

FACULTY OF PATHOLOGY

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



Annual Report 2024



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Welcome from the Dean

Report by Prof Mary Keogan

Dear Fellows and Associate Members,

It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to our 2024 Annual Report. It has been another busy and exciting year for the Faculty of Pathology. I would like to thank the Officers of the Faculty, all members of the Faculty Board, members of Faculty Committees, National Specialty Directors, Regional Specialty Advisors, Trainers, and all the Fellows who give generously of their time to represent the Faculty on many RCPI and National Committees.



It is a particular pleasure to welcome our new Dean Elect, Dr Shari Srinivasan, who will commence as Dean in February 2026. Dr Srinivasan is a Consultant Chemical Pathologist in Beaumont Hospital, and has contributed to the Faculty over many years in many roles. She is an active trainer, has chaired the Chemical Pathology Standing Committee, for several years, was elected to the Board in 2019, and represents the Faculty on a number of internal and external committees. In addition, Dr Srinivasan is currently the Chemical Pathology Advisor in the Laboratory Services Reform Programme. Her broad knowledge of Pathology in Ireland will be a huge asset during her Deanship.

The work of the Faculty relies on support from RCPI staff in many departments within the College. Within the Faculty, we would like to welcome Mr Brian O'Murchu, our new Faculty Officer, who took up the role in October 2024, and congratulate Mr Sean McCarthy, his predecessor on his promotion to Faculty Liaison Officer. We are grateful to Mr Darragh Whelan for his ongoing support in his new role as Faculties Manager.

RCPI is a College made up of 6 Faculties and Institutes, and many challenges we face are common across Faculties and Institutes. We are stronger together, and the Faculty is contributing to and benefitting from a number of cross-college initiatives. Priorities for the Faculty including attracting new trainees into pathology disciplines, focusing on keeping pace with educational advances to train the pathologists of tomorrow, as well as ensuring that our CPD programme complies with the incoming Medical Council framework – these areas have all benefitted from being part of a broader college.

In this report, we remember Dr Rosemary Hone, a previous Dean of the Faculty of Pathology (1993–1996), who died in August 2024. In addition to her clinical, academic and professional achievements, Dr Hone designed and commissioned the Travel Medal for the Dean of the Faculty. This beautiful design was subsequently echoed when the Faculty commissioned Past Dean's medals.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

We have continued to implement and review our Governance policies throughout 2024. The Board is now Chaired by a designated Chair, chosen from the elected Fellows, while the Dean chairs the Faculty Executive Committee. We are grateful to Dr Sine Phelan, and Dr Joan Power, for taking up this role during 2024. The new Board structure has been implemented, with a reduced number of Fellows. Terms have been staggered, to ensure that there are opportunities for election each year. Specialty Standing Committees have been established in Immunology and Clinical Microbiology, joining the longstanding Histopathology and Chemical Pathology Standing Committees. We expect that the Haematology Standing Committee will be established in the coming year.

The Faculty continues to work on priority areas to improve the delivery and utilization of laboratory medicine services. Following the publication of the Pathology Workforce Plan the NDTP in 2023 ([pathology specialty review.pdf](#)), we continue to work with RCPI and the NDTP to expand our training programmes. It is essential that we have the resources to ensure quality training, while aiming to expand training numbers to meet future needs. While workload continues to increase in all specialties, the histopathology workload data from 2023, published in Nov 2024 by the Histopathology Specialty Quality Improvement Programme showed growth at threefold the rate seen previously. This highlights the need to continue to monitor the workforce projections, to ensure that amendments are considered if the assumptions underlying the plan deviate from experience. The Faculty will work with NDTP to update the Histopathology figures. Additionally, we are working with the National Endoscopy Programme to look at best practice in GI biopsies to support best practice, and provide more detailed information to feed into workforce planning.

Recruitment into pathology specialties has been highly variable in previous years. Some specialties are consistently oversubscribed, while other less visible specialties frequently have vacancies on their programmes. Clearly recruitment of high caliber trainees is central to delivering the pathology workforce of the future. This year the Faculty participated in an RCPI Intern Day, highlighting careers in Pathology, and met a number of highly engaged interns. We also held a Webinar entitled “How did I get here? The Pathologist’s Journey” during International Pathology Week for Interns and SHOs. We aim to build on these activities in 2025, however it was good to see an increase in numbers of applications for all pathology disciplines this year. We really appreciate the input of our wonderful Trainee Reps who played a key role in these activities.

A key priority for 2025 is the development of a short Essentials of Laboratory Diagnostics course aimed at those who order laboratory tests, or utilize Near Patient Testing. We are planning this course to teach aspects of Laboratory Medicine which will help users target use of the laboratory service, and to seek help appropriately.

It is an exciting time in Pathology nationally. We congratulate Prof Martin Cormican and colleagues in the Laboratory Services Reform Programme, on the development of the Laboratory Strategy, currently nearing final approval. This strategy is the culmination of a vast amount of work, will guide the development of Laboratory services for the next decade. This year saw the first deployment of MedLIS in Beaumont Hospital. The system is live for blood sciences, molecular biology and microbiology at the time of writing. The HSE has adopted plans to support Digital Pathology – there is much to look forward to in the coming years. Regionalisation of the health service is becoming embedded, and will inevitably impact on the design of Pathology in all specialties. With involvement of Pathologists from an early stage of service redesign, regional change should be an opportunity for improvement.

We are all really stretched, maintaining services, and doing our best to meet patients’ needs for high quality pathology services. However, it is important for all of us to design and plan the service we need for the future, despite the business of the present. We need to show our trainees the importance of advocating for improvement when services do not meet the needs of patients, or when change increases risk rather than bringing improvement. We have much to be proud of, and must strive to deliver the excellence that patients need, despite the challenges.

*We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
Aristotle*

Faculty Highlights for 2024

Faculty Annual Symposium 08-09 February 2024:

The Faculty of Pathology held its 43rd Annual Symposium at No. 6 Kildare Street on 08 and 09 February 2024. The programme featured a wide variety of topics, including technological advances in pathology and training within the field, which are detailed in the Scientific Meetings Committee Report.

We welcomed two Honorary Fellows, Prof Aleš Ryška, Immediate Past President of the European Society of Pathology, and Prof Ian Cree, Honorary Professor of Pathology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London and Retired Head of WHO Classification of Tumours at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, both of whom delivered keynote addresses during the symposium.

New Fellows and Associate Members:

Seven new Fellows & 8 new Associate Members were admitted into the Faculty at the 2024 AGM. Gratitude is extended to the Faculty Credentials Committee, for evaluating Associate Membership applications ahead of their names being submitted to the Board and RCPI Council for ratification. New Fellows now receive a dual Fellowship – both FRCPI and FPath (RCPI). We are delighted to welcome New Fellows and Associate Members to the Faculty, and encourage you to get involved in Faculty affairs.

Fellows	Associate Members
Aaron Doherty	Emily Glynn
Daniel Hare	Julieanne Houlihan
Grace Chan	Blessing Obasi
Jennifer Walsh	Leah Timon
Laura McKenna	Niamh Mooney
Peter De La Harpe Golden	Leticia Gallego
Roisin O'Connor	Sally McGrath
	Tahmina Gul

AWARDS & MEDALS

Poster Prize	Dr Niamh Mooney, Department of Histopathology, St James' Hospital: The Importance of Clonality Testing - A Case of Accumulating B-Cell Lymphomas
Rapid Fire Poster Prizes	Dr Niamh Reidy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland; Beaumont Hospital, Dublin: 'Tip of the Iceberg'. How severe is 'severe' C. difficile?
	Dr Eoghan O'Connor, St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin; University College Dublin; NHQI Programme Working Group: 'The role of multidisciplinary team meeting histopathology review and impact on revised reports; analysis of a national quality improvement programme.'
George Greene Medal	Dr Sarah Kelliher, Haematology Specialist Registrar. Paper entitled 'Analysis of the platelet proteome reveals insights into the pro-inflammatory and pro-thrombotic state associated with the Philadelphia chromosome-negative myeloproliferative neoplasms'.

John D Kennedy Medal	Dr Sinead O'Donnell, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist. Paper entitled 'Bone flap infections after craniotomy: a review of 63 cases and the implications for definitions, classification and surveillance methodologies'
John O'Dowd Medal	Dr Sean Whelan, Division of Medical Microbiology, University Hospital Galway. Paper entitled 'Turn up the volume – make cultures count! A quality improvement project to increase paediatric blood culture volumes'

International Pathology Day

Each year the Faculty of Pathology celebrates International Pathology Day by holding a free hybrid event to highlight the role of pathology in a key service. The aim of the meeting is to interest laboratory users and trainees in all specialties in the key role played by laboratory medicine in patients' healthcare journeys. By holding a hybrid event, we support multidisciplinary networking as well as maximising accessibility throughout the country.

This year there were many transplant related milestones - the 60th anniversary of the first kidney transplant performed in Ireland; the 6,000th renal transplant was performed, and the 50th Anniversary of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H & I; previously known as Tissue Typing) Services in the State.

The Faculty of Pathology combined celebration of International Pathology Day with celebrating the 50th Birthday of H & I Services – now provided by the National Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Service for Solid Organ Transplantation, which was designated as a National Service in 2002. All aspects of solid organ transplantation were discussed, including the donor family perspective, care of donor families, ensuring the opportunity of donation is offered as widely as possible, the impact of changes in legislation and change in the health service on transplant services, the key role of pathology, and updates from all solid organ transplant programmes in the State.

The meeting celebrated the achievements of the past, and looked forward to the many advances in progress or anticipated in the near future, in this fast moving area of medicine.

Webinars

The Faculty Webinar programme continued throughout the year. Webinars have proved highly popular as a form of accessible CPD, which also allows us invite a diverse range of speakers, including international speakers.

In collaboration with Prof Hilary Hoey, the Dean engaged in College wide preparations for the Medical Councils new CPD framework which will come into effect in May 2025. This groundwork has ensured that our webinar series can be maintained, and achieve compliance with the new requirements.

Laboratory Diagnostics Course

Educating all who use Pathology Services to ensure that patients obtain the best benefit possible from our services is a priority for the Faculty. An Online course is being planned, with considerable groundwork undertaken in 2024. We are delighted that Dr Deirdre O'Brien has taken on the role of Clinical Lead for this priority project. We anticipate that the course may be launched in 2025.

Faculty Scientific Meetings Committee

Report by Prof Sean Hynes

Our scientific meetings for 2024 were again anchored by a successful Annual Symposium Day in February held on Thursday the 8th and Friday the 9th of February. The theme of this year's symposium was around molecular pathology covering all subspecialty interests with a new round table discussion aspect of the theme of the day. Our trainees were also central to the day, with their oral presentations and giving their insights into their fellowships.

We continued with our increasingly successful webinar series with Webinars in April, June, September and November covering diverse topics of interest from the future directions in Pathology services in Ireland to our environment and the toxins therein.

In addition, we had a very successful webinar on careers in Pathology and a hugely significant International Pathology Day based on 50 years a growing around the 50th Anniversary of National Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Service for Solid Organ Transplantation.

We are looking forward to continuing to grow our Scientific Meetings in 2025.

Annual Symposium Day 1 Thursday 08 February 2024:

Session 1: Technological Advances in Pathology

- Dr Emma McCann "National strategy for genetics/genomics"
- Prof Siobhan Glavey "The multidisciplinary molecular laboratory"
- Prof David Gonzales de Castro "Implementation of precision medicine"
- Prof Stephen Gillespie "Metagenomics – Modernising Medical Microbiology"
- **KEYNOTE & HONORARY FELLOW:** Dr Ales Ryska "Quality and Accreditation in Pathology"



Session 2: Pathology and Training

- Dr Fionnuala Cox "My experience: Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarship in Australia"
- Dr Judi Lynch "My experience: RCPI/PWC Management Consultancy Fellowship"
- **KEYNOTE & HONORARY FELLOW:** Prof Ian Cree "The future of cancer diagnostics"

Annual Symposium Day 2 Friday 09 February 2024:



- Session 3: Real World Pathology Issues
- Prof Maeve Doyle "Trainer feedback and resources at the RCPI"
- Mr Thomas Walsh "MedLIS Update 2024"
- Dr Orla Healy "Update on open disclosure"
- Dr Ana Rakovac "Green issues in Laboratory Medicine"

Medal winners and speakers:

- Dr Sarah Kelliher – George Greene Medal
- Dr Sinead O’Donnell – John D Kennedy Medal
- Dr Sean Whelan – Inaugural John O’Dowd Medal

Faculty of Pathology Webinar Thursday 11 April 2024

The microbiome – welcome to the world within you

- Dr Rory Crotty “Histologic Reflections of the Gut Microbiome”
- Prof Marietta Iacucci “Advanced Imaging Enabled by Artificial Intelligence: Endoscopy is Getting Closer to Histology”
- Prof Liam O’Mahony “Microbial regulation of host immune responses”

Faculty of Pathology Webinar Thursday 03 June 2024

Pathology in Ireland: Past, Present and Future

- Ms Harriet Wheelock “The Truths of Pathology: the start of the specialty in Ireland”
- Dr Pdraig Keane “The key changes and the INAB transition assessment process”
- Prof Martin Cormican “Future strategy for laboratory medicine in Ireland”

Faculty of Pathology Webinar Thursday 19th September 2024

A Toxic Environment for Humans and Microbes

- Prof Lisa Connolly “Endocrine disrupting chemicals, safeguarding human health”
- Dr Patrick Stapleton “Group A Strep infection; a toxin driven tale”
- Dr Julie Tierney “Getting the most from your postmortem toxicology analysis”

Faculty of Pathology Webinar Wednesday 6th November 2024

How did I get here? The Pathologist’s journey

Dr Cynthia Heffron, “Why pathology?”

A day in the life:

- Dr Robyn Traynor “Clinical Microbiology”
- Dr Sabah Abdalfadil “Chemical Pathology”
- Dr Lara Dungan “Immunology”
- Dr Mohamed Bakri “Haematology”
- Dr Safi Al Mandhari “Histopathology”

Roundtable discussion with NSDs

- Prof Niall Swan
- Dr Eoghan Molloy
- Dr Ana Rakovac
- Dr Anna Rose Prior
- Dr Michael Jansen

International Pathology Day, No 6 Kildare Street, Wednesday 13th November 2024

Solid Organ Transplantation

Session 1: The Gift of Life

- Dr Colm Henry “Healthcare reform”
- Dr Brian O’Brien “50 year a-grafting – what next?”
- Dr Catherine Motherway “Care of the donor and donor family”
- Ms Martina Goggins “Organ donation from the perspective of a donor family”
- Dr Breda Lynch “Calculating risk – increasing the use of good organs for transplant”

- Dr James O'Rourke "DCD – Past Present and Future"
- Prof Mary Keogan " Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in Ireland – 50 years a growing"

Session 2: Renal Transplantation

- Mr Tiberius Pereira "Transplant Recipient - Patient Experience and Learnings: Practical Steps to Empowering People to be Active Partners"
- Mr Usman Horoon "Advances in Kidney Transplantation"
- Dr Colleen Flannery "Donor GFR Assessment & Therapeutic Drug Monitoring"
- Prof Brendan Doyle "Histopathology aspects of renal transplantation"
- Dr Carol Traynor "Living Kidney Donation at Beaumont Hospital"
- Dr Aisling Courtney "Mix & match? Transplant options when living kidney donors are incompatible"



Session 3: Cardiothoracic, Liver & Pancreas Transplantation

- Mr Emir Hoti "Liver transplantation in Ireland in 2024"
- Prof Niamh Nolan "The contribution of histopathology to liver transplantation: past, present and the future"
- Prof Tom Gallagher "Pancreas transplant programme"
- Ms Aisling Kinsella "Transforming Lives: Ireland's journey in heart and lung transplantation"
- Prof Aurelie Fabre "The pathology of heart and lung transplantation"



Advocacy, Guidelines, Reports and National Projects

Report by Prof Mary Keogan

Throughout 2024, The Faculty continued to support on-going activities relating to many key areas, reports and position statements. The following is a flavour of some of those activities (further activities are detailed in individual reports) either completed or on-going in 2024 by Faculty Committees, Fellows and Associate Members. The Faculty sincerely acknowledges and thanks all those involved in these activities.

Post Mortem Examination Services and associated issues.

Summary by Prof Linda Mulligan

The HSE National Clinical Guidelines for Post Mortem Examination Services were published with their associated toolkit in 2023. The HSE continued to work on its educational programme around these guidelines in 2024 with input from the Faculty of Pathology.

The Department of Health finalised the Human Tissue Act in 2024, which covers transplantation, post-mortem, anatomical examination and public display of human tissue. This was possible in no small part as a result of extensive consultation with and input from the Faculty of Pathology. Sections of the Act will come into law on various different dates from 2024-2025.

The public consultation on the reform of the Coroners' Service was completed in 2024 and this reform, including major adjustments to the Coroner's Acts 1962-2020 is now part of the new programme for government. In 2025, the Faculty of Pathology will continue to engage with the Department of Justice, Health Service Executive, Department of Health and the Coroners to progress this. It is hoped that this will finally formalise the provision of the coronial autopsy service nationally and result in adequate resourcing of the service to ensure it is sustainable into the future.

National Near Patient Testing Consultative Group

Summary by Prof Gerard Boran

The National Near-Patient Testing (NPT) Consultative Group met twice in 2024 under the auspices of the Faculty of Pathology. This is a multidisciplinary committee, chaired by Professor Gerard Boran, with the brief of maintaining and disseminating guidelines for NPT.

The most recent comprehensive update was in 2021, with minor updates also occurring in 2022. Planned updates to the current version are in progress and will include implications of the latest ISO 15189: 2022 standard and recent developments in community near-patient testing. It is anticipated that the next update will be released before the end of 2025.

A 10 minute explanatory video is available at the following link (requires RCPI log-in): <https://rcpi.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=a0569feb-c14f-46f5-a9d3-aeb000d7da02&start=10296.807904>.

National Seroepidemiology Unit

The Dean continued to represent the Faculty of Pathology on the National Seroepidemiology Unit Steering Group. While the Unit was initiated to support disease surveillance during Covid, the work of the group has expanded to include other vaccine preventable diseases. The Steering Group provides oversight for the Unit which operates in line with the Infectious Diseases regulations. Work undertaken in 2024 includes Seroepidemiology of measles, and commencement of Hepatitis B Seroepidemiology, as well as ongoing work related to SARS-CoV-2.

Supporting utilization of Histopathology Quality Improvement Data by Regional Group Management

As the mismatch between demand for histopathology services greatly outstrips capacity, a collaborative project was undertaken by the Histopathology QI Programme, Faculty of Pathology, the Laboratory Services Reform Programme and the Chief Clinical Officer's Office to develop a template to allow Regional Health Service Management to review QI data for the centers for which they are responsible in a timely manner. An enormous amount of design and planning was undertaken by the Working Group, Programme Manager Aine Mitchell and Specialty QI Programmes Manager Caitriona McGrath to develop a template which will provide the information relevant to Regional Executive Officers, while preserving the extraordinarily high level of participation in the programme, which is unique in the world. It is expected that availability of information in a timely manner will help use the data to implement improvement where targets are not achievable with current resources.

MedLIS Project Board

In 2024, MedLIS reached an important milestone with the first go-live for blood sciences, molecular biology and microbiology in Beaumont Hospital. The Faculty of Pathology has been involved in the MedLIS project for the last decade, providing specialty specific input at project board level.

As the project enters the roll out phase, governance will move to a regionalized structure. The current Project Board completed its term in December 2024. We would like to thank all of the Faculty representatives who have contributed to this Project Board over many years.

Development of Referral pathway for Perioperative Allergy Assessment – collaborative project with College of Anesthesiologists in Ireland

A key patient safety project undertaken by the Immunology Standing Committee, the Irish Association for Allergy and Immunology and the Colleges of Anesthesiology of Ireland was completed in 2024, with the collaborative development of a National Referral Proforma for Allergy Investigation and Consultation for patients who experience perioperative allergic reactions. By improving the quality of documentation supplied at referral, patients can be seen more quickly, reducing delays for outstanding surgery, improving safety in emergencies, and reducing patient anxiety. The Referral Proforma is available to all Anaesthesiologists on the CAI website ([Referral Proforma for Allergy Investigation and Consultation – The College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland](#)).

Education and Training

Report by Director of Education and Training, Dr Cynthia Heffron

The Education & Training Committee (ETC) met on four occasions during 2024. The Director of Education & Training, Dr Cynthia Heffron, was assisted by the following:

Table 1: Current Education and Training Committee Representatives

Role	Current Representative	Representative who demitted during 2024
Director of Education and Training (Chair)	Dr Cynthia Heffron	
National Specialty Directors in Chemical Pathology	Dr Ana Rakovac	
National Specialty Directors in Clinical Microbiology	Dr Anna Rose Prior Prof Karina O'Connell	
National Specialty Directors in Haematology	Dr John Quinn Dr Eoghan Molloy	
National Specialty Directors in Histopathology	Prof Niall Swan	
National Specialty Directors in Immunology	Dr Niall Conlon	
National Specialty Directors in Neuropathology	Dr Michael Jansen	
Lay Representative	Dr Muiris O'Ceidigh	
Trainee representative in Chemical Pathology	Dr Kevin	Dr Ciara De Buitléir
Trainee representative in Clinical Microbiology	Dr Robyn Traynor	Dr Emily Glynn
Trainee representative in Haematology	Dr Mohamed Bakri Dr James Fay	Dr Claire Kelly Dr Paraic Behan
Trainee representative in Histopathology BST	Dr Saif Al Mandhari	Dr Paul Reddy
Trainee representative in Histopathology HST	Dr Shima Mohammed	Dr Danny di Capua
Trainee representative in Neuropathology	-	Dr Cassie Fives
Trainee representative in Immunology	Dr Rachel McDermott	

Other training representative roles:

Regional Specialty Advisors (Histopathology):

- Dr Niamh Conlon (Munster)
- Dr Marie Staunton (North Dublin)
- Dr Ciaran O'Riain (Dublin South)
- Dr Laura Aalto (Galway)

(all are members of the Histopathology Specialty Training Committee (STC)).

Lay representation:

We would like to welcome our lay representative, Dr Muiris O’Ceidigh to the committee in 2024. This is our first year have lay representation on the Education and Training Committee and we look forward to benefiting from their input.

Pathology coordinator:

We would also like to thank Thiasha Cullen for all her hard work as our Pathology coordinator who supported our ETC and STCs during 2024.

Trainee representation:

Dr Susannah Sexton was appointed to the position of Lead trainee representative for the Faculty of Pathology and is the trainee representative on the Faculty Board. Dr Sexton is the chair of the trainee subcommittee of the ETC. See table 2 and her report for further details.

A sincere thank you to Dr Susannah Sexton for all her hard work as the FOP Board trainee representative since July 2023. We would also like to thank our outgoing Trainee representatives and welcome our new trainee representatives appointed in July 2024 (see table 1).

Trainee representatives on the RCPI Trainee Committee:

- BST Histopathology Representative: Dr Leah Timon
- Histopathology Forum Representative: Dr Ciara Guerin (to be renamed Pathology Forum Representative)

Trainee representative on the RCPI Health and Wellbeing committee:

- Dr Claire Roberts (Histopathology)

Report for January 2024 to December 2024

The training and education arm of the Faculty remained busy in 2024, working through the Education and Training Committee, to continually develop and enhance the training programmes and opportunities whilst contributing also to RCPI wide activities and developments.

Medical Council Accreditation / Re-accreditation

The 6 Specialist Training Programmes in the Faculty achieved IMC accreditation following the accreditation assessment in 2020, with a few conditions assigned to same. Accreditation was achieved by HST in Chemical Pathology, Clinical Microbiology, Haematology, Immunology and Neuropathology. Re-accreditation was achieved by HST in Histopathology and BST in Histopathology.

An “Action and Implementation Plan (AIP)” advising how as a Faculty we plan to address the conditions and recommendations made has been completed and each STC is addressing the conditions and recommendations for their discipline on an annual basis.

Specialist Division of the Irish Medical Council

Faculty continue to work with RCPI to support the IMC in their assessment process for entry onto the specialist division of the IMC register. Assessor training can be provided by Siobhan Kearns and is needed to increase the number of assessors available to support this activity.

FRCPath Examinations Update

Ireland has continued to be an exam centre for the FRCPath Part 2 exams in Histopathology and Haematology in 2024, facilitating trainees from both the North and South of Ireland. A Spring sitting of the FRCPath Part 2 in Haematology has been held annually since then, most recently in April 2024. Belfast and Dublin hosted the Spring and Autumn sittings of the FRCPath Part 2 in Histopathology in 2024.

The Dean and Director of E&T, Faculty of Pathology, along with the Examinations team in RCPI, continue to have biannual meetings with the Examinations team, RCPATH UK to discuss the ongoing delivery of the exams at Irish exam centres.



Histopathology trainees, Dr Shima Mohamed, Dr Jennifer Garry and Dr Louise Lane receiving their FRCPath in London in September 2024 from Dr Bernie Croal, President of the RCPATH, UK.

Mandatory Courses and Taught Programmes for BST and HST

A review of mandatory courses was undertaken by RCPI. For the 2023 intake of BST Histopathology trainees, a BST taught programme was rolled out for all BST trainees in RCPI. This involves quarterly virtual tutorials with a RCPI Clinical Tutor in their BST specialty as well as assigned teaching content per quarter. Dr Lindsey Clarke, Consultant Histopathologist, SVUH was appointed to the role of RCPI Clinical Tutor for the BST Histopathology taught programme in 2023. RCPI extended this taught programme to all HST trainees for 2024 with Dr Caoimhe Brennan, Clinical Microbiology taking on the role as RCPI Clinical Tutor for Pathology and Dr Sarah Ni Mhaolcatha taking on the role as RCPI Clinical Tutor for Histopathology for 2024/2025.

RCPI and NDTP (National Doctors Training and Planning)

There are biannual meetings of the Faculty of Pathology and RCPI with NDTP, with Prof Anthony O'Regan, as the current Head of NDTP. These meetings facilitate discussions around the training, the service level agreement between the two bodies, training numbers, workforce planning, Aspire fellowships and less than full time working. Current work is focusing on numbers and the challenges of regionalisation on numbers and funding. We continue to work with the RCPI and NDTP on all these issues.

Fellowships

Pathology Aspire Post-CSCST Fellowships:

Funding for four fellowships was awarded in 2024 for the academic year 2024/2025. The successful fellowships were in Clinical Microbiology (SJH), Chemical Pathology (TUH) and Histopathology (one in Dermatopathology, CUH, and one in Ophthalmic Pathology, REEH). This programme began in 2020 during the pandemic with the first fellows taking up post in July 2021. Within the Faculty of Pathology, we have appointed 9 fellows through this programme up to July 2024 with 5 having completed their fellowships (4 now in Consultant posts within Ireland, 1 in further training) with the remainder in progress.

Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme

The Wellcome – Health Research Board Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme is a unique all Ireland cross-institutional, comprehensive national programme for Clinician Scientists based at six major Irish universities and their affiliated hospital groups. The first cohort of fellows was appointed in 2017. The following have been appointed in the pathology disciplines:

- Haematology - Dr Sarah Kelliher, Dr Dearbhla Doherty, Dr Helen Fogarty, Dr Mark Gurney
- Immunology – Dr Katie Ridge
- Clinical Microbiology – Dr Saied Ali, Dr Louise Kelly

Dr Richard Steevens Scholarships and Bursaries

These scholarships and bursaries are awarded by the NDTP/HSE across all disciplines to allow trainees to travel abroad for additional training as part of their training programme.

Dr Catherine King, SpR in Immunology was awarded a Dr Richard Steeven’s Bursary from the NDTP HSE in 2024.

Management fellowships

RCPI in partnership with PWC created Management Consulting Fellowships for Trainees in 2020. The RCPI Management fellowship programme continues to expand, creating further opportunities for trainees and is advertised annually. Currently, no pathology trainees are on this programme.

Faculty of Pathology Trainee Events

Faculty of Pathology Annual Symposium 2024

Congratulations to our trainees who were awarded prizes at this year’s symposium

- The George Greene medal winner was Dr Sarah Keliher, Haematology
- The Rapid Fire Poster Presentation Awards 2024 went to Dr Eoghan O’Connor, Histopathology and Dr Niamh Reidy, Clinical Microbiology.
- The Best Poster Award 2024 went to Dr Niamh Mooney, Histopathology.
- The inaugural Dr John O’Dowd medal went to Dr Sean Whelan, Clinical Microbiology.

Annual Faculty of Pathology Trainee Day, 05 November 2024

The 2024 event was delivered as an in person event our trainees in the Faculty of Pathology in the Corrigan Hall at RCPI 6 Kildare Street with many of our pathology trainees in attendance.



Programme:

Session 1: Your voice your training

- 'Trainee Health and Wellbeing' Maria Golden, Health and Wellbeing Manager, RCPI
- 'Post CSCST Fellowship Pathway at RCPI' Muriosa Prendergast, Head of Operations, RCPI
- 'Laboratory Sustainability – An NCHDs Experience' Drs Robyn Traynor, Sinead Kilgariff and Michael Craughwell
- Chair of the RCPI Trainee Committee, Dr Alessandra Biagini

Session 2: Research – the trials and tribulations

- 'Work, finish, publish: How to plan and write a Scientific Manuscript' Prof Sean Hynes, GUH
- 'Definitions in Research' Prof Mary Keogan, Beaumont
- 'Conducting Health Research in Ireland – what you need to know' Dr Claire Brady, CUH
- 'HRCDC – facilitating health research when explicit consent is not feasible' HRCDC Committee representatives – Brid Burke and Jonny Barrett

Multiple other events took place over the year within the Faculty in which attendance was encouraged including FOP webinars, International Pathology Day meeting and study days / afternoons / talks in each of our pathology disciplines.

RCPI Training Committee

The Director of Education and Training represents the Faculty on this RCPI committee which meets 4-6 times per year. This committee addresses training issues across all the faculties and institutes within the RCPI. Some activities are summarised below:

Training Site Accreditation

The Accreditation model of training site inspections, commenced in 2021, continues into 2024. In this model, the RCPI Accreditation team assess multiple specialties in a site at the same time to reduce the

overall number of inspections at each site. An annual check in with each site is also undertaken by the RCPI to ensure ongoing progress on recommendations. Tullamore, SVUH, UHW training site accreditation this year.

RCPI Report on Training Post Evaluation

The Training Post Evaluation (TPE) was launched in 2016. One of the main objectives of the TPE is to capture experiences in the past year at the site-rotation level, to ultimately improve the training environment. The initiative launch was overseen by a working group comprising National Specialty Directors, RCPI Senior Management, the RCPI Trainees' Committee and the RCPI Research Department. The RCPI Research Ethics Committee reviewed and approved the Training Post Evaluation proposal.

The evaluation is hosted online and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Trainees are asked to evaluate each training post they completed that year – their interaction with Trainers, satisfaction with the training provided, site facilities and working environment. They are also asked to rate their post out of 100, with 100 being the most positive score. All answers are anonymous.

The evaluation is open to all doctors on RCPI Basic and Higher Specialist Training programmes. The quantitative data was analysed in SPSS.

Key Findings in the Report relating to Faculty of Pathology

- Most Pathology training posts were rated positively, with 100% of BST and HST doctors in training likely to recommend them to their colleagues. In majority of the posts (BST 80%, HST 83.3%) doctors in training felt that their working environment fully supports the confidence-building of doctors in training.
- In the majority of Pathology posts (BST 100%, HST 92.3%), Trainees felt they were offered exposure to a broad clinical case mix.
- The inability to engage in activities outside of work was highlighted by doctors in training in Pathology in most of the posts.
- Responses for Pathology Trainees were broadly similar to the larger TPE cohort.

Other Committee Involvement includes:

RCPI Simulation Steering Committee

The Simulation Steering Committee is the decision-making body in RCPI for implementation of the simulation strategy and for ongoing decisions relating to simulation based education. The first meeting took place in 2023 with the committee chaired by Prof Dara Byrne. In 2024, Prof Byrne took over the role as National Lead for Simulation with the HSE. Dr Anabela Serranito has taken over as the chair of this committee from the end of 2024. Dr Cynthia Heffron sits on this committee as the Director of Education and Training and as the Faculty representative. Histopathology successfully undertook a successful pilot simulation project to deliver a BST bootcamp in January and July 2024.

Dr Kevin Culligan, Consultant Histopathologist, GUH, delivering part of the Histopathology Bootcamp to BST trainees, July 2024 at the state of the art simulation facilities in GUH.



Global Training and Partnerships Committee

The Director of Education and Training represents the Faculty of Pathology on this committee which first met in July 2023 and is chaired by Prof Cecily Quinn, Consultant Histopathologist, SVUH, Dublin. This committee addresses how RCPI facilitates our international trainees and training programmes within the college to ensure they are integrated appropriately into our existing training programme. This committee meets 4-6 times per year. We have a number of International fellows training in the pathology disciplines this year.

Dr Abdullah Aziz, RCPI International Clinical Fellow in Gynaecological Pathology, Dr Nick Mayer, Consultant Histopathologist, Dr Safia Al Nabhani RCPI International Clinical Fellow in Genitourinary Pathology, Dr Niamh Conlon, Consultant Histopathologist, all at CUH



Conclusion

This last year has again been a very busy year for trainers and trainees within the Faculty of Pathology. The Faculty has continued to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, both internal and external to the RCPI, in its mission to the continual improvement of its programmes and the creation of additional opportunities for trainees. We continue to engage with the RCPIs strategy to improve training through active involvement in RCPIs projects, working groups and committees to ensure the unique needs of laboratory medicine training is considered. We continue to listen to and adopt feedback from the trainees, trainers, NDTP and the Irish Medical Council, and we use this information to direct training and progress workforce planning to ensure that we will have the manpower and skills to continue to deliver quality training and Pathology services in the future.



Trainee Report

Report by Dr Susannah Staunton

As the Lead Trainee Representative for the Faculty of Pathology, I represent pathology trainees at the Faculty of Pathology Board and Executive Committees, and also chair the Faculty of Pathology Trainee Committee.

The Faculty of Pathology Trainee Committee aims to improve communication between pathology trainees of all specialties, the Faculty of Pathology, and RCPI. The committee includes the trainee representatives on the Specialist Training Committee for each specialty, the two pathology trainee representatives on the RCPI Trainees' Committee, and the trainee representative on the RCPI Health and Wellbeing Committee.

The annual Faculty of Pathology Trainee Day was held on 5th November 2024. The theme of "Research – The Trials and Tribulations" included informative talks relevant to trainees from all specialties. Maria Golden, Health and Wellbeing Manager, also spoke and reminded trainees to seek support from the Health and Wellbeing Department if needed.

Postgraduate training can be challenging for many reasons. Useful online resources to find information include the HST policies page on the RCPI website, the RCPI Trainee Wellbeing website and the NDTP website.

We look forward to welcoming future trainees to the pathology specialties. Pathology trainees participated in two very successful careers events – the RCPI Intern Open Day on 5th October 2024 and the Faculty of Pathology Webinar "How Did I Get Here? – The Pathologist's Journey" on 6th November 2024.



There are multiple events for trainees to look forward to in 2025. The Faculty of Pathology Annual Symposium is on 13th-14th February, and all trainees are invited to attend the dinner. The RCPI Trainees' Committee will host the National Education Day for Doctors in Training on 23rd May. The annual Faculty of Pathology Trainee Day will again be in the Autumn, and we are currently seeking suggestions for topics.

I would encourage trainees to engage with the Faculty of Pathology in 2025 by attending and contributing to the Annual Symposium and Trainee Day, becoming Associate Members of the Faculty, and becoming a trainee representative on their specialty-specific Specialty Training Committee, their specialty-specific Standing Committee or the Faculty of Pathology Board.

Standing Committees

Faculty Histopathology Standing Committee

Report by Prof Paul Hartel

The Histopathology Standing Committee (HSC) met regularly throughout 2024. Public consultation, the Department of Justice, HSE and Faculty of Pathology continue work and discussion around reform of the coroner service, with a draft document recently completed in October 2024. Major issues addressed include international comparisons of autopsy numbers, structure and roles of death reporting, inquests, a chief coroner, family liaison and bereavement support, and pathology services including toxicology, perinatal and neuropathology and standardisation of autopsy reporting. Department of Justice has agreed to prioritise pathology/coroner autopsy funding and recognised the need for an updated Coroner's Act. Autopsy training of NCHDs remains a challenge, however simulation training has received positive feedback and likely can be effectively utilised. The Human Tissue Bill was signed into law in 2024.

The HSC also continues to engage with CervicalCheck. Standards for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening, M-codes and reporting templates have been updated with HSC's input. Good progress has been made with many hospitals with the Laboratory Information System (LIS)/HL7 histopathology data project, although challenges exist for some hospitals with different Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), information technology interfaces and LIMS support. Updated screening guidance and implementation of new quality reviews are ongoing.

The National Histopathology Quality Improvement (NHQI) Programme has launched an improved, user-friendly National Quality Assurance Information System (NQAIS) template demonstrated for users in a recent workshop. In line with the HSE's Laboratory Services Reform Programme, the HSC strongly encourages use of this data by HSE and REOs to increase pathology laboratory funding and resources to include consultant and scientific staff, equipment and new technology. The 'business case' for these additional resources is evident in the up to 20% national increase in histopathology workload over the last two year period, not to mention a national 25% increase in immunohistochemistry, a reflection of increasing case complexity. Details can be found in the current NHQI 11th National Data Report. Challenges were austere over the past year with a national shortage of laboratory science staff, although progress ensues regarding eligibility of those with health science bachelor's degrees seeing a pathway to work as medical laboratory scientists. These and other planned developments and improvements are outlined in the recent HSE's Laboratory Services Reform Programme document, not the least of which includes laboratory centralisation, for example, for ever-increasing molecular diagnostics.

In the coming year, the HSC will continue its efforts in conjunction with the Faculty of Pathology, HSE and Dept. of Justice to ensure and improve the quality of pathology practice and reporting, encourage and enable new technologies and further instill the public's and other service users' confidence in pathology practice in Ireland. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to fellow members of the HSC for their astucious discussions and input. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our Coordinator, Sean McCarthy, who is now moving to a new role in the College. We welcome his replacement, Brian O'Murchu and look forward to working with him. Our meetings continue by Zoom and this is likely the best way to get diverse and effective geographical representation. Finally, I would like to thank Niamh Nolan for her exemplary leadership example and guidance in my new role as HSC Chair.

Chemical Pathology Standing Committee

Report by Dr Shari Srinivasan

The Faculty Chemical Pathology Standing Committee representatives continue to work with a number of groups including MedLIS, NPT, INAB MSAC, and the National Serosurveillance Programme.

Chemical Pathology is represented by Dr Aidan Ryan and Prof Gerard Boran on the CSAG (Clinical Scientific Advisory Group) of the HSE Laboratory Reform Programme.

Haematology Standing Committee

As part of the Faculty Governance review, the need for standing committees in all disciplines was recognised to develop an appropriate structure for advocacy and professional affairs. Development of Standing Committee in Haematology is in progress.

We would like to thank Prof Ronan Desmond for his contribution to the development of the Haematology Standing Committee, during his tenure on the Board. Dr Sorcha Ni Loinsigh will now take this work forward.

Immunology Standing Committee

Report by Dr Vincent Tormey

- There were no candidates for interview for Higher Specialist Training in Immunology and there were no new Specialist Registrar Trainee Appointments in 2024. The specialty of immunology will continue to promote immunology careers for the current NCHDs within our hospitals to improve recruitment to the specialty.
- Immunology Specialist Registrars were successful in FRCPath examinations in 2024.
- There was one new consultant appointment in Beaumont Hospital.
- The specialty of immunology has 3 consultants on the Clinical and Scientific Advisory Group to the Laboratory Services Reform Program, the Faculty Dean, Faculty of Pathology nominee and HSE nominee.
- The immunology STC reviewed genetic testing for inborn errors of immunity for the test directory for the National Genetics and Genomics Office.

Microbiology Standing Committee

Report by Dr Helene McDermott

- The Microbiology Standing committee met 4 times in 2024.
- The SAC is still in a state of flux. In June, it changed from being under the umbrella of the Irish Society of Clinical Microbiologist to the Faculty of Pathology. Many thanks for the administrative support.
- Dr Deirbhile Keady stepped down as chair of the Microbiology SAC and Dr H el ene McDermott has taken on the role.
- New members were convened, but more are needed and members of the specialty have been approached through the ISCM and the RCPI Faculty of Pathology.
- In the interim, the TOR have been reviewed and agreed.
- Key priorities are being reviewed and discussed. Among them is that the SAC will be the point of contact for Microbiology for the National AMRIC team.

The Vintage Pathologists

Report by Prof Sean O'Briain

The Vintage Pathologists, a group founded in 2018, is associated with the Faculty of Pathology. The members come from all specialties of pathology and are retired, semi-retired, or musing about retirement. It meets over lunch, twice a year, with short presentations, broadly or tenuously related to pathology. New members are welcome and can join by contacting the Coordinator of the Faculty of Pathology (pathology@rcpi.ie)

There were 2 meetings in 2024 in the Dun's Library at RCPI, Kildare St. Both were preceded by fine lunches at Dunne and Crescenti Restaurant in South Frederick St.

The April meeting was organised by Katy Keohane and had 4 short talks.

Michael Farrell discussed the career of Pio del Rio Hortega, a pioneer Spanish neuropathologist. He perfected silver impregnation techniques that led to his identification of microglia, vital protective cells in the brain that have been termed 'the constant gardener of the brain'. Rio Hortega's career was interrupted by war (WW I, WW II and the Spanish Civil War) and by an early mentor-turned enemy, the Spanish Nobel laureate Santiago Ramon y Cajal, who dismissed him and twice blocked him being awarded the Nobel Prize.



Intense media interest was an unexpected event in a case described by Gene Connolly. In the late 1980s a middle-aged woman was found dead in bed and no obvious cause of death was evident at the autopsy. Further inquiry revealed that she had recently begun a liquid protein diet (Cambridge diet) and had lost 10 Kg. There were no hazards associated with the diet in the literature but Gene learned that a number of sudden deaths had recently been notified. The press somehow learned that the case could be controversial and there was huge media interest in the inquest. The verdict was death due to cardiomyopathy associated with the diet. The subsequent extensive media reporting led to a wider understanding by the public of the possible hazard of such diets.



Amniotic fluid surrounds the fetus and contains desquamated cells from fetal skin. Embolism of the fluid into the maternal circulation may cause sudden death, sometimes associated with coagulopathy and haemorrhage. Peter Kelehan described a case and indicated that small amounts of amniotic fluid may frequently enter the maternal circulation so that finding occasional squames at autopsy does not provide a cause of death; distended capillary vessels must be found, but the process is more complex than simple physical obstruction of vessels.

The Vintage Pathologists have previously been charmed by 'Henry's Adventures' a series of children's books about a small boy and his pet frog Henry, written by Conleth Feighery. It's extremely difficult

to interest the major publishers in such books and Con described how he went the route of self publication through Amazon. This turned out to be unexpectedly complex but he was able to find a Cork-based professional who for a reasonable fee provided editing, layout and other details for his text and illustrations to achieve the final beautiful books.

The November meeting had 3 talks and was organised by Conleth Feighery.

Guest speaker Prof Jim Malone, Robert Boyle Professor of Medical Physics (Emeritus) at TCD provided moving and amusing incidents from his career that included undergraduate at UCG, Franciscan novice in Killarney, PhD in Glasgow, physicist at St James Hospital, Professor of Medical Physics and Dean of Medicine at TCD, UN International International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Organiser of Merriman Summer School and set dancer.



Michael Farrell described his On Call For Ireland project in association with Morgan Crowe and Con Feighery to provide details on the 218 medical graduates who played rugby for Ireland over the past 150 years and to assess their contribution to rugby and to society.



Philip Mayne's father, Dr Brian Mayne, a consultant physician at the Meath Hospital, was with the British forces captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore in 1942. As a prisoner of war he was medical officer on the Burma railroad construction with its infamous starvation, tropical illnesses and high death rate. He managed to keep sufficient records so that after the war he was able to write a detailed medical account of the various diseases and the effects of starvation.



Remembering Rosemary Hone

Obituary by Dr Eoghan Mooney

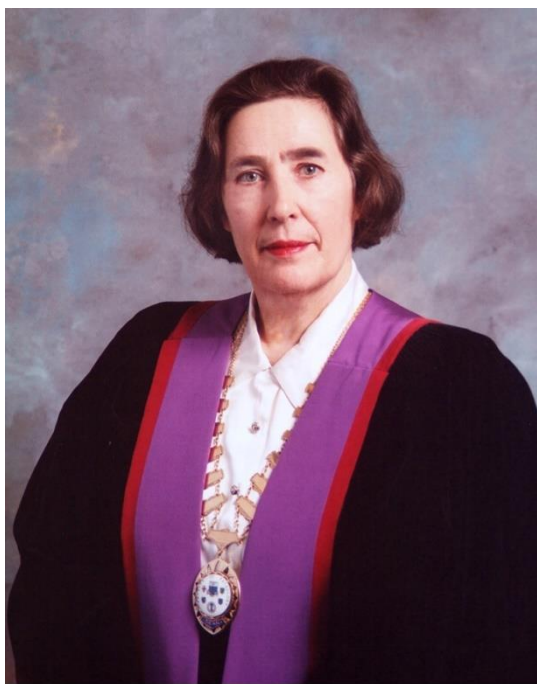
Dr Rosemary Hone, Dean of the Faculty of Pathology 1993-1996, died in 2024.

Born Rosemary Darcy, she was educated at Alexandra College. Her mother Maire was a doctor and worked for a time in the UK. Rosemary read medicine at Trinity College Dublin, and while there attended art classes in the evening. There she met David Hone, and they married in 1962. Following registrar posts in the Federated Hospital and in Trinity, she was appointed Consultant Microbiologist to the Mater Hospital Dublin and to Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown 1975-2002. She retired in 2002.

She successfully managed a career as a single-handed consultant with three children. The calls on her time must have increased as David did not drive. Their house in Sandymount was beside the rail line, ameliorating this somewhat, and facilitating David's love of trains.



In addition to her period as Dean, Rosemary contributed to many developments in clinical services that rely heavily on laboratory input, including the development of the cardiac transplant service at the Mater. She combined this career with an ongoing interest in the arts. David's family have been artists since at least the eighteenth century, and many of David's portraits grace Irish hospital boardrooms. He painted her on several occasions, and she was particularly pleased when an early portrait was exhibited in the RHA in 2018.



Rosemary had a genuine kindness for and interest in people. Her counsel was sound, and her sense of humour was never failing. Her parties drew an eclectic and varied group, not all of whom were microbiologists.

She was predeceased by David. Two of her children followed her into medicine and practice in Dublin - Stephen (ENT) and David Edward (Maxillo-facial and Orthodontics). Her daughter Juliet runs a gallery in London.

To them, and to her grandchildren, we offer our condolences.

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

Report by Caitriona McGrath

RCPI currently manages four National Specialty Quality Improvement (NSQI) Programmes in histopathology, gastrointestinal endoscopy, radiology and bronchoscopy. The goal of these programmes, three of which are funded by the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Team and bronchoscopy which is funded by the HSE and the NCCP, is to optimise patient care through facilitating and supporting the use of evidence-based quality improvements in diagnosis and reporting. The data gathered via these programmes are also reported on locally and are aggregated in annual national data reports, which are used to drive quality improvement in participating public, voluntary and private hospitals. Based on findings from analysis of 2023 data, the programmes have assigned owners to several report recommendations in their national data reports in line with a newly developed HSE procedure. It is hoped that assigning ownership to recommendations can ensure a suitable implementation plan is developed, actioned and monitored.

National Histopathology QI (NHQI) Programme Highlights 2024

- The 11th national data report (NDR) was released by the National Histopathology QI (NHQI) Programme in November 2024 and presented by Dr Linda Feely at the annual conference. The report presented aggregated findings from 21 public and voluntary and seven private laboratories on national data collected between 1 January and 31 December 2023.
- In 2023, data were collected on 566,388 cases, 1,017,722 specimens and just over 1.6M blocks highlighting the steadily growing workload year on year. Greater numbers of specimens being submitted to laboratories for individual patients, compounded by the requirement for increased examination of blocks of tissue highlights the growing complexities and volume in laboratories workload.
- The average findings of all sites combined were above targets for the peer review QI activities of intradepartmental consultation (IDC), multidisciplinary team (MDT) review and addendum reporting for histology, cytology and where relevant, autopsy cases. Report findings also indicated that laboratories continue to face challenges in meeting the turnaround time (TAT) targets for histology, cytology and autopsy cases.
- This was the second year owners were assigned to recommendations. These include detailed recommendations on the need for protected time for clinicians involved in the programme, a national approach to turnaround times, and autopsy data capture. The programme is hopeful the implementation of these recommended actions will take place into the year ahead.
- The report shows the struggle many Irish laboratories are facing currently, with workload numbers and complexities ever increasing, impinging on turnaround times. The programme is hopeful that the coming year will see the development of a national working group to address these issues as outlined in this year's report.
- After discussions between the HSE CCO, the HSE Clinical Lead for the Laboratory Services Reform, the NHQI Programme, the Dean of the Faculty of Pathology and the Chair of the Histopathology Standing Committee, an agreement was reached to introduce a new quarterly reporting format, at REO level and with hospitals identified within regions only. This was agreed as a solution to concerns raised in the recommendations and findings within the 10th NDR. It is believed that

creating these reports will help identify local issues in real-time, rather than waiting for the yearly report. Providing REOs with this information will enable them to address issues promptly. The NHQI quarterly reports should be available from Q2 2025.

- Three local clinical audit and quality improvement projects submitted by participating laboratories were published in the 11th national data report. These projects took place locally with the use of NQAIS-Histopathology data.
- Dr Joseph Morris, Department of Histopathology, St Vincent’s University Hospital was selected by the NHQI working group to present his local clinical audit and quality improvement project “An audit of turnaround times (TAT) for urgent small biopsies in a tertiary referral centre” at the annual conference.
- An abstract was presented at the IACR Satellite Meeting in February 2024 “Examining the impact of COVID-19 on cancer surgery in Ireland: repeated cross-section study using three national data sources”.
- The NHQI research team had a journal article published with the American Journal of Clinical Pathology, “The role of multidisciplinary team meeting histopathology review and its impact on revised reports: Analysis of a national quality improvement programme.”
- Dr Eoghan O’Connor, NHQI Programme SpR working group member delivered a rapid-fire poster presentation, “The role of multidisciplinary team meeting histopathology review and impact on revised reports; analysis of a national quality improvement programme.” at the Faculty of Pathology’s annual symposium.
- Dr Eoghan O’Connor’s two-year term as the NHQI SpR working group member came to an end in June 2024, the NHQI working group thank Dr O’Connor for his contribution. Dr Gréta Galambosi joined the NHQI working group research group as the SpR member and will remain in this post until June 2026.
- The NHQI research team look forward to further research projects with the use of NHQI data (pending approval).
- The Programme will continue to promote a culture of quality improvement at a local level in laboratories across the country.
- The programme hopes to continue to improve autopsy data collection and look forward to further collaboration with the Autopsy QI Committee in achieving this.

National GI Endoscopy QU (NEQI) Programme

In November 2024, the NEQI Programme published its 9th national data report releasing it at the annual conference. The report, presenting findings from data collected in 2023, highlighted increases in targets being met for the following key quality indicators compared to 2022, the percentage of endoscopists meeting the target for caecal intubation rates, comfort scores, sedation doses, polyp detection rates and duodenal intubation rates. The report analysed data from 36 public and voluntary hospitals and 15 private hospitals, accounting for 295,237 procedures performed by 898 endoscopists across the country over the year. A new key quality indicator has been under development, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography ERCP) and is in the final stages with recommended targets being set before it is released for data collection.

National Radiology QI (NRQI) Programme

The NRQI Programme published its 5th national data report in November 2024. This report presented anonymous quality improvement data collected from 48 participating public and voluntary hospitals from 1 January to 31 December 2023. Findings revealed an 5.5% increase (representing over 3m cases) in workload between 2022 and 2023 in participating radiology departments. The NRQI Programme reported on four KQIs including turnaround times (TAT) and peer reviews. The findings for TAT were found to be similar to the previous year with almost half of hospitals meeting the recommended target. Participating hospitals continue to face challenges in meeting the recommended target for the authorisation of X-ray cases. The NRQI Programme continues to highlight the challenges faced by radiology departments owing to rising workload (data for 2019-2023 presented), growing complexity of cases and the need for adequate resourcing.

National Bronchoscopy QI (NBQI) Programme

The NBQI Programme has, over the course of the previous year identified five key quality areas within which they are developing key quality indicators (KQI) for adult bronchoscopy and EBUS procedures, 1) access to procedures, 2) safety, 3) complication rates, 4) patient experience and 5) indicators of procedure success. The working group have commenced a first round of target setting for KQIs using local clinical audit findings, national and international best practice and clinical expertise. A network of local QI clinical leads has been established, with 24 out of a possible total of 27 respiratory consultants to date. This network will be key in ensuring the programme can be run locally. Discussions are underway regarding the development of a data collection module which will enable participating hospitals to collect and upload data to a national dataset. The NBQI Programme have also been instrumental 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.



International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR):

Report by Prof Kieran Sheahan

The ICCR was founded in 2010 by the Australasian, US and UK Colleges of Pathology and the Canadian Association of Pathologists-Association Canadiennes Pathologistes. The Faculty of Pathology, RCPI became a member in 2018. Faculty Fellows are on the Board & Council (Prof Kieran Sheahan, Director/President, Prof Louise Burke, Council) & the dataset authoring committee (DAT) (Prof Niall Swan). Dr Ann Treacy retired from the DAT & ICCR was immensely grateful for her work over the years. ICCR produces internationally validated and evidence-based pathology datasets for cancer reporting throughout the world. It was a great privilege for me to assume the role of ICCR President in November 2024.

Members of ICCR include the Royal Colleges of Pathologists of the UK, & Australasia, The College of American Pathologists, the European, German, Swiss, Austrian, Brazilian, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Belgian and Canadian Pathology Societies & the RCPI, Faculty of Pathology, Ireland.

Under the governance of the ICCR since 2010, a worldwide network of expert pathologists has developed standardised, evidence-based datasets to support structured pathology reporting of cancer worldwide. The goal is to improve cancer patient management, advance national and international benchmarking in cancer management, and enable standardised data supporting cancer registries, research and bio-banking.

The ICCR recognises that a co-ordinated effort on cancer pathology reporting offers synergies and has far-reaching benefits for members. For those countries unable to develop their own datasets, namely low & middle resourced countries, particularly in Africa, Asia & South America, ICCR is focused on bridging equity of access to these countries, who will see the greatest growth in cancer in the next 20 years.

Whilst the classification of cancers has been standardised for many years through the publication of the WHO Tumour Classification series, international harmonisation of cancer pathology reporting has not previously been undertaken. In addition, creating a single international data standard greatly facilitates e-Health integration. For countries which lack the resources, ICCR reporting standards provide a means of achieving an international standard of pathology reporting without significant investment.

The cancer diagnostic dataset is used to determine which treatment should be used in the individual patient and to predict responsiveness to individual therapies (so-called “personalized medicine”) and also provides an overall prognosis.

Increasingly these datasets incorporate key molecular genetic data to inform oncological decision-making.



The ICCR recognises the value that other international cancer and pathology-related organisations contribute to its goals and has benefited from relationships with the following organisations. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), World Health Organization (WHO), The International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR), The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), & the International Societies of Gynaecological , Urological, and Breast Pathology

The ICCR has 61 published datasets which are freely available from our website: www.iccr-cancer.org. Last year's website metrics recorded 38,000 users from 178 countries which included 107 Low & Middle resourced countries, including 46 African countries.

For those developing their own cancer checklists, such as the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Royal College of Pathologists UK, the availability of internationally endorsed evidence-based cancer datasets significantly reduces their development effort. ICCR also has an ongoing collaboration with SNOMED International to facilitate cancer coding standardisation.

In summary, ICCR has enabled global inter-operability & flow of cancer data across cancer pathology reporting. It attracts the world's best pathology domain experts who provide an exceptional pro-bono contribution. Its current four work streams include (1) dataset development, (2) education, (3) structured reporting allowing e-health integration, & (4) translation into six priority languages including Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, French, Russian & German. ICCR operates on a small budget out of its head office in Sydney & is reliant on fees from International member organisations. It is hoped that future funding will come from a) licensing datasets & b) philanthropic sources.



The Office of the State Pathologist (OSP) – 2024 Update

Report by Dr Yvonne McCartney, State Pathologist and Dr Lind Mulligan, Chief State Pathologist

The national forensic pathology service is delivered by the Office of the State Pathologist (OSP) and the experienced team currently consists of the Chief State Pathologist, Professor Linda Mulligan, State Pathologists Dr Heidi Okkers, Dr SallyAnne Collis and Dr Yvonne McCartney and the Assistant State Pathologist, Dr Margot Bolster. The State Pathologists are ably assisted by a small team of administrative staff and a facility's manager. We are very fortunate to have an on-site histopathology service provided by a dedicated senior medical scientist. The OSP's central role is the provision of a forensic autopsy service to the Republic of Ireland, the Coroners around the country, An Garda Síochána and the criminal justice system. Alongside undertaking forensic post mortem examinations, in 2024, the State Pathologists were involved in numerous facets of autopsy practice, education and training.

2024 was Prof. Mulligan's fourth year as the Chief State Pathologist. Following on from her work on the HSE National Clinical Guidelines for Post Mortem Examination Services, which were published in 2023, Prof Mulligan was invited to sit on the advisory group for the HSE's mortuary improvement programme and on the advisory group for the public consultation on the reform of the coronial service. The OSP also had a large input into the development of the post mortem section of the Human Tissue Act, which was signed into law on 21st February 2024.

Prof Mulligan continued her role as Clinical Professor at University College Dublin School of Medicine. In conjunction with our ongoing affiliation with RCSI and other medical schools, this helped to strengthen the links between medical undergraduates and the Office of the State Pathologist. Dr Heidi Okkers and Dr Yvonne McCartney were involved with undergraduate teaching for several medical schools, including Trinity College Dublin, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the University of Galway. Dr Heidi Okkers also oversees the organisation of the lectures provided to crime scene managers and other members of the death investigation team. These affiliations provide opportunities to develop the understanding of the medical specialty of forensic pathology and its potential as a career path.

Research is an important aspect of the work in the OSP and in 2024, the OSP had the opportunity to participate in a number of research projects. Dr Niamh McCullagh, PhD, in collaboration with UCD and the OSP, is continuing her post-doctoral research project to develop a search paradigm for missing persons presumed to be victims of homicide. This is funded by the Irish Research Council Enterprise grant and by her enterprise partner, the Department of Justice. We were lucky to have some very capable and hardworking medical students join us in the OSP for placements through specific medical school student selected projects and the OSP summer elective programme, both of which are coordinated by Dr. SallyAnne Collis. Whilst on attachment, the OSP aims to introduce students to the specialist area of forensic pathology, furthering their understanding of anatomy, pathology, toxicology and death investigation as a whole. The students also have the opportunity to participate in departmental audits and research projects during their placement, and in 2024, three OSP medical

students have had their work published in leading peer-reviewed forensic medical journals.

Through her research undertaken in the OSP, Kate McGoldrick (RCSI) (supervised by Dr SallyAnne Collis) has published two papers in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine:

- A retrospective study of the injury patterns seen in fatal falls downstairs. J Forensic Leg Med.2024;108:102767.
- Femicide in Ireland 2012-2023. J Forensic Leg Med. 2024;107:102754

Dr Eimear Bourke (supervised by Dr Yvonne McCartney) published the findings of her research with the OSP in the Journal of Forensic Sciences:

- Breaking point? An analysis of fatal stab wounds to the torso in Ireland between 2011 and 2018, examining the extent of rib fractures. J Forensic Sci. 2024;69(2):554-562.

Corey Commins (UCC) (supervised by Dr Margot Bolster) presented her research at the British Association of Forensic Medicine meeting in June 2024 and published her research in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine:

- To investigate the pattern of neck injuries and the role of toxicology in cases of hanging and manual/homicidal ligature strangulation in Ireland between 2016 - 2020: A retrospective review and analysis. J Forensic Leg Med. 2024;103:102686.

Quality assurance in autopsy practice is an essential part of OSP service provision and Dr SallyAnne Collis continues to develop her role as departmental lead for quality assurance. Dr Collis ensures that the OSP data will be formatted to contribute to the National Histopathology Quality Improvement Programme (NHQIP) and currently chairs the Autopsy Quality Improvement Committee (AQIC). The committee's aim is to improve post mortem data provided to the NHQIP as well as improving quality in other elements of autopsy practice around the country through the Faculty of Pathology and other stakeholders.

2024 was the busiest year to date for the Office since 2007, with 214 State post mortem examinations carried out. All members of the team worked hard to ensure that the high standard of practice in forensic pathology was maintained. Going into 2025, the OSP will continue to develop the forensic autopsy service. This will be aligned with the current changing landscape of general autopsy practice and the Department of Justice's drive towards reform of the Irish coronial service. The OSP continues to strive towards strengthening links with the numerous stakeholders in the death investigation process and promote quality improvement and assurance, exposure to, education in and understanding of forensic pathology and its practice in Ireland.

Business Development Update

Report by Sinéad Lucey

Updates from International, Membership and Marketing and Business Development
International Training Programmes

Examinations

The RCPI exams team successfully delivered the Haematology Part 2 examination in Dublin on 17th, 18th and 19th April 2024, on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists UK. 10 candidates sat the exam in this centre.

The Exams Team in RCPI also helped deliver the Histopathology Part II examination on 8th and 9th October 2024 for 13 candidates.

Both examinations were very successful, and we look forward to further collaboration with the Royal College of Pathologists UK in the coming year.

International Residency Training Programme

The International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is offered to doctors upon completion of their internship. Doctors joining this programme are from Saudi Arabia, with Qatar and Bahrain due to be eligible to join the programme later in 2025. 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 (MRCPI). To date the programme has run in Paediatrics and Internal Medicine. Applications opened December 2024 for two new programmes Histopathology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

To date, there are sixteen graduates of this programme and eight doctors currently in training. Additional cohorts in the Gulf countries are fulfilling pre-requisites to commence their respective posts.

International Clinical Fellowship Programme

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based, specialist training at a senior level for post-residency doctors who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen specialty. Training is available in fifty-one different programmes across all RCPI Faculties and Institutes. To date, one hundred and sixty-nine doctors have graduated from the ICFP and returned home to share their newly acquired knowledge and skills with the health services in their countries. There are currently fifty Fellows on the programme including three in Histopathology and two in Haematology. Fellowship training is offered in general specialties, as well as special interest sub-specialty areas.

The ICFP has had outstanding success in the Pathology specialties, with graduates in Histopathology, Haematology, Chemical Pathology and Clinical Microbiology. Particular gratitude goes to the International Clinical Leads, the National Specialty Directors and the Histopathology trainers for facilitating and supporting the International Fellows. Excellent feedback has been received from Fellows who have praised the quality of the Pathology services, the training opportunities and the standard of teaching. International Clinical Fellows in Histopathology variously undertake one and two-year Clinical Fellowships. The focus during year one of two-year Fellowships and for those on one-year Fellowship programmes is to expand their experience in diagnostic Histopathology with emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration, supported by formal teaching including tutorials, lectures and practical microscopy sessions. This training aims to prepare Fellows for the with the necessary experience for independent practice when they return to their home countries. Fellows undertaking

two-year Fellowships also receive the opportunity to undertake sub-specialty focused training in year two. This takes account of the service needs specified by their home departments and the clinical service and training requirements of Irish trainees and is organised at individual training sites in Ireland. Curricula have been developed and approved by Medical Training at RCPI. There continues to be growing demand for Special Interest/subspecialty Fellowships in Histopathology.

Report

19 Histopathology
3 Clinical Microbiology
3 Haematology
2 Chemical Pathology
1 Immunology

Oman Delegation Visit

In November 2024, a delegation from the Oman Specialty Medical Board (OMSB) visited the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). The OMSB oversees sponsorship for all Omani candidates in the programme. The strong relationship between RCPI, particularly its Faculty of Pathology, and the OMSB is evident, as twenty-three of the twenty-eight graduates to date are from Oman. Special recognition is extended to Professor Cecily Quinn, International Clinical Director, for her pivotal role in supporting the programme and fostering strong relationship with the OMSB.



Oman delegation visit: Khalid Saif Al Abri, Dr. Kamila Khamis Al Alawi, Dr. Saif Abdullah Al Yaarubi, Dr. Fatma Mohammed Al Ajmi, Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, Prof Cecily Quinn, Audrey Houlihan and Prof Edward Mckone

Membership and Fellowship

A recruitment campaign for Fellowship began in July 2023, with targeted invitations being sent to eligible candidates. From the invitations sent from the Faculty of Pathology, 6 candidates were approved for Fellowship. They were then invited to confer at the Faculty Conference in February 2024.

The campaign remains ongoing, in November 2024 a further 19 candidates were approved and will be invited to confer at the Faculty conference in February 2025.

The Collegiate Membership and Engagement Steering Group Report was completed and approved through Council in June 2024. As per one of the recommendations, Trueology have been commissioned for an updated research piece on our members and fellows database. Trueology last completed this research on our behalf in 2019/2020. This updated state of the nation aims to find out more about the changing needs of our members since COVID, and what impact the changes the college has made in that time have had on our engagement with our members and fellows. This work began in July 2024 and is due to be completed by January 2025.

A new dedicated membership section on the website launched in July 2024. This is an area where members and fellows can find information relating to their membership, including benefits, what's happening, FAQs and further ways to get involved with the college. The plan is to expand this area with further offerings as we get more feedback on what members would like to see more of.

EQUALS Initiative

RCPI and HSE agreed to jointly assist in funding the 5 year strategy development plan for the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS). As well as providing funding, resourcing support for planning and workshop delivery was given. Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan (HSE) and Ann O'Shaughnessy (RCPI) travelled to Zambia in April 2024 for the workshop to develop this plan.

In February, June and August 2024 three more 40ft containers of equipment were shipped to Zambia. This will take the total number of 40ft containers sent to Zambia since 2013 to 17. 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.

Through the collaboration between RCPI and ZACOMS, RCPI continues to provide access to online courses to Zambian trainees on various specialist training programmes, which comprises part of their core curriculum. ZACOMS invited delegates from EQUALS Initiative to attend the 2024 graduation ceremony for their trainees in June. Donna Wrightson (RCPI) attended on behalf of EQUALS. Whilst there she met with key stakeholders, including the Irish Embassy in Zambia.

Karl Bergin and Eoghan Hayden, Biomedical engineers from EQUALS, also travelled to Zambia in October 2024 to provide ongoing training and support to biomedical engineers in Zambia to help ensure the ongoing best use and sustainability of the equipment being received. This also included visits to hospitals in Zambia where equipment has been received to see this in use.

Global Health

The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies has 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 is now live on the RCPI website for Members, Fellows and Trainees to access.

Healthcare Leadership

Report by Dr Trevor Duffy, Head of Healthcare Leadership

Overview

The Healthcare Leadership Department was established in June 2022. 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, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee and National Clinical Programmes.

Within the scope of Healthcare Leadership, there is a focus on engaging with Trainees, Members and Fellows in three key areas: Teaching Leaders, Supporting Leaders and Acting as Leaders. To strengthen current RCPI offerings of formal leadership education, the Healthcare Leadership function develops a programme of supports for doctors in their day-to-day role as leaders and will continue to develop the college's own leadership role. There is also a strategic approach to gathering advocacy views of Trainees, Members and Fellows. This will be backed up by an education programme, policy development and active advocacy, ensuring the voice of RCPI is heard within the healthcare community, among national policymakers and legislators as well as the general public.

Healthcare Leadership Projects

Pilot Mentorship Programme for Early-Stage Consultants

This pilot mentorship programme has been underway since July 2023. There has been positive feedback from both mentors and mentees. From the feedback we have received to date, the mentees have benefited from the ongoing support and guidance of experienced semi-retired and retired doctors. This is tailored to the individual needs of the mentee; it has helped participants with various management aspects of their consultancy posts as well as broadening their network. The RCPI Research Department created a mentorship evaluation survey in which the consultants self-assess progression over time in ten different aspects of their role. The final report will be shared on completion.

RCPI Academy for Retired Doctors

The establishment of the Academy provides an instrumental vehicle for retired RCPI members and fellows to add value and stay connected with the College. The Academy offers a network and social outlet for retired doctors as well as opportunities to use their expertise to get involved in different areas of the college. Retired members are now contributing to the College through their involvement in mentorship, examinations, CPD audits, representation on committees and heritage projects. The social events organised in RCPI have had a good level of engagement and participation.

To date, fourteen members participated in mentorship training to support early-stage consultants, six Examiners and six Reviewers participating in the verification process. Other Members are involved in education, Faculty and Institute Boards, RCPI Committees, volunteer work with EQUALs and College representation. Volunteers participated in membership graduation ceremonies, invigilation at Climate Change Art Exhibition and others have contributed to various heritage projects. RCPI will provide ongoing support to the committee as the Academy evolves.

Leadership Forum

RCPI Leadership Forum is in the early stages of development. The Leadership Forum group consists of National Clinical Programme Leads, Chairs of Clinical Advisory Groups and other RCPI Chairs of Committees. The first meeting of this group took place on 1 May. The Leadership Forum has three core objectives. Firstly, educating leaders by developing and offering newly designed leadership courses to members. Secondly, providing adequate leadership support and knowledge of governance to members in leadership roles, this would include Clinical Programme Leads, Chairs of Clinical Advisory Groups, RCPI Committees and external College Representatives. Thirdly, to create a network or community of Members interested in getting involved and participating in RCPI activities and perhaps taking on leadership roles in the future. This would be valuable in identifying those Members interested in participating in RCPI advocacy agendas. The College will plan networking events, seminars and training to support these leaders in their roles.

A Leadership Survey has been carried out by RCPI Research Department to better understand the needs of those in leadership roles for the college. This will help us to identify any gaps with a view to creating the right tools for our leaders to feel supported by RCPI in the extensive work that they do. We are also looking at how to improve communication and connectivity within this leadership group.

Sabbatical Pilot Project

This project is aimed at mid-career consultants. A new project, at development stage, aims to enhance personal job satisfaction and reinvigorate the individual by enabling them to step away from the constant demands of their day job. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing as we scope out the various aspects of delivering this multilayered project.

RCPI President Hospital Visits and Quality Improvement Workshops

Dr Diarmuid O'Shea, President RCPI and Prof Trevor Duffy, RCPI Director of Healthcare Leadership, led a delegation visiting University Hospital Kerry, Regional Hospital Mullingar and Cavan General Hospital (Jan-Feb 2024). Dr Diarmuid O'Shea discussed developments and updates on key functions of the College. There was a high level of engagement with medical teams on current challenges within the hospitals and the feedback received by the College was invaluable. Leadership Faculty in the College facilitated QI/Leadership Workshops which gave further opportunities to discuss key hospital projects and how to lead changes and improvements to services.

Professional Competence

Summary of Key Activities – January to December 2024

The number of doctors enrolled in RCPI Professional Competence Schemes (PCS) increased to 5,901 in the PCS year May 2023 - April 2024. A total of 412 doctors were enrolled in the Faculty of Pathology Specialist Division Scheme.

The Professional Competence Department continues to develop extensive guidance, support and innovations in order to help doctors fulfil their CPD requirements and also provided individual help and support to many doctors.

Submission of PCS Annual Reports to the Medical Council – June 2024

Under the formal Arrangements with the Medical Council for the operation of PCS, our six Training Bodies are required to submit annual reports on the operation of PCS by 30 June each year. This year Training Bodies were only required to submit the Quantitative (KPI) Report for the 2023-2024 PCS year and this report was submitted on behalf of the Faculty of Pathology on 28 June 2024.

Compliance with Scheme Requirements for 2023-2024 PCS Year

The overall percentage of participants across RCPI's 11 Professional Competence Schemes who met the PCS requirements for the 2023 – 2024 PCS year is 81%, which is slightly lower than last year, where the compliance rate was 82%. The individual scheme compliance rates for the 2023 - 2024 year ranged from 74% to 94%. The percentage of participants in the Faculty of Pathology Specialist Division Scheme who met the PCS requirements for the 2023 – 2024 PCS year is 92%.

The Annual Statements issued in May 2024 were once again annotated to state the reduced PCS requirements for the 2023 - 2024 year.

Annual Verification Process (AVP)

281 doctors were selected for the 2022 – 2023 process. During the review stage, 13 of the selected doctors withdrew from their Scheme and 2 doctors were exempted due to ill health. Result reports were issued to selected doctors at the end of October 2023 with a deadline of 30 November to complete corrective actions.

At the conclusion of the process, 264 (94%) of the initial group of 281 participants remained enrolled on a Professional Competence Scheme. 2 of this number had been exempted at the first stage, and 1 of this group had their previous year verified. This left 261 participants in the process. Of the remaining 261 participants, 183 (70%) have been verified with no further action required. This includes 14 doctors from the Faculty of Pathology Specialist Division Scheme.

Doctors who were verified with no further action received an annotation on their 2023 - 2024 Annual Statement which was issued in May 2024. Doctors with outstanding corrective actions will be checked again for the 2023 - 2024 process and if they have not successfully completed their corrective actions at that time, they will be re-selected for that process.

Strengthened Model for Maintenance of Professional Competence

The Medical Council approved the new Maintenance of Professional Competence Rules and Guidelines on 12 December 2023, representing an important step to bring Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) in line with international practice and incorporate right touch and compassionate regulation. The Rules and Guidelines associated with the evolved MPC Framework Model will commence in May 2025.

The new 5 Year Arrangements which formalise the operation of the evolved MPC Model will commence in May 2024 with the first year focusing on developments and to support implementation for May 2025.

The Medical Council also plans to implement a new CPD Accreditation Model in May 2025, as part of the new Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Framework. Under the new framework, the IMC will serve as the CPD accreditation body, setting standards for CPD programs and activities while recognising accredited CPD Providers.

The updated IMC accreditation standards generally align with RCPI's current criteria, as we have always aimed to comply with EACCME and the newly developed International CPD accreditation standards. However, the ACCME's recommended new criteria include additional requirements, including a greater emphasis on commercial disclosure by event planners and participating speakers. This necessitates a review of our CPD accreditation criteria and guidance for external events and those applied by the College in delivering CPD.

The IMC has assured us that the PGM TBs will continue as accredited CPD Providers for the next five years. However, in June 2025, PGM TBs will be required to submit two examples of CPD activities demonstrating compliance with the new criteria. The PGM TBs will continue to accredit CPD events submitted to them.

The Professional Competence Department will continue to collaborate with our Training Bodies, the Forum and the Medical Council on the implementation of the new MPC Framework in May 2025. We will also collaborate with the Medical Council and with the ACCME relating to the evolving governance model and decision-making process associated with receiving accreditation from the Medical Council.

Professional Competence Requirements for 2024-2025

Professional Competence Requirements for the current year 2024 – 2025 are:

- **40** CPD Credits in any category (External, Internal, Personal Learning, Research or Teaching) **and**
- One Audit or Quality Improvement Project

CPD Event Approval

RCPI facilitates a process of reviewing and accrediting external activities provided by both RCPI and other individuals or bodies for the purpose of awarding CPD credits.

Outlined below is a summary of activity for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	177	1083
Non RCPI	370	2394
TOTAL	547	3477



Quality Improvement

RCPI's Situation Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) collaborative programme completed the 7th and launched the 8th Irish cohort in 2023-24, with two new cohorts funded for 2025-26. SAFE teaches teams how to improve communication, build a safety culture and enhance outcomes for patients in their clinical settings while implementing or improving a bespoke Safety Huddle in a clinical setting. 90 clinical teams from all over Ireland, from public and private hospitals, have now participated in SAFE. Overall, nearly 40 hospitals and approximately 350 clinical staff from medical, nursing, ambulance service, administrative, pharmacy and health and social care professions have been involved in improving communication and safety in their setting.

Two cohorts of Quality Improvement in Action were run with 46 novel Learners, of whom more than 30 were 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 errors in perioperative methadone prescribing, reducing prescription errors in palliative care, standardising the approach to cross site communication in palliative care, and increasing compliance with criteria-led discharge from a children's assessment unit.

The 2023–2024 cohort of the Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership comprised 10 multidisciplinary teams from specialties including obstetrics and gynaecology, neonatology, and gerontology. 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 establishing an out-of-hours palliative care service, enhancing the patient experience following caesarean section, improving continence management, and implementing a Family Integrated Care model in neonatal units.

RCPI's new bespoke programme, Embedding QI, was conducted with a second cohort of Critical Care Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Critical Care senior nursing and HSCP staff. Embedding QI teaches the learner how to complete a quality improvement project in the workplace and provides knowledge and skills to utilise QI methods to enhance clinical practice. Learners conduct workplace-based improvement projects to address key pillars of critical care including safe ingress and egress to the service, and early identification/mitigation of deterioration.

RCPI's Paediatric Pocket Tutorial online series was rebranded and relaunched as 14 new courses, available through RCPI's webpages. All courses remain as a free resource for those registered as RCPI Paediatric Trainees, Members or Fellows. Some essential modules are available as open access to anyone registered with an RCPI ID – Adolescent Health, Child Protection, Inclusion Health, Medicines Safety, Speech & Language Therapy. All other courses are open to any other healthcare professional for a small fee. All carry CPD for completion or can be claimed under Personal Learning for individual topics.

Advocacy

Advocacy refers to actions to influence people, primarily decision-makers, to create change. For RCPI this change may be in legislation supporting healthcare and health and wellbeing; health sector plans and actions; or plans and actions in other sectors - impacted by, or which have an impact upon, health or healthcare. RCPI engages in advocacy by defining the issue or desired change through the development of position papers and reports, through communication of these issues directly to stakeholders and decision-makers, and by using media to promote messages or recommendations on the issue. RCPI also responds to relevant national consultations as they arise.

Priorities for Health for the Next Government – influencing national healthcare policy

As part of RCPI’s commitment to shaping and influencing healthcare policy at a national level, in July 2024 we developed a manifesto in consultation with our Faculties and Institutes to inform future health policies to be adopted by a new Government after the next General Election. This Manifesto reflects our advocacy priorities set in consultation with our Membership and includes the following calls to action for the next Government:

- Increase capacity and resourcing in both community and hospital settings.
- Prioritise and promote the prevention of illness for a healthier, greener society.
- Introduce public health legislation to reduce harms from tobacco, vaping, and alcohol.
- Review Healthy Ireland Framework and commitment to policy response to address structural and socioeconomic drivers of chronic disease and ill-health.
- Support and fund cross-sectoral actions to tackle root causes of ill-health and health inequalities.
- Examine how health is influenced by corporate entities and how vested interests are handled in health policymaking.

Major actions/achievements under RCPI advocacy Priorities for this period (Jan 2024- Dec 2024) are captured in table below.

<p>Patient Safety and Dignity</p>	<p>‘Changing Horizons Framing the Delivery of Training to 2030 and Beyond’. On 7 March 2024, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) hosted a meeting of medical training stakeholders to discuss the training of the specialist medical doctor of the future. This report was developed based on discussion points from the meeting and articulates a vision for that future doctor: a skilled, caring doctor, enjoying the appropriate training and supports to provide the best and safest care possible, meeting the varied healthcare needs of the population. This report considers individual and population needs and highlights what this means for the medical profession. It highlights RCPI actions – some proposed, some underway – to support the medical profession in responding to these needs. The report also identifies relevant policy and/or health system actions. Report Available here</p>
<p>Health Equity</p>	<p>RCPI is supporting development of a model of care for inclusion health and developing an educational framework for inclusion health. These are follow-on actions from RCPI masterclass and report on health equity and inclusion health.</p> <p>Work done to highlight relationship between health equity, health outcomes, and health literacy. <i>Masterclass: health literacy and communication in the misinformation age</i> was held in April 2024. Discussion paper from this masterclass is under development.</p> <p>Health equity highlighted in Changing Horizons report- as one of eight population needs. Actions the medical profession can take to respond to this need are highlighted in this report - in addition to RCPI specific actions and other health system actions.</p>
<p>Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continued in 2024 on prevention of smoking- related illness through the new RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on Smoking and Vaping – this group was a follow on from the RCPI policy group on tobacco, and has cross faculty representation. See also progress on T21- major public health legislation aimed at protecting young people from smoking

	<p>related harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper published in Global Paediatrics Sep 2024 The adverse effects of vaping in young people - ScienceDirect. • Prevention of NCDs/keeping people well is a major theme of ‘Changing Horizons’ discussion and report launched 2024 • RCPI Manifesto ‘Priorities for Health for the Next Government’ July 2024 – highlighting the need for cross-government policy response to prevent ill health, and highlights the synergies between prevention of ill-health and climate action. • RCPI joined the Irish Health Promotion Alliance in 2024.
<p>Climate Change and Healthcare /Sustainable Healthcare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory group with cross faculty representation was convened to progress actions of Position Paper. The chair of this group is Dr Ana Rakovac, Faculty of Pathology representative. • This group is working on recommendations for integration of healthcare sustainability into RCPI curricula. • RCPI as member of Irish Climate and Health Alliance developing a position paper on Active Travel- to be published in 2025. RCPI has also contributed to Climate and Health Alliance General Election Manifesto.
<p>Influencing Public Health Legislation</p>	<p>Passing of Tobacco 21 legislation The passing of legislation on raising the legal age of sale of tobacco to 21 years was a major achievement in the advocacy space for RCPI in 2024. RCPI has supported this work in recent years via the RCPI Policy Group on Tobacco beginning with the publication of a position paper in collaboration with the Institute for Public Health (see here) and subsequently maintaining this on the national political agenda including making submissions at European level to support the passing of this legislation. RCPI is also a member of the T21 Alliance which was also a strong voice for the introduction of this legislation.</p> <p>Assisted Dying A comprehensive literature review on Assisted Dying, commissioned by a Cross Faculty Advisory Group on Assisted Dying was completed in Oct 2024. Publication of this review is to be finalised in 2025, and discussions are ongoing at Faculty level regarding any updates to RCPI’s position on Assisted Dying.</p>

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

01 January – 31 December 2024

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) plays an essential role in Irish healthcare. This expert group comprising members nominated by a range of healthcare professional bodies and lay members provides independent, robust evidence-based advice to the Chief Medical Officer and Department of Health on vaccines, immunisation, and related health matters.

Governance and Operations

NIAC welcomed the appointment of Ms Trish Clarke as Programme Coordinator to NIAC in May 2024. NIAC expressed thanks to outgoing Programme Coordinator, Ms Grace Horan, for her contributions and expertise.

NIAC welcomed the appointment of the following alternates: Dr Michael Carton (HPSC), Dr Daniel Hare (NVRL), Dr Chantal Migone (NIO), and Dr Áine Varley as the new Medical Secretary to NIAC. NIAC expressed thanks to Dr Aparna Keegan (NIO alternate) and Dr Deirdre Foley (Medical Secretary) who demitted during the year.

NIAC has continued to host Full Committee meetings on a bimonthly basis, with working group meetings (e.g., COVID-19, RSV, pneumococcal, gonococcal, mpox) hosted as required.

Advice provided to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Department of Health (DOI)

NIAC issued eleven separate recommendations to the CMO and DOH in 2024, which included immunisation advice for COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Herpes zoster, and measles. (Table 1)

Table 1. Examples of NIAC recommendations issued in past year.

Date of Issue	Recommendation
12 February 2024	NIAC Recommendations to CMO re. Herpes Zoster vaccination
16 April 2024	NIAC Recommendations re. passive immunisation of infants against RSV during the 2024/2025 season
25 October 2024	NIAC updated recommendations for pneumococcal conjugate vaccination in childhood

NIAC also issued updates to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about COVID-19 vaccines for people with pre-existing allergic conditions, and [Questions and Answers](#) for pregnant and breastfeeding women about COVID-19 vaccination.

Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland have been prepared and maintained by NIAC as a robust and reliable immunisation resource for healthcare professionals. Eleven of the 27 chapters were updated in 2024, encompassing a total of 27 individual updates.

National Resource, Stakeholder Support, and International Collaboration

NIAC has continued to serve as a trusted and respected national resource, addressing over 100 queries pertaining to immunisation and related topics in the past year.

NIAC continues its collaborative working relationship with stakeholders including the DOH, HSE, HPRA, and HPSC. NIAC regularly engages with the wider international immunisation community and has participated in national and international meetings as appropriate (e.g., WHO SAGE, EU NITAG). NIAC continues to reinforce these relationships through engagement, participation, and advocacy.

As a standing committee of RCPI, NIAC has profited from being sited in a collegial setting at the forefront of postgraduate medical education. This has facilitated critical inputs from the institutes and faculties of the college and also supported dissemination of NIAC's outputs.

Faculty Finances

Faculty of Pathology, RCPI Income and Expenditure for Financial Year ended 30 June 2024

General

A profit of €22,969 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2024. This is €1,831 (9%) higher than last year's surplus of €21,138.

Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) for the year was €165,181. This has decreased by €935 (1%) on last year.

Income is classed under three broad headings:

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

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €64,550 in 2023-24 versus €68,605 in 2022-23, a decrease of €4,055 (6%) on last year.

Faculty admissions totalled €4,975 in 2023-24 versus €4,510 in 2022-23.

In 2023-24, 78% of Fellows and 68% of Associate Members paid their subscriptions. In 2022-23, 82% of Fellows and 51% of Associate Members paid their subscriptions.

Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

Event fee income in 2023-24 was €10,920 compared with €9,125 in 2022-23. The slight increase in income is due to increased activity in the FPATH Annual Symposium. Sponsorship income for 2023-24 was zero, compared to €2,500 in 2022-23.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the SLA to deliver training. The amount of €84,736 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover cost of overheads and administrative running costs. This has increased by €3,360 when compared to 2022-23.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2024 were €9,771,185, of which €153,491 was apportioned to the Faculty. The investments apportioned to the Faculty increased by €14,636 in 2023-24, compared with an increase of €3,389 in 2022-23.

Costs

Costs are categorised as follows:

- Direct Costs, which are staffing and administration costs;
- Overhead recharge, which is for rent, insurance, light, heat, etc., and to cover the provision of the services of Finance, Facilities, IT and HR, etc.

Direct Costs


Direct Costs total €77,470 for the year, an increase of €7,719 on last year.

- catering, which increased by €664,
- wages and salaries, which increased by €4,059,
- professional fees, which decreased by €3,100,
- travel & accommodation, which increased by €5,772,
- and other direct costs, which decreased by €122; for photography, floral costs, speakers' fees, AV requirements, and subscriptions.

The higher spend in 2023-24 versus 2022-23 is due to overall increased activity, especially flights to Hong Kong and for Honorary Fellows, and an increase in salary costs

Overhead recharge

Overhead recharge of €72,104 has been charged to the Faculty of Pathology accounts for 2023-24, compared with €70,897 in 2022-23. The small increase relates to overheads associated with rent, utilities, and insurance. This constitutes 0.8% of the overall College overhead.

Profit & Loss						
Company: Faculty of Pathology		FACULTY OF PATHOLOGY				
Financial Year Ending: 2024		ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF IRELAND				
Calendar Period: 12 - June						
	Actual	Budget	€ Var	Prior Yr Actual	€ Var	
	30/06/2024	30/06/2024		30/06/2023		
Income						
Fee Income	10,920	28,500	-17,580	9,125	1,795	
Subscriptions Income	64,550	46,637	17,913	68,605	-4,055	
Admissions/Conferring Income	4,975	0	4,975	4,510	465	
Sponsorship Income	0	5,000	-5,000	2,500	-2,500	
HSE Main SLA Funding	84,736	66,640	18,096	81,376	3,360	
TOTAL: Income	165,181	146,777	18,404	166,116	-935	
Direct Costs						
Direct Catering	-12,934	-22,195	9,261	-12,269	-664	
Direct Wages & Salaries	-40,964	-38,418	-2,546	-36,417	-4,547	
Direct PRSI	-4,526	-4,245	-281	-4,022	-504	
Direct Pension	-972	-2,561	1,589	-1,964	992	
Direct Employee Benefits	-420	0	-420	-420	0	
Direct Professional Fees	0	0	0	-3,100	3,100	
Direct Accommodation	-1,828	-2,700	872	-898	-930	
Direct Travel - Flights	-5,394	0	-5,394	0	-5,394	
Direct Travel - Other	-66	-3,700	3,634	-618	552	
Direct Subsistence	0	-1,200	1,200	0	0	
Direct Stationery	0	-1,240	1,240	0	0	
Direct Photography	-984	0	-984	-1,937	953	
Direct Floral Costs	0	0	0	-197	197	
Direct Presentations, Gifts, Medals	-2,227	-1,500	-727	-2,372	144	
Direct IT Telecommunications: Data	-9,103	-11,050	1,947	-9,582	479	
Direct Subscriptions	-4,608	-4,908	300	-3,337	-1,271	
Direct Miscellaneous Costs	-717	-13,000	12,283	-337	-380	
	-84,743	-106,717	21,974	-77,470	-7,273	
Gross Profit	80,438	40,059	40,378	88,646	-8,208	
Indirect Costs						
Overhead Allocation	-72,104	0	-72,104	-70,897	-1,207	
Investment Income & Bank Interest Received						
Unrealised Gain/Loss on Valuation of Investments	14,636	0	14,636	3,389	11,246	
NET INCOME(LOSS)	22,969	40,059	-17,090	21,138	1,831	

Governance

Faculty Board:

The Faculty is governed by the Board, the Board met 5 times in 2024.

Board Members:

Board Meetings:

17 January 2024
17 April 2024
29 May 2024
25 September 2024
05 December 2024

Prof Mary Keogan	Dean
Dr Cynthia Heffron	Director of Education and Training
Dr Linda Mulligan	Honorary Treasurer
Dr Bernie Croal	President of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK (Observer)
Dr Shari Srinivasan	Fellow (Elected)
Prof Karina O'Connell	Fellow (Elected)
Prof Aurelie Fabre	Fellow (Co-opted)
Dr Sine Phelan	Fellow (Elected)
Prof Sorcha Ni Loingsigh	Fellow (Elected)
Prof Vincent Tormey	Fellow (Elected)
Dr Joan Power	Fellow (Council member)
Dr Anna-Rose Prior	Fellow (Elected)
Dr Gareth McKeenam	RCPATH Northern Ireland (Observer)
Prof Sean Hynes	Fellow (Chair Scientific Meetings Committee)
Dr Niamh Nolan	Fellow (Co-opted)
Dr Helene McDermott	Fellow (Elected)
Dr Susannah Staunton	Trainee Representative
Dr Muiris O'Ceidigh	Lay Member
Ms Terry Prone / Mr Tiberius Pereira	Lay Member

Representation within RCPI and External Committee

EFLM Green Lab Taskforce	Ana Rakovac	Chemical Pathology
Chair of the RCPI Advisory Group on Climate Action	Ana Rakovac	Chemical Pathology
NQI Programme Working Group Chair	Ann Treacy / Linda Feeley	Histopathology
NCCP Therapeutic Molecular Working Groups	Anne Marie Quinn	Histopathology
National Screening Advisory Committee	Aoife Doyle	Histopathology
Cervical Check Clinical advisory group	Aoife Doyle	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Barbara Dunne	Histopathology
MedLIS Project Board (Microbiology)	Binu Dinesh	Microbiology
National TB Advisory Committee	Breida Boyle	Microbiology
NCCP Working Group (MK to confirm title)	Brendan Doyle	Histopathology
<i>Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels</i>	Brendan Doyle	Histopathology
NCCP NTRK testing strategy	Brendan Doyle	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Brian Hayes	Histopathology
NCCP National Haematology Dataset Working Group	Brian Hayes	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Caroline Brodie	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Clive Kilgallen	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Conor O'Keane	Histopathology
Interval Cervical Cancer Implementation Committee	Conor O'Keane	Histopathology
NCCP Skin cancer (Dermatopathology)	Cynthia Heffron	Histopathology
<i>Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels</i>	David Gibbons	Histopathology
NPEC Perinatal Working Group	Emma Doyle	Histopathology
Chemical Pathology Representative – Pathology Curriculum Review	Erum Rasheed	Chemical Pathology
Chair, National Near-Patient Testing Consultative Group	Gerard Boran	Chemical Pathology
Faculty Representative, EFLM	Gerard Boran	Chemical Pathology
Joint Co-ordinator, Core Pathology Skills Training Course (Faculty-organised)	Gerard Boran	Chemical Pathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Helen Ingoldsby	Histopathology
Member of MedLIS Project Board (Chemical Pathology)	Ingrid Borovickova	Chemical Pathology
National Trauma System Implementation: Clinical Advisory Group	Joan Power	Haematology

NCCP Molecular Diagnostic Advisory Group	John Aird	Histopathology
NCCP PD-L1 Gastric group	John Aird	Histopathology
Forum Global Health Membership	Kieran Sheahan	Histopathology
MedLIS Project Board (Histopathology)	Laura McKenna	Histopathology
HSE Chair Post Mortem Standards Review	Linda Mulligan	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Lindsey Clarke	Histopathology
Advisory Committee of National Cancer Registry	Louise Burke	Histopathology
ICCR Observer to the Board	Louise Burke	Histopathology
National Cancer Registry of Ireland	Louise Burke	Histopathology
HSE Investigation Review Team for Thrombotic Microangiopathy	Maeve Crowley	Haematology
RCPI Trainees Committee	Leah Timon	Histopathology
HIQA Expect Advisory Group for Gene expression profiling tests with early-stage invasive breast cancer	Marie Staunton	Histopathology
RCPI Research Committee	Mary Keogan	Histopathology
INAB Medical & Scientific Advisory Committee (Faculty)	Mary Keogan	Immunology
RCPI Collegiate Membership and Engagement Steering Group	Mary Keogan	Immunology
CervicalCheck Laboratory Advisory Group	Mary Keogan (temp)	Immunology
RCPI Executive Board	Mary Keogan	Immunology
Forum of Post Graduate Training Bodies	Mary Keogan	Immunology
SQI Steering Committee	Mary Keogan	Immunology
Consultant Appointments Advisory Committee	Mary Keogan	Immunology
MedLIS Project Board	Mary Keogan	Immunology
ICCR Paediatric Authoring Committee	Maureen O'Sullivan	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Michael Jeffers	Histopathology
ICCR Paediatric Authoring Committee	Michael McDermott	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Niall Mulligan	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Niall Swan	Histopathology
Stakeholder advisory Group IARC	Niamh Conlon	Histopathology
Cervical Check National Quality Advisory Group	Niamh Conlon	Histopathology
Cervical Check Stakeholder Advisory Group	Niamh Conlon	Histopathology
Dep of Justice Review of the Coronial Service	Niamh Nolan	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Odharnaith O'Brien	Histopathology
Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies Quality & Risk subcommittee (Faculty rep)	Patrick Twomey	Chemical Pathology

Pathology CAG chair - due to demit when the structure changes	Patrick Twomey	Chemical Pathology
ACP Council, Executive and other committees (in the ACP and as ACP rep) as Hon. Treasurer; also Branch Secretary of the Irish Branch	Patrick Twomey	Chemical Pathology
President of the Board UEMS Laboratory Medicine	Patrick Twomey	Chemical Pathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Paul Crotty	Histopathology
INAB Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (Histopathology)	Paul Hartel	Histopathology
Faculty of Pathology Credentials Committee (Chemical Pathology)	Rama Srinivasan	Chemical Pathology
National Near-Patient Testing Consultative Group (Chemical Pathology – second representative)	Rama Srinivasan	Chemical Pathology
INAB MSAC Chempath	Rama Srinivasan	Chemical Pathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Richard Flavin	Histopathology
MedLIS Project Board (Haematology)	Rob Henderson	Haematology
Forum: Global Health	Shari Srinivasan	Chemical Pathology
International Haematology reviewer for NCEC intraoperative acute life threatening haemorrhage guideline	Simon Stanworth	Haematology
ICCR Dataset steering committee	Sine Phelan	Histopathology
Forum Quality and Safety Working Group	Sine Phelan	Histopathology
National Cervical Screening Laboratory Steering Group	Sine Phelan	Histopathology
INAB Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (Haematology)	Sorcha Ni Loinsigh	Haematology
INAB Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (Microbiology)	Susanna Frost	Microbiology
Forum Doctors' Health & Wellbeing Committee	Claire Roberts	Histopathology
ICCR Genitourinary cancer dataset authoring committee	Niall Swan	Histopathology
RCPI Health and Wellbeing Forum Committee	Claire Roberts	Histopathology
Haemato-pathology Panel Leads and members of regional panels	Thomas Crotty	Histopathology
Joint chair of the NCCP Tumour Markers Project Board	Vivion Crowley	Chemical Pathology
Member of the HPRAs Advisory Committee on Medical Devices (ACMD)	Vivion Crowley	Chemical Pathology

External

The Faculty has ongoing links with a number of external committees and other entities, including:

- Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee, Irish National Accreditation Board.
- International Liaison of Pathology Presidents
- Union Européenne Des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) Laboratory Medicine section & Section of Pathology
- National Cancer Control Programme
- Irish Haematology Society
- Irish Society of Clinical Microbiologists
- MedLIS (National Medical Laboratory Information System)
- International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting
- Health Service Executive
- Cervical Check
- Health Information and Quality Authority
- National Cancer Registry of Ireland
- Association of Clinical Pathologists
- European Federation of Laboratory Medicine

Administration

Key personnel in RCPI who conducted work on behalf of the Faculty during 2024:

Faculty Officer	Brian O'Murchu	01 8639 795 pathology@rcpi.ie
Faculty Manager	Darragh Whelan	01 4853 461 darraghwhelan@rcpi.ie
Training Coordinator	Thiasha Cullen	01 8639 750 thiashacullen@rcpi.ie
Professional Competence	Thelma Russell	01 8639 758 professionalcompetence@rcpi.ie
Accreditation	Siobhán Kearns	01 8639 720 siobhankearns@rcpi.ie
Conferences and Events	James McNulty	01 8639 700 conferences@rcpi.ie
Registry & Support Team Manager	Kelly Webster	01 8639 700 kellywebster@rcpi.ie