interest concerning Public Health Medicine
- Representing the specialty of Public Health Medicine on international, national and regional councils or committees concerned with postgraduate medical education
- Obtaining and maintaining recognition for itself as the body responsible for advising on all matters concerning Public Health Medicine under any scheme for specialist training in Ireland
- Acting in an advisory capacity to key stakeholders such as Government and statutory bodies in all matters pertaining to Public Health Medicine
- Setting and maintaining standards for the Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine examinations.

Supporting Functions

The Faculty is supported by the following administrative functions within RCPI:

- Head of Operations: Ms Muríosa Prendergast
- Director of Academic Affairs: Mr Diarmuid Breathnach
- Director of Healthcare Leadership: Dr Trevor Duffy
- Chief Technology Officer: Mr Michael Hughes
- Director of Business Development & Exams: Ms Sinead Lucey
- Corporate Services: Ms Sheila Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer
- Director of Communications & Public Affairs: Ms Siobhan Creaton

All of the above are under the management of the CEO, Audrey Houlihan.

A Message from the Dean

Prof Cecily Kelleher

02 December 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I'm delighted to present this year's annual report for 2025 which again shows strong engagement and outputs for our Faculty of Public Health Medicine. We continue to have a key role in local, regional, national and global public health activities which remain as pressing as ever.

In May this year we welcomed former National Director of Public Health for Australia, Professor Paul Kelly on whom we were pleased to confer an honorary Fellowship of the college and who gave a keynote at our summer scientific meeting on *Global Challenges and Future Public Health Preparedness*, as well as an update on the forthcoming HSE public Health strategy by Dr Louise Hendricks, with a panel discussion with our National Director of Public Health Dr John Cuddihy and the interim CMO Professor Mary Horgan. The HSE's public health strategy is to be launched on 11th December, following on from the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group (PHREAG) report and the Report of the Emerging Health Threats Function Expert Steering Group (ESG). These developments will continue to build on the renewed recognition of the importance of public health within the Irish health system, and the National Directorates and Regional Departments of Public Health, in which our membership play such significant roles.

In November, Professor Victor Mukonka, who has long associations with Ireland and is an Internationally recognised leader in Public Health in Zambia, also received an Honorary Fellowship at Luke's day, speaking on *Ending Cholera in Zambia*. The same meeting featured talks on the Cholera past and present and a fascinating historical reprise of the miasma theory.

Highlights of the Year included:

- A competitive interview process for inclusion in our HST that saw five new trainees admitted on 14 July 2025.
- RCPI 2025-2029 strategy launched on 20 June 2025, Advancing Health Through Training, Education and Leadership
- On 18th June, a joint study day with SpRs from Northern Ireland, NI
- Portrait of BCG pioneer Dr Dorothy Stopford Price was unveiled 20 October 2025

- We continue to place strong emphasis on developing international partnerships and placement and that in Nepal will proceed this year.
- Publication of the Joint RCPI- HSE report on SMOs (13 October 2025, SMO Training Needs Survey: key findings and recommendations)
- The Faculty winter and summer scientific programmes continue to be strongly supported with ongoing IMJ supplements of proceedings published and a scientifically high quality varied programme of invited speakers, oral and moderated poster sessions.
- Admission ceremony of 3 Diplomate Members, 12 Members, 4 CSCSTs and 3 Fellows on 20 May 2025.
- Dr Michael Hanrahan, Dr Zachary Johnson medal winner for 2025 and Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick and Ms Mary Brigid Collins the Dr Kevin Kelleher medal winners.
- Dr Michael Hanrahan also received the Dr Dorothy Stopford Price award at the RCPI Trainees day
- Dr Mary Ward, our current Deputy NSD was awarded the first competitive Dr Emer Feely Trainer Excellence award
- Prof Patrick Wall was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Public Health medal
- Past President of Ireland Mary Robinson was the worthy recipient of the Stearne Medal on 05 September 2025.
- Establishment of a position and approach for the Faculty of Public Health Medicine regarding sponsorship to strengthen our role regarding the commercial determinants of health

Our 50th anniversary celebrations next year will be on the theme of past and future public health. This is also being celebrated by our sister Faculty of Occupational Medicine whose ties go back to the foundation of both our Faculties.

I would like to thank all of you who have made this possible and to encourage as much participation in our work programmes as you can. I would like to extend a special thank you to the members of our board, including the officers of the Faculty and those who have served as chairs and members of our committees, to those who have acted as examiners, including our external examiner Dr Derek Ward and the administrative staff at FPHM, particularly our Faculty coordinator, Brian O Murchu.

We thank those demitting for their contributions, who include Dr Mai Mannix, Regional Director of Public Health and Dr David Weakliam who continues his commitment to Global Health. Dr Anna Clarke, former Dean, has served two terms on RCPI Council, as chair of our Faculty Credentials committee and member of RCPI Credentials and Awards Committee for which we are indebted. I warmly welcome all incoming board members and officers. I would also like to thank our CEO Audrey Houlihan and our President Diarmuid O'Shea for all their support throughout this year.

Finally, it is my great privilege, having been handed on the baton from one outstanding predecessor Dr Emer Shelley, to pass that on to another outstanding colleague, incoming Dean, Dr Kevin Kelleher. Kevin, as we know, is an internationally recognised Public Health

Physician who has held many significant leadership roles, including as longstanding Assistant National Director for Health and Wellbeing with responsibility for Public Health and Child Health during the crucial COVID-19 period. He has demonstrated sustained commitment to higher specialist training in Public Health Medicine and to all aspects of the Faculty's Membership examination. He has been board member and Honorary Treasurer of the Faculty's board for the past four years and served on the RCPI Strategy group. Kevin has been a huge support during my time as Dean and I wish him well during his tenure.

So, much to come and may I therefore once again wish you and yours season's greetings at the close of this year and a happy and prosperous 2026.



Prof Cecily Kelleher

Dean, Faculty of Public Health Medicine



Prof Cecily Kelleher, PRCPI Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, Prof Paul Kelly receiving his Honorary Fellowship, Prof Mary Horgan, Ms Jennifer Gallagher at RCPI, May 2025

Faculty Representation

Expert Group	
RCPI Training Committee	Dr Anne Sheahan
RCPI Research Committee	Dr Howard Johnson
RCPI Collegiate Membership and Engagement Steering Group	Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick
Working Group for Recognition and Regulation of Multidisciplinary Public Health	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Health & Wellbeing Committee	Dr Maria Deery
The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Quality & Patient Safety Committee	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
RCPI Trainees' Committee's Public Health Forum Representative	Dr Domhnall McGlacken-Byrne
The Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group of the Department of Health	Prof Cecily Kelleher Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick
National Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme - Clinical Advisory Group Membership	Dr Kenneth Beatty
Medical Council Consultative Forum on the Regulation of Education and Training	Prof Cecily Kelleher
National Immunisation Advisory Committee	Dr Mary Ward
Faculty in Northern Ireland (FiNI)	Prof Lourda Geoghegan
Education and Faculty Affairs Committee (UK)	Dr Tríona McCarthy
National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases	Dr Derval Igoe Dr Ruth McDermott Dr Aileen Kitching
HIVA HTA on newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiency	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan
Irish Heart Foundation: Health Promotion Alliance Ireland	Dr Christopher Carroll
RCPI Strategy Steering Board	Dr Kevin Kelleher
RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on Climate Action	Dr Keith Ian Quintyne
Smoking and Vaping RCPI advisory groups	Dr Paul Kavanagh
RCPI Advisory Group on Assisted Dying	Dr Geraldine McDarby
Medical Subcommittee of the Disability Advisory Group (DAG) to the National Clinical Programme for People with Disability	Dr Ellen Cosgrave
HSE Public Health Strategy Steering Group	Prof Cecily Kelleher
Irish Public Health Specialist in Training	Dr Lucinda Ryan
RCPI Simulation Governance Steering Committee	Prof Patricia Kearney
National Governance Committee of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre	Dr Fionnuala Cooney
National Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare - Clinical Advisory Group Membership	Dr Laura Heavey
National traffic medicine programme	Dr Michael Hanrahan

Business of the Honorary Secretary

Dr Paul Kavanagh

The Board met on 5 occasions between January and December 2025, on 29 January, 02 April, 11 June, 03 September, and 12 November 2025. The names and attendance of the Board members are listed below in the accordance with Standing Order XVII (v).

The following members will be demitting from the Board upon completion of their term of office: Dr David Weakliam, Dr Mai Mannix, Dr Anna Clarke. The advice and support these members have been much appreciated throughout the year.

Dr Anne Sheahan serves on the Board as an ex-officio member in her capacity as National Specialty Director (NSD). Great credit and thanks are due to Dr Sheahan and Dr Mary Ward, Deputy NSD, for their continuing commitment in supporting the Higher Specialist Training Programme.

Following the Faculty Governance Review two new committees were set up to support the work of the Faculty Board.

- The Strategy Committee Chaired by the Dean had its inaugural meeting on 12 March 2025, and will meet three times a year.
- The new Faculty Executive Chaired by the Dean will meet one week before the Faculty Board, and had its first meeting on 19 March 2025 with four other meetings in 2025.

The Faculty admission ceremony took place in person at No. 6 Kildare Street on the evening of 20 May 2025 as part of the two-day Summer Scientific Meeting. During the ceremony, 1 Honorary Fellow, 3 Fellows, 12 Members, 3 Diplomate Members and 4 CSCST graduates were conferred in person. It was an evening of celebration for all conferees. Currently the Faculty of Public Health Medicine has 12 Honorary Fellows, 143 Fellows, 65 Members and 14 Diplomate Members.



St Lukes Conferring, October 2025 at RCPI: Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Prof Cecily Kelleher, Prof Victor Mukonka, Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, Prof David Weakliam

The Board

The Faculty is governed by the Board, the Chair of which is the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean attended meetings of the College Executive Board on behalf of the Faculty.

Board membership for the 2024/2025 period, and Board attendance, was as follows:

Board member	Position	No. of meetings
Prof Cecily Kelleher	Dean	5
Dr Paul Kavanagh	Honorary Secretary and Chair of Exams Committee	5
Dr Lourda Geoghegan	NI Affairs Rep	1
Dr Mai Mannix	Fellow	2
Dr Aoife O'Connell	SpR Representative (demitted)	3
Prof Alan Baird	External member	3
Ms Janis Morrissey	External member	5
Dr Anna Clarke	Faculty Representative on RCPI Council (demitted)	5
Dr Keith Ian Quintyne	Fellow	4
Dr Anne Sheahan	NSD	3
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Honorary Treasurer & Vice Dean	5
Dr Domhnall McGlacken-Byrne	SpR Representative	2
Dr David Weakliam	Fellow	2
Dr Mairin Boland	Fellow	2
Dr Fionnuala Cooney	Fellow	4
Dr Howard Johnson	Fellow	5
Dr Lois O'Connor	Fellow	4
Dr Mary Ward	Convenor of Exams (demitted)	1

I am grateful to Faculty Officer, our Treasurer, Dr Kevin Kelleher, for his support with finances during the year, and also to other Board Members for their invaluable input into the Faculty's work.

Sincere thanks also to the chairs of the Faculty's subcommittees, including Dr Anna Clarke, Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Dr Paul Kavanagh, Chair of the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee, Dr Emer O'Connell, Chair of the Meetings Committee, for their tremendous contributions in the past year, and also to all those who participate in these committees, your dedicated time and expertise have been appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr Peter Barrett and Dr Breda Cosgrave, Convenors Part I, Dr Keith Ian Quintyne, Convenor Part II and Prof Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor Part III, who have done an excellent job in holding examinations with such high standards.

I would also like to thank President Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, Ms Audrey Houlihan, and Ms Sheila Gallagher for their support and counsel. Acknowledgement and gratitude also to college administration staff, Ms Muriosa Prendergast, Ms Kelly Webster, Mr Darragh Whelan and most especially to Mr Brian O'Murchu for their hard work and organisation during 2025. Thanks also to Mr John Fogarty, Membership Coordinator, Mr Barry Quinlan, Finance Manager, Ms Maria Golden, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Ms Jemma Smith and Ms Roisin O'Donnell in the events team, Ms Niamh O'Sullivan, Communications Manager, and all RCPI colleagues for their ongoing support.



L-R: Prof Mary Horgan, Dr Louise Hendrick, Prof Paul Kelly, Prof Cecily Kelleher, PRCPI Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, Dr John Cuddihy, May 2025 Summer Scientific at RCPI

Honorary Treasurer and Finance Report

*Dr Kevin Kelleher, Honorary Treasurer,
Mr Barry Quinlan, RCPI Head of Finance,*

Income and Expenditure for Financial Year ended 30 June 2025 Commentary

General

An overall deficit, excluding investment income, of €230,075 was achieved for the 12 months to end June 2025.

Net Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year ended June 2025 was €352,308. Direct costs and associated overheads totalled €582,384.

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

- Subscriptions
- Events & Faculty Activity
- HSE Grant Income
- Faculty Related Income; Exams, Independent Courses (incl iHeed), other

Subscriptions

Receipts from Subscriptions were €24,765 in 2024-25 versus €22,887 in 2023-24, an increase of €1,878 (8.2%) on last year.

In 2024-25, 84% of Fellows, 65% of Members, and 77% of Diplomats paid their subscriptions. In 2023-24, 85% of Fellows, 68% of Members, and 17% of Diplomats paid their subscriptions.

Direct costs and overheads relating to subscriptions totalled €4,225, giving a net contribution of €20,540.

Events & Faculty Activity

Event fee income for 2024-25 was €39,875 compared to €39,764 in 2023-24 (increase of 0.3%). This is made up of €23,035 for the Summer Scientific Meeting, and €18,640 for the Winter Scientific Meeting. Faculty admissions totalled €746 in 2024-25 versus €3,004 in 2023-24. Direct cost and overheads for these activities totalled €188,390, giving a net deficit of €147,769.

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; a deficit of €34,251.

Faculty Related Income

This relates to income generated by other areas of the business relating to the faculty.

Exams yielded moderate returns, but with equal associated costs, with net income of €256 being allocated to the faculty.

Independent Courses yielded a net deficit of €20,529 apportioned to the faculty.

Event room hire income for No.6 Kildare St, and related costs, generated a deficit of €6,043.

Other Costs

This relates to costs of other areas, detailed in Appendix 1, with €42,279 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 €8,027 were apportioned to the faculty, a decrease of €11,225 when compared to 2023-24. 3

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
Independent Courses	PCS Registrants
Faculty Courses	By Speciality/Faculty
Other Costs	
Other - Communications,	Membership/Fellowship numbers
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 & NDT
Development

PHM Public Health Medicine
Net Contribution Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2025



	12 Months to June 2025		
	Income	Total Costs	Net Contribution
Income			
Faculty Subscriptions	24,765	-4,225	20,540
SLA	154,146	-188,397	-34,251
Exams	23,603	-23,347	256
	202,514	-215,969	-13,455
Independent Courses	13,677	-34,206	-20,529
Events & Faculty Activity	40,621	-188,390	-147,769
Events - No.6 Kildare St	2,838	-8,882	-6,043
	57,136	-231,478	-174,342
Other Costs	92,658	-134,937	-42,279
	92,658	-134,937	-42,279
Surplus before Investment Gain	352,308	-582,384	-230,075
Investment Income & Bank Interest Received	8,027	0	8,027
Net Surplus including Investment Gain	360,335	-582,384	-222,048



Ms Ciara Cronin, Prof Tony Holohan, Dr Tom Barrett, Dr Mary Ward, Ms Harriet Wheelock, PRCPI Dr Diarmuid O'Shea at Faculty conferring May 2025

National Specialty Director

Dr Anne Sheahan, NSD

Dr Mary Ward, Deputy NSD

Overview

Special acknowledgment and thanks are given to Heads of Departments and Trainers for the continuation of the important function of specialist training as we continue to establish our public health domains. This has allowed our trainees develop their public health skills and achieve the competencies as outlined in the Curriculum as they move through the training programme.

Congratulations and all good wishes for the future to those who obtained their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training since the last AGM: Dr Philippa White, Dr Ellen Cosgrave, Dr Ruth Ceannt, Dr Peter Naughton, Dr Allison Deane and Dr Teresa O'Dowd.

We welcome the trainees who started Higher Specialist Training (HST) in July 2025: Dr Thomas Cronin, Dr Brian Keating, Dr Sean Fennessy, Dr Tomas Barry and Dr Sinead Flanagan.

With the above 5 trainees starting the Programme, there are 44 Specialist Registrars in Public Health Medicine. We have two trainees completing the scheme at the end of this month, Dr Caitriona Kelly and Dr Lucinda Ryan. It is positive to see many of those who have completed the scheme to date have either secured Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts or have had the opportunity to pursue Fellowships.

Induction

The Faculty and RCPI support staff provided an in-person induction day on 15 July 2025 for incoming first year trainees. The induction day was also attended by a number of trainers and Faculty staff. The attendees were welcomed by the Vice Dean of the Faculty, Dr Kevin Kelleher, who commented on the depth and wealth of experience brought to the Programme by these new trainees. We were delighted to see that Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, President of RCPI met with the trainees. He advised them to embrace the training programme and said that they would be the future leaders in Public Health and also the future trainers for the Faculty. The National Director of Health Improvement Prof Diarmuid O'Donovan presented an overview of the domain of HI and outlined the many opportunities for training. Dr Ciara Kelly gave an overview of the work of the National Health Service Improvement Office, and Dr Chantal Migone spoke about the work being undertaken by the National Immunisation Office.

Presentations on the day focused on trainee experiences using the new OBE Curriculum and use of the ePortfolio to record progress. They also discussed the importance of balancing the Master's in Public Health course with service and educational requirements during the first

year of training. More senior trainees discussed their experience of identification and completion of Part II Public Health, Reports. Dr Ian Quintyne gave an overview of the role of a trainer. Dr Declan McKeown who has led the weekly Study Day education sessions gave an outline of the topics dealt with in the past and welcomed input on what areas of interest could be addressed during these sessions.

Dr Nicola Murphy, who has been part of the Core Curriculum Group gave an update of changes and updates to the HST Core Curriculum and welcomed them to join the working group. She also advised that a subgroup to review delivery of the current teaching and Study Days has been established and will plan for the next number of years.

The latter part of the day focused on the business and HR processes associated with training, with presentation given by Sinead Keaveney from the Medical Resource Unit in the Office of the National Director of Public Health.

Curriculum Review

The new outcome-based Curriculum for Higher Specialist Training had been in place for three years and incoming trainees are also using this. A training session for trainers and trainees was provided by Aisling Smith from the RCPI Education Department who continues to support this work. Dr Niamh Bambury chairs a subgroup of the STC on review and development of the curriculum. This group continues to review the updated OBE and address wider competencies such as professionalism and leadership. Membership includes trainees and trainers who have used the new curriculum and members of the RCPI Education Department.

Study Hours

Thursday afternoons continue to be used as protected time for trainees. A schedule of study session topics and training days have been organised. This forum is now being used as an opportunity for teams working within the wider domains of public health to present on their work and a huge thank you to all speakers who contribute. A special thanks also to our Lead NCHD, Dr Rachel McNamara for taking on the role for this year and special mention to the former Lead NCHD Dr James Gilroy for organising the sessions and for all they do as Lead NCHD.

A particular thank you to Dr Declan McKeown of the Public Health Intelligence Unit who has provided detailed sessions for many of the study sessions and has also facilitated other contributions.

Progress in Training

End of Year Evaluations with trainees and trainers were held in-person again in May and June this year. A small number of mid-year assessments must be completed. We thank the Extern

assessor Prof Lourda Geoghegan, and special thanks also to RCPI support staff and to all trainees.

Training Sites

Specialist Registrars in Higher Specialist Training are in training posts in regional Departments of Public Health and in specialty placements in the National Office of Health Protection, the National Immunisation Office, the National Cancer Control Programme, the National Screening Service, the National Health Intelligence Unit, Health Service Improvement and Health Improvement domains and the Office of the National Clinical Director for Health Protection. Thanks to Prof David Weakliam who facilitated liaison with a division in WHO Geneva to agree to a further two-year training programme, for four six-month placements, to work on Quality Systems and Resilience. We are working towards increasing the number of specialty placement sites for the Programme with a site accreditation process in place.

Training Site Inspections and Accreditation

Each site providing training has to undergo a site inspection process to determine its suitability to deliver Higher Specialist Training according to the requirements set out in the training curriculum. The inspection panel (NSD, RCPI Chair) carry out a detailed interview with trainers, trainees and management representatives, and an inspection of the facilities every five years and each new site has to be accredited.

The accreditation process took place during 2024 with meetings with each site and also with trainees. There are a number of sites that have applied for accreditation and this is in progress. The importance of on-site training for all trainees has been part of this process.

Trainer Development Project

The RCPI Trainer Engagement Project continues. A Refresher Course for all trainers approved pre-2019 was designed and launched in October 2022. This course is available on BrightSpace. A repository of resources was created in The Trainer Hub, and also on BrightSpace. This project has continued throughout the year and aims to improve access to resources and training for all trainers across all Training Bodies in RCPI.

Specialty Training Committee

The Specialty Training Committee (STC) meet on a quarterly basis. It is chaired by the NSD, with trainee representatives and trainers in attendance. The trainee representatives report on key points arising from the Trainer-Trainee Subcommittee which is co-chaired by the Deputy NSD and a trainee representative. Dr Rachel McNamara has agreed to co-chair for this year.

Trainers have continued to be engaged with the Programme and will be provided with additional training on the new Curriculum. The Convenors of Examinations have been providing information to trainees, including sharing feedback from the Extern. They have provided sessions for both trainees and trainers on the format and the requirements for all three parts of the MFPHMI exams. Thanks to Dr Paul Kavanagh, Dr Peter Barrett, Dr Breda Cosgrave, Dr Keith Ian Quintyne and Prof Lourda Geoghegan for their work. With the increase in trainee numbers, there has been an increase in the number of Public Health Reports submitted for examination. This has led to a call for more trainers to become examiners and thanks to all to continue to examine and who have offered to become examiners. Again thanks to the Examinations Committee for all their work. Having increased the number of training places, further work is required to expand training opportunities and to support trainees as much as possible to balance training requirements with personal responsibilities.

A special word of thanks to Dr Mary Ward who convened the Part II exams for the last number of years and has stepped back this year. She continues to be an examiner and is hugely supportive to all trainees who may have questions relating to the process. Of note, Mary was awarded the Emer Feeley Trainer Award at the May ceremony for her exceptional work as trainer which was well deserved.



Acknowledgments

We wish to extend thanks to all our colleagues who contribute as trainers, Training Leads in their departments, as well as to trainers who have supported and evaluated the progress of trainees, including supporting them during exam preparation. We have several new trainers who are very welcome. Trainer courses run by RCPI are valuable for upskilling and for learning about the latest developments to provide training and support trainees.



Higher Specialist Training Study Day, RCPI, 6 Kildare Street, Dublin, March 2025

Examinations

Dr Paul Kavanagh, Chair Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee

Dr Peter Barrett & Dr Breda Cosgrave, Convenors Part I

Dr Keith Ian Quintyne, Convenor of Part II

Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Convenor Part III

Committee Members: Anne Sheahan, Breda Cosgrove, Fiona Cianci, Keith Ian Quintyne, Lois O'Connor, Lourda Geoghegan, Paul Kavanagh, Peter Barrett, Sarah O'Brien, Zubair Kabir

RCPI Admin Representative: Marianna Smith

Part I

The **MFPHMI Part I** took place on 23 and 25 April 2025 online with remote invigilation using TestReach. In total, 11 candidates took the whole exam and all 9 achieved a Pass. The outcome was notified to candidates on 9 June 2025, and detailed correspondence was issued thereafter. Questions and candidate performance were discussed, and questions suitable for banking were identified. Performance of candidates on Paper 3 was more satisfactory this year and a continuing focus on critical appraisal skills in higher speciality training is encouraged. No further developments were recommended at this time.

This marked the fifth and final convening of MFPHMI Part I by Dr Paul Kavanagh. Dr Peter Barrett has been confirmed as the new Part I Convenor, with Dr Breda Cosgrove acting as Co-Convenor.

Part II

The **MFPHMI Part II** Public Health Reports (PHRs) examinations were held in person in Dublin on 23 October 2024 and on 15 April 2025. The April 2025 sitting marked the last convening of Dr Mary Ward and Dr Keith Ian Quintyne has been appointed as the new Part II Convenor.

The October 2024 sitting was considered a pilot of using Turnitin, which is a similarity detection service. Formal review of the Turnitin similarity report as part of the examination process, and the MFPHMI Plagiarism policy was officially implemented in the April 2025 sitting.

A significant development this year was the migration of PHRs uploading and marking to Brightspace, in April 2025. This was a key component of the RCPI Connect Programme, which aims to modernize examination processes and integrate them with the College's digital infrastructure. The plagiarism checking process using Turnitin tool is now also undertaken via

the Brightspace platform. Uploading of the supplementary documents and paying the examination fee remains via the RCPI online application.

PHMEC continued its work on improving assessment processes across the board. Some developments and improvements to Part 2 were taken forward. The exam process regarding candidates who fail the PHR pre-oral and their invitation to attend an oral defence was reviewed and updated. Candidates who receive 1-2 “unsatisfactory” marks (out of 5) will be considered to have provisionally failed the PHR and they will be invited to attend the oral defence of the PHR. However, candidates who receive 3 or more “unsatisfactory” marks (out of 5) will be contacted in advance of the oral defence by the Convenor of the Part II MFPHMI Examination. These candidates will be informed that their PHR has not met the required standard to pass the exam at this sitting. The Convenor will advise the candidate that they have the option to withdraw from the oral defence of the PHR if they wish. The foremost reason for this proposed change is to reduce unanticipated stress on the small number of affected exam candidates. This change is in response to Specialist Registrars’ feedback sent to PHMEC, and it has been agreed by PHMEC and endorsed by the Board. The process will be implemented from the October 2025 exam.

Part III

There have been three sittings of the **MFPHMI Part III**, oral examination of professional competence (OEPC) in December 2024, January 2025 and June 2025. The January 2025 sitting was an additional sitting to due to a high number of applications received for the sitting in December 2024.

Future discussions will focus on responding to the increase in candidates’ numbers and agreeing on overall approach. The pool of examiners for the Part III exam has widened but there is still an on-going need to recruit new examiners.

Extern Examiner

Prof Derek Ward continued as Extern Examiner for the MFPHMI Examinations during July 2024 – June 2025. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Research in the University of Birmingham and has an honorary contract with Public Health England. He is also Chair of Examiners for the UK Faculty of Public Health Diploma Examination (equivalent to Part I MFPHMI). The role of the Extern Examiner is crucial to the overall quality management of the MFPHMI Examinations and we are grateful to Prof Ward for his continuing contribution.

Further information on candidates’ numbers and pass rates can be found on the next page.

Examinations Statistics July 2024-June 2025

MFPHMI Part I				
Date	Candidates*	Pass	Fail	Pass rate
23 & 25 April 2025	11	9	2	82%

*8 trainees / 3 non-trainees

MFPHMI Part II				
Date	Candidates	Reports	Pass (reports)	Pass rate for reports
23 October 2024	16	17	15	88%
15 April 2025	7	7	7	100%

MFPHMI Part III				
Date	Candidates	Pass	Fail	Pass rate
3 December 2024	5	2	3	40%
17 January 2025*	6	6	6	100%
17 June 2025	5	4	1	80%

*additional exam date

Looking ahead

PHMEC are now considering several strategic initiatives to further strengthen our examinations framework:

- Additional attempt at Part III exam
- The implications of AI on the MFPHMI exams
- Strategic review of the Part II examination
- Expanding pool of examiners

Meetings Committee

Chair: Dr Emer O'Connell

Committee: Dr Mary T O'Mahony, Dr Howard Johnson, Dr Caroline Mason Mohan, Dr Declan McKeown, Dr Helen McAvoy, Dr Kenneth Beatty, Dr Peter Barrett, Dr Ciara Kelly, Dr Ellen Cosgrave

Overview

The Committee was supported by Ms Roisin O'Donnell, RCPI Events Coordinator.

I am very grateful to the RCPI Events Team, our Dean Prof Cecily Kelleher, Mr Brian O'Murchu, Faculty Officer, and the members of the Meetings Committee for their ongoing support to these meetings.

2024 Winter Scientific Meeting

The Faculty of Public Health Medicine Winter Scientific Meeting 2024 on 04 December 2024 brought together over 190 attendees in person and online. The event featured a programme of long and short oral presentations, live poster tours, and a keynote address by Dr Nigel Rollins, WHO.

Selected through a highly competitive abstract submission process, the long and short oral presentations explored key public health issues such as inequalities, Traveller health, obesity, homelessness, inclusion health, training needs, and health service improvement.

20 diverse projects were showcased in the live poster tours, giving authors the opportunity to present their findings and engage directly with attendees. The tours were moderated by Prof Cecily Kelleher, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and Dr Kevin Kelleher, Former National Director of Health Protection.

The meeting also included a keynote address by Dr Nigel Rollins, a member of the Research and Guideline Development team in the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing, WHO. He delivered an insightful presentation on the urgent and multi-dimensional challenge of childhood obesity. His talk was followed by a panel discussion.

The day concluded on a celebratory note, as Professor Cecily Kelleher, Dean of the Faculty, presented the awards, recognising the outstanding contribution of participants.

Winter Scientific Meeting Winners December 2024			
	Long Oral Presentations:	Short Oral Presentations:	Posters:
First Prize	Kevin Kelleher Medal: Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick and Ms Mary Brigid Collins	Dr John Gannon	Dr Domhnall McGlacken-Byrne
Second Prize	Dr Ciara Carroll	Dr Fiona McGuire	Dr Sean Donohue
Third Prize	--	Ms Louise Brent	Dr Nicola Murphy



Winter Scientific Meeting 04 December 2024 at RCPI

2025 Summer Scientific Meeting

The Faculty of Public Health Medicine Summer Scientific Meeting took place at No. 6 Kildare Street over two days, 20 and 21 May 2025, both in-person at No. 6 Kildare Street and online.

The key challenges and strategies needed for navigating the evolving landscape of public health took centre stage. Professor Paul M Kelly, Former Australian Government Chief Medical Officer, gave a keynote address on *Global Challenges and Future Public Health Preparedness*. “The future of public health will be different than the past, presenting both challenges and opportunities for all of us to engage. Amid these challenges, there are opportunities to influence and be part of the new architecture of global health.”

Dr John Cuddihy, HSE National Director for Public Health, and Dr Louise Hendrick, Project Lead for the HSE Public Health Strategy (2025- 2030) provided an update on the new public health strategy which builds upon a series of recommendations and reports. The strategy aims to deliver better health and wellbeing for all people in Ireland. Dr Cuddihy highlighted that the strategy offers *“an enormous opportunity for Ireland to be a leader in improving population health and protecting health.”*

On the second day of the meeting, Dr Niall Conroy, continued the focus on health protection with a talk on VTEC. He provided an important update on the link between various virulence factors and the risk of HUS, as well as share the latest global data on the use of antibiotics to prevent chronic shedding.

The two-day event also featured both short and long oral presentations on key topics in public health, future trends, data analysis, service improvements, and emerging technologies. These presentations were chosen through a competitive scientific abstract submission process. Attendees had the opportunity to take part in the popular live poster tour, which showcased 36 posters with authors presenting their work and engaging with the audience's questions.

Summer Scientific Meeting Winners			
	Long Oral Presentations:	Short Oral Presentations:	Posters:
First Prize	Zachary Johnson Medal: Michael Hanrahan	Catherine Darker	Michael Hanrahan
Second Prize	Fionn Donnelly	Ciara Carroll	Domhnall McGlacken Byrne
Third Prize	Margaret Brennan	Heather Hegarty	Emma Kearney



Prof Patrick Wall receives the Outstanding Contribution to Public Health award at RCPI, May 2025

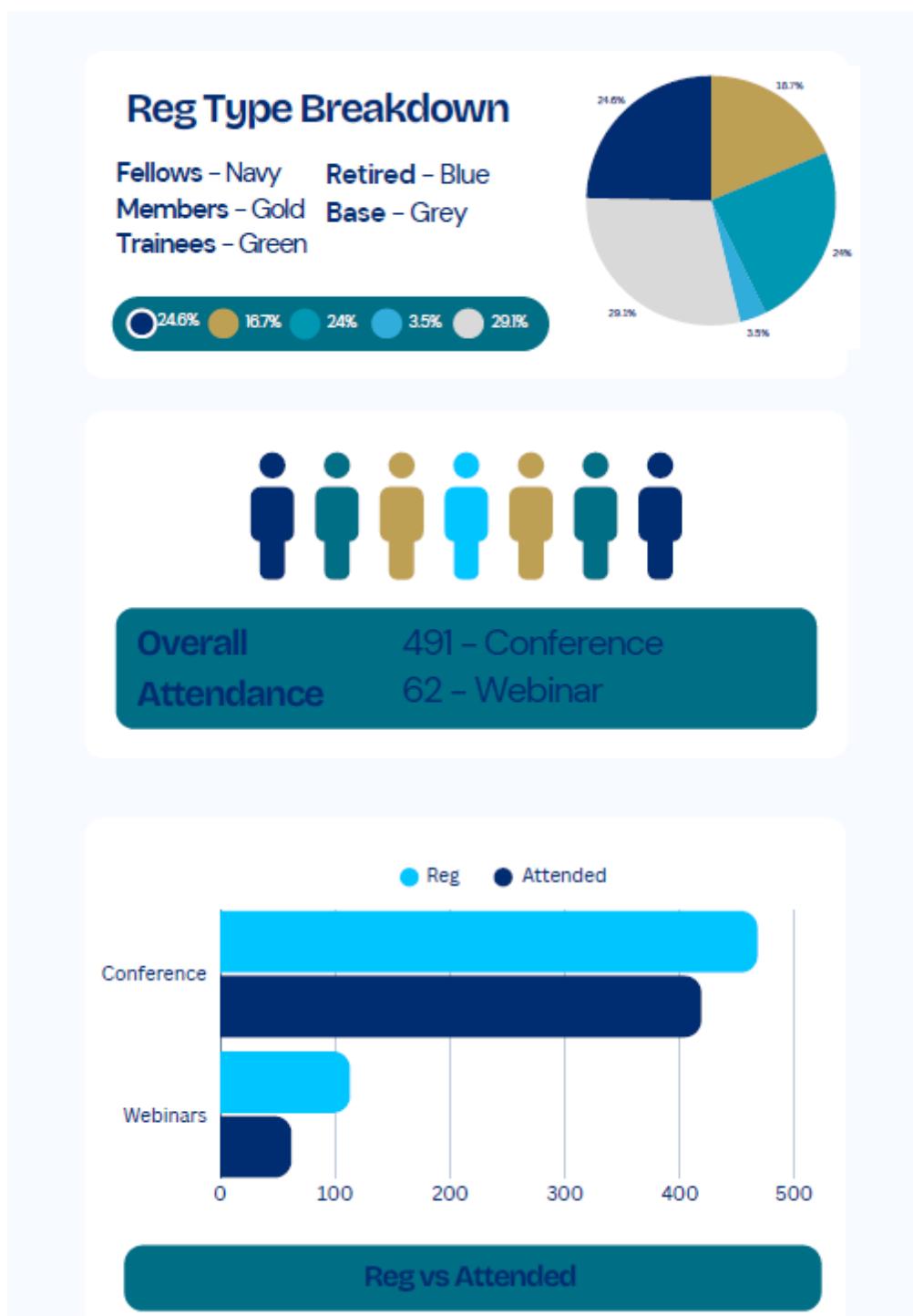
This year's Winter Scientific Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 03 December 2025 at RCPI.

Faculty Events Report

Ms Roisin O'Donnell, RCPI Events Team

Summary Overview

The following report outlines the events activity for the training year 2024-25.





Overall Conference Feedback

- Excellent format and conference (WSM)
- Keynote Speakers were excellent, it would be great to have more in-depth presentations.
- This was a very engaging programme and very well attended with good audience interaction.
- Excellent day, well-paced, great speakers, and good opportunity for networking.
- Great meeting. Overall number and durations of talks well balanced. (SSM)
- Poster sessions were excellent and a good opportunity to hear about a wide range of projects.
- Invited speakers were excellent, especially the Australian perspective (SSM)



Top Topics Suggested

- Safe AI in Public Health/ Applications of AI in Public Health Practice
- More interdisciplinary sessions to identify common interests, sell the USP of public health and build partnerships for more effective collaborative working eg public health and Primary Care, microbiology, and health service planners.
- Vaccines
- Health Security





Prof Mary Horgan, Dr John Cuddihy, Dr Louise Hendrick, Prof Paul Kelly at Summer Scientific May 2025 in RCPI

Overall Webinar Feedback



- Thanks for very interesting session.
- The standard is very good.
- Very useful information
- An hour long session is a good idea.
- Would benefit from more concrete examples of health service improvements.

General Abstract Feedback



- Great to be able to see posters online.
- Really high-quality talks and posters overall, informative updates on the public health strategy and a nice amount of time for each session to really absorb the talks. (SSM)
- Marvelous topics and posters (SSM)



Summer Scientific day 2 at RCPI, May 2025

Faculty Credentials Committee

Chair: Dr Anna Clarke

Committee: Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Dr Margaret O Sullivan, Dr Orlaith O Reilly, Dr Lelia Thornton

The Credentials Committee convened once during the year on the 21 March 2025 to consider an application for Membership as per Standing Orders and to make recommendations to the Board.

Membership Ad Eundem

There were two applications for Membership Ad Eundem, both of which were approved and recommended to the Faculty Board.

- Dr Éamonn Joseph O'Moore
- Dr Claire Neill

Diplomate Membership

There were four applications for Diplomate Membership which were approved and recommended to the Faculty Board.

- Dr Rafiq Nii Attoh Okine
- Dr Melvin Katey Agbogbatey
- Dr Claire Bernadette Power
- Dr Satria Nur Sya'ban

The Chair is appointed as the Faculty representative on the RCPI Credentials Committee and Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick is appointed as alternate. For noting, following discussion and approval at both this Committee and RCPI Council, the following change came into effect in September 2025 regarding Pathways to Fellowship of the RCPI

Pathway 4 to Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has been updated as follows: Via Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of Ireland.

Guidelines are available on the RCPI Website

As I demit as Chair this year, can I sincerely thank all members of the Committee and Faculty Officer Mr Brian O'Murchu, for their support throughout the last year and indeed throughout my tenure as Chair. I wish the new committee and the incoming Chair, Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick, every success in the coming years.

Dr Anna Clarke, Chair, Credentials Committee

Education

Diarmuid Breathnach, Director of Education

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) continues to play a crucial role in providing avenues to training and upskilling, allowing doctors and other healthcare professionals to evolve as part of an innovative health sector.

Equipping professionals with the tools to provide world-class healthcare to patients, RCPI delivers a range of lifelong learning and education opportunities.



Core Professional Skills

In the 2024–25 College year, RCPI convened a multidisciplinary working group of clinical leads from all Faculties and Institutes to review and update the Core Professional Skills framework. The aim is to ensure that it continues to reflect the standards of practice and professionalism upheld across RCPI specialties, aligns with contemporary guidance, and responds to evolving healthcare needs.

The revised framework is structured around the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice (Irish Medical Council, 2024), with domain-specific overviews and action-oriented outcome sets. This design enhances clarity, traceability, and alignment with assessment practices. Each Faculty and Institute will have the opportunity to provide specialty-specific feedback, and input will also be sought from lay representatives to ensure all key stakeholders contribute

meaningfully to the process. The revised version will be finalised during the 2025–26 College year, with publication scheduled for July 2026.

Outcome-Based Education (OBE)

The 2024–25 College year marked a major milestone in RCPI’s educational evolution, with all BST and HST training programmes transitioning to Outcome-Based Education (OBE) curricula. With the final curriculum going live in July 2025, RCPI completed the initial phase of a multi-year transformation that has re-centred medical training on demonstrable outcomes rather than minimum service or time requirements. This shift ensures a stronger focus on professional capability, reflection, and continuous improvement—bringing RCPI programmes into full alignment with international best practice and Irish Medical Council standards.

The implementation of OBE is a shared endeavour between the Department of Training, Education and Lifelong Learning, the Operations Department and each RCPI Faculty and Institute. RCPI teams continue to provide structured support to National Specialty Directors, Trainers, and Trainees through online and in-person implementation sessions, ePortfolio training, and the development of guidance resources available via the Trainer Hub. Recognising that embedding OBE represents a cultural as well as procedural change, RCPI will maintain sustained engagement and reinforcement over the coming years to ensure all participants are supported to apply the new framework with confidence and consistency.

Simulation

The RCPI Simulation Committee saw a transition in leadership this year, with Dr Anabela Serranito, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, appointed as Chair. Dr Serranito succeeds Professor Dara Byrne, who assumed her national role as Clinical Lead at the HSE’s National Simulation Office. RCPI extends its sincere thanks to Professor Byrne for her invaluable contribution in establishing the Simulation Committee and setting a clear direction for simulation-based education within the College.

During the 2024–25 College year, RCPI was awarded €250,000 in capital funding through the HSE NDTP, National Simulation Office, and SPARK Capital Investment Fund. This investment supports the regionalisation of simulation-based training, equipping six clinical sites under a hub-and-spoke model that enhances access to procedural skills training in General Internal Medicine and Paediatrics. The Committee’s ongoing work now focuses on operationalising this investment, strengthening partnerships with hospitals, and embedding sustainable models of simulation delivery that align with the national strategy for simulation in medical education.

Trainer Supports

The third RCPI Trainer Conference took place on 22 November 2024, offered in person and online to support broad participation. Chaired by Professor Michael Keane and Dr Maeve Doyle, the programme examined how best to support trainees in areas such as high performance, career transitions and well-being. Practical workshops focused on developing day-to-day supervisory skills, and the conference closed with sessions on effective leadership within training environments. Attendance was strong, with 129 trainers taking part, and the feedback was consistently positive.

Building on feedback from the previous year, the Physicians as Trainers Essential Skills course was made significantly more accessible. Across 2024/25 it was delivered 12 times in six regional sites, alongside an online option. A total of 242 new trainers completed the programme, reflecting both demand for structured development and the commitment of trainers to maintaining high standards.

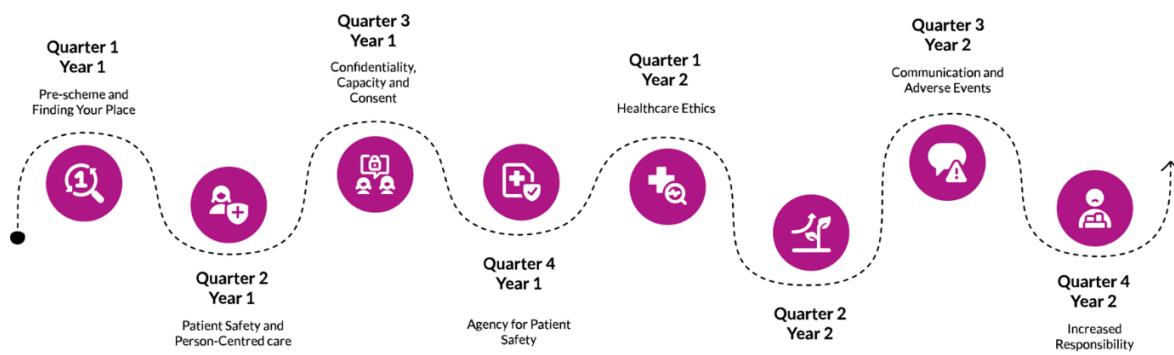
Development work on the new Trainer CPD framework also continued during 2024/25, in preparation for its planned launch in 2026/27.

RCPI remains acutely aware that the quality of postgraduate medical training depends on the expertise, goodwill and sustained engagement of trainers across the country. Their contribution underpins the experience and progression of every trainee, and RCPI continues to prioritise investment in resources, development opportunities and supports that recognise this central role.

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

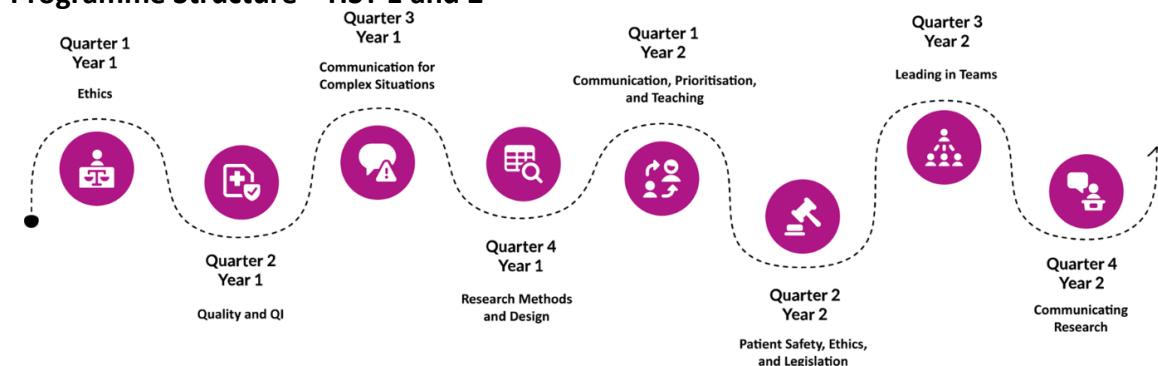
From the 2023-24 college year, RCPI's BST programmes moved away from a model of mandatory courses into a new Taught Programme consisting of modular elements wherein curriculum components are provided at correct, relevant stages of training.

Programme Structure – BST 1 and 2



In the 2024-25 training year, the Taught Programme was rolled out to Year 2 of BST and Year 1 of Higher Specialist Training (HST). There were 223 BST tutorials which took place in 2024-25 across Year 1 and Year 2 and 28 tutorials which took place for HST Year 1.

Programme Structure – HST 1 and 2



IRISH CLINICIAN EDUCATION TRACK (ICET)

In 2024–25, RCPI completed the first pilot of the Irish Clinician Education Track (ICET) within Higher Specialist Training. This innovative pathway, designed for trainees with a strong interest in clinical education, provides funding for up to two years of out-of-programme experience focused on supervised teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The first two trainees on the pilot of the ICET programme completed their two-year programme in July 2025. Four trainees commenced on Year 2 of the programme for the college year 2025-26. Four more Trainees joined the programme in July 2024.

STUDY DAY PROJECT

From October 2023-May 2024, RCPI conducted a new Study Day project, reviewing current Study Day models and making recommendations for improvement.

A survey assessing stakeholder needs received a significant number of responses across the college's institutes and faculties.

Following analysis of data, emerging themes and key issues were identified and reports written to summarise findings and form extensive recommendations to help support the delivery of this essential component of BST and HST programmes.

Among those recommendations was the alignment of RCPI Study Days with national guidelines on best educational practice, and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Study Day events in meeting the educational needs of Trainees and supporting their professional development.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FELLOWSHIPS

RCPI's Management Consultant Fellowships, created in partnership with PwC Ireland and EY Ireland, offers Trainees on a HST programme the opportunity to work full-time for a one-year period as a management consultant to gain practical business and management experience in a healthcare context.

In its third year, the Management Consultant Fellowships were awarded to six Trainees, a 50% increase on its first cohort in July 2001: Dr Claire Connellan (*HST General Paediatrics*), Dr Claire McAteer (*HST Geriatric Medicine*), Dr David Tansey (*HST Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus*), Dr Jane Noble (*HST Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus*), Dr Patrick Coughlan (*HST Respiratory Medicine*); and Dr Sarah Kyne (*HST General Paediatrics*).

ASPIRE FELLOWSHIPS

Doctors awarded a Certificate of Successful Completion of Training (CSCST) on completion of their Higher Specialist Training may apply for a RCPI Aspire Fellowship.

Created by RCPI in partnership with HSE National Doctors Training & Planning (NDTP), this 12-month Fellowship offers exceptional individuals high-quality training and exposure to speciality training and advanced clinical skills, in addition to a Specialist Registrar (SpR) salary for the duration of the fellowship.

RCPI had 20 doctors on its Aspire Fellowships in the 2024-25 training year.

NEW CONTRACT WITH TEST REACH

In June 2024, RCPI entered a new remote invigilation supplier contract with its ongoing delivery partner TestReach. As part of the partnership, the college plays a role providing feedback on product development and design, to ensure that TestReach's services continue to provide innovative and best-in-class tools to run high-stakes, online medical examinations, now and into the future.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

The Annual National Education Day, organised by RCPI Trainees' Committee, took place on 24 May 2024.

Under the theme "Inclusion & Diversity in Medicine," this year's event featured a series of compelling talks from a diverse group of speakers capturing key themes in medical training, to presentations by finalists for the Trainee Awards.

The event included the Trainee Awards prize ceremony, highlighting outstanding achievements from within the RCPI Trainee Group.

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 Public Health Medicine 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 PHM trainees sit on the health and wellbeing trainee committee and PHM trainees were involved in the inaugural Wellness Day. 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

ENHANCING OUR EDUCATION OFFERING

Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics:

RCPI's Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics, accredited at QQI Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualification, launched in September 2023 had its first cohort of learners complete in 2024.

The second offering of the Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics ran from September 2024 to August 2025, with 24 learners enrolled. Of these, 21 successfully completed the programme and progressed to the final examination held on 4th September 2025. One learner withdrew during the programme, one deferred to the next offering, and one did not meet the requirements for progression. Ratified results are scheduled for release on 25th September 2025.

The programme's assessment infrastructure was further strengthened through the enhancement of the question bank, with new items developed in collaboration with subject matter experts to ensure continued rigour and relevance.

The past 12 months have been marked by a series of impactful activities and new releases, underscoring RCPI's commitment to excellence in medical education. Central to our progress has been the consolidation of the Education Development team and the establishment of blended and online learning as a core delivery modes.

Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS)

With funding from the NSO, we developed a Train the Trainer programme in Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS). In collaboration with international expert Dr Stefan Tchernodrinski of the University of Illinois and Dr Paul O'Hara of Portiuncula /GUH, we created a blended offering combining online learning material, workshops, supervised 1:1 instruction and distance independent training. This pilot programme ran in both Galway and Waterford with consultants in GIM. As a result of the POCUS pilot, we have begun to build a new pool of expertise; Trainers prepared to guide future Trainees in developing their POCUS skills as outlined in the OPTIMISE report. After a full evaluation, we are now expanding the pilot to include procedural skills as it will run again in both Limerick and Kilkenny.

Basic Skills in GI Endoscopy

This course, originally in-person, was moved online during Covid. Outdated materials were identified by the Learning Innovation & Development team for redevelopment in 2024, with Prof Glen Doherty leading the creation of updated content. The module is now purpose built fully online, asynchronous and offers three hours of engagement.

Advance Care Planning

This year, the Advance Care Planning course was revised to include essential legislative updates related to the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act (2015), ensuring it more effectively meets the needs of learners.

Certificate in Clinical Care for Residential Facilities

RCPI delivered the Certificate in Clinical Care for Residential Facilities to 17 healthcare professionals from a range of disciplines. This Certificate programme provides learners with the opportunity to develop their expertise in the care of older people living in residential care and collaborate with other healthcare professionals and experts to drive improvements in this area. The topics covered range from regulation, governance and ethics to risk management, clinical care, prescribing, and the role of technology. The programme ran for 4 months with three online virtual tutorials, and one in-person day bringing together all learners for a day focused on peer learning and group discussion. The learners benefited from the addition of 13 leading experts who contributed as guest speakers.

O&G Pocket Tutorials

Supported by NDTP-HSE Development Funding, the IOG Pocket Tutorials project in collaboration with the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, focuses on the design and development of 38 online and independent-learning modules. Eleven modules are finished, 17 more are in development, and the project is on schedule for phased rollout in 2026.

Expansion of O&G Basic Practical Skills

In response to evolving training needs, the Basic Practical Skills programme was restructured to include an additional workshop day—Day 1 focused on Obstetrics and Day 2 on Gynecology. This revised format was piloted in February 2025, received positive feedback, and has secured agreement and funding for full implementation in the 2025–2026 academic year. The redesign was developed in close liaison with the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology to ensure relevance and alignment with specialty-specific competencies.

New portfolio based exams

RCPI's Learning Technology team supported the transition of portfolio-based exams (MFPHMI, LFOM, MFOM) to the Brightspace platform, streamlining submission, marking, and feedback processes. We collaborated with examiners to gather requirements and implement the setup. We also provided ongoing support through training, demo videos, and user experience enhancements to ensure a smooth rollout.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME (CPD-SS)

A total of 915 Learners were enrolled on the *Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD- SS)* in the 2024-25 training year.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROGRAMMES

Since 2011, *RCPI's Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare* has been making significant strides. This year marked the 27th intake of the programme, welcoming 10 teams from various healthcare settings nationwide. To date, over 780 healthcare professionals have been trained in Quality Improvement (QI) through this initiative.

So far, *Situation Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) Collaborative* – a programme designed to build a safety culture, funded by HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate – has been delivered to over 80 clinical teams representing 37 hospitals and more than 280 clinical staff from medical, nursing, ambulance service, administrative, psychology, dietetics, physiotherapy and pharmacy backgrounds. Twenty-one clinical teams completed the programme in the 2024-25 training year.

A new course *Embedding QI*, designed to deliver bespoke QI tools to a specific cohort of clinical staff, had 24 learners, coming from Critical Care Outreach Advanced Nurse Practitioners (CCO ANP). A second cohort, dedicated to CCO ANP and CCO colleagues as project partners, is funded for 2024-25 by the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate (NQPSD).

QI in Action, a virtually delivered course designed to provide quality improvement methodology that can lead to measurable outcomes, had 20 learners from medical, nursing and HSCP backgrounds.

IHEED PARTNERSHIP

Under RCPI's ongoing, successful partnership with iheed, 2,119 Learners participated across our six programmes in the 2024-25 training year.

RCPI and iheed currently offer:

- *Professional Diploma in Paediatrics,*
- *Professional Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology,*
- *Professional Diploma in Dermatology,*
- *Professional Diploma in Medicine for the Older Person,*
- *Professional Diploma in Infectious Diseases,*
- *Professional Diploma in Occupational Medicine*

The Professional Diploma in Infectious Diseases is particularly relevant to Public Health. Module 3, titled “Public Health & Social Aspects of Infectious Diseases,” equips learners to consider infectious diseases within the broader context of public and global health. Over 10 weeks it covers areas such as public and global health, disease prevention, tropical medicine, social exclusion, migrant health and other special populations.

Launched in December 2022, the programme runs 3 times per year, has attracted over 500 learners and receives extremely positive feedback from the participating clinicians.

The Professional Diploma in Occupational Medicine has now been extended to include a Licentiate of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (LFOM) preparatory course, following the introduction of a fourth module. This new module was added to address a gap in the curriculum and to better prepare learners for the LFOM examination. It extends the existing Diploma to fully align with the LFOM exam requirements and includes four new topics, LFOM-style practice quizzes for exam readiness, self-directed online learning, tutorials focused on exam preparation and portfolio development, and personalised feedback on sample portfolio cases. Together, these enhancements make the programme a comprehensive and high-quality resource for those intending to sit the LFOM exam.



November 2024: Barbara Coen, iheed's Chief Product and Operations Officer, delivered a compelling talk at the "Discussions on Good Practice in Online and Transnational Programmes" event, hosted by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) on Kildare Street. Organised by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QFI), the event gathered educators from across Ireland to explore the challenges and opportunities for online and transnational learning in a post-pandemic world.

Healthcare Leadership

Prof 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 2023-2024, 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 01 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 gynecology, 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

Ms Sinead Lucey, Head of Business Development

Membership and Fellowship

Subscription income for 2024/25 totalled €24,765 and subscription income for 2025/26 currently stands at €13,622, tracking 6.9% ahead of this time last year. A new pathway for fellowship for the Faculty of Public Health for members who don't have a CSCST but are members of the faculty has been approved and is now in place for future applications.

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 during and after the event. The next International Alumni Network Meeting will be held in Bahrain on Wednesday 5 November 2025 at Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research, which is also the location of our exams in Bahrain.

EQUALS INITIATIVE

In February 2025 and June 2025 two 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.

In October 2025 RCPI hosted Prof Victor Mukonka, Dr Jonathan Sitali and Dr Kweku Gaisie from the Zambian Ministry of Health and ZACOMS. Prof Mukonka spoke at the RCPI Annual Conference and was conferred as an Honorary Fellow. Whilst here they participated in several meetings aimed at supporting the ongoing development and growth of ZACOMS.

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.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative – Sponsored

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative continues to provide a route for sponsored overseas doctors to experience structured postgraduate medical training in the Irish Public Health service. It enables suitably qualified medical Trainees from the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) to undertake a fixed period of training in clinical services in Ireland. Trainees participating within these programmes are fully sponsored by their governments for the duration of their training. Income generated through the programme is invested into improvement projects that benefit all RCPI training programmes.

RCPI offers two streams of training under this Initiative, Residency and Clinical Fellowship training, and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.

International Residency Training Programme

Our International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is offered to doctors upon completion of their Internship. This programme enables doctors to complete Residency training in Ireland before returning to their home country with a Saudi/Arab Board equivalent qualification and Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. The doctors can undertake the IRTP in General Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Histopathology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Currently there are 22 graduates.

International Clinical Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training at a senior level for doctors who wish to pursue higher training in their

chosen specialty or sub-specialty. These programmes are now available in 58 specialty and subspecialty areas, including Public Health. The total number of trainees across all RCPI faculties and institutes is 69 and the number of graduates to date from all specialities is 191.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative – Scholarship

The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan's (CPSP's) working relationship with the HSE and the Forum of the Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, continues to provide a Postgraduate Scholarship Programme in Ireland for doctors from Pakistan. This allows doctors who are enrolled with the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan to complete two years of their training in Ireland. The Sudan Medical Specialisation Board (SMSB) joined the CPSP in offering the programme in 2018. To date there are over 40 graduates of the programme and the current cohort are training in GIM, Paediatrics and O&G.

Administration and contact details

Key personnel in RCPI who conduct work on behalf of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine include:

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Other key departments are linked to the Faculty of Public Health Medicine page on <https://www.rcpi.ie/Faculties-Institutes/Faculty-of-Public-Health-Medicine>