



**INSTITUTE OF  
OBSTETRICIANS &  
GYNAECOLOGISTS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

# January 2024 -December 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists was established in 1968, and in 1976 became an integral part of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. It draws its membership, at present numbering 250 from the whole of Ireland. Many of these are in current practice as consultants in the public sector in the Republic of Ireland. There are four categories of full membership: Honorary, ad Eundem, by election and by examination. Practitioners who have passed the RCPI examination in Obstetrics and Gynaecology or an equivalent and who are on the Institute Higher Specialist Training programme can apply for Associate Membership.

The objectives of the Institute are to represent Obstetrical and Gynaecological opinion in Ireland in a professional, advisory and administrative capacity. It aims to act as the advisory body in Ireland in matters relating to education, training, research and administration in the speciality of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, as well as to Governmental and statutory bodies in all matters pertaining to Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Training and Education is a vital part of the Institute's role. It takes responsibility for setting and maintaining examination standards related to Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It assists in the maintenance of professional standards for doctors with regard to Professional Competence in the speciality of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, including the delivery of vibrant educational events.

The Institute is a dynamic and fast paced organisation. Our members are actively involved not just in the running of the Institute, but also many of its members have extensive experience in planning and organising international scientific and corporate events. Over the years the Institute has formed many constructive links as well as having an active involvement with other Medical Societies and Colleges, nationally and internationally.

### **Mission:**

Our mission is to promote excellence in the areas of patient care, professional standards, education and research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

## KEY PERSONNEL

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

|   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Institute Coordinator                                   | John Hunt           | 01 8639 633 <a href="mailto:iog@rcpi.ie">iog@rcpi.ie</a>  |
| Basic & Higher Specialist Training                      | Irene Poltronieri   | 01 8639 761 <a href="mailto:irenepoltronieri@rcpi.ie">irenepoltronieri@rcpi.ie</a>                |
| Training Manager  | Muríosa Prendergast | 01 8639 711 <a href="mailto:mariagolden@rcpi.ie">mariagolden@rcpi.ie</a>                          |
| Examinations  | Sirpa Makinen       | 01 8639 707 <a href="mailto:examinations@rcpi.ie">examinations@rcpi.ie</a>                        |
| Professional Competence Scheme (PCS)                    | Deirdre Donegan     | 01 8639 703<br><a href="mailto:professionalcompetence@rcpi.ie">professionalcompetence@rcpi.ie</a> |
| Applications to the Specialist Division of the Register | Siobhan Kearns      | 01 8639 720 <a href="mailto:siobhankearns@rcpi.ie">siobhankearns@rcpi.ie</a>                      |
| Training Site Accreditation and Trainer applications    | Hollie Forde        | 01 4853460 <a href="mailto:hollieforde@RCPI.IE">hollieforde@RCPI.IE</a>                           |

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Prof Sam Coulter-Smith, Chair of the Institute**



Dear Members and Associate Members,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 AGM of the institute and to our 2024 Annual Report. The Institute could not function without significant commitment of time and energy from many of its members and fellows so I want to take a moment to thank all those who have contributed to the successes the Institute saw during 2024. These include the Officers of the Institute, all members of the Board, members of Institute Committees, National Speciality Directors, Regional Speciality Advisors, Trainers, and all the Members who give generously of their time to represent the Institute on many RCPI and National Committees.

I would also like to thank the RCPI staff who support the Institute. I would like to congratulate Mr Sean McCarthy who has been promoted to Faculty Liaison Officer within RCPI, and to welcome Mr John Hunt who has taken over Sean's previous role as Institute Officer. I would also like to welcome Ms Irene Poltronieri is IOG's new Training Co-ordinator for the Institute.

We are delighted to welcome the RCOG and the Ulster Society to our spring meeting and look forward to a strong relationship with both organisations going forward.

### **IOG Annual Spring Conference:**

The Institute Spring Conference, Ceremony and AGM took place on Friday 01 March 2024. Speakers included:

- Prof Rhona Mahony "*Clinical Risk in the Maternity*"
- Prof Mary Wingfield "*Assisted Human Reproduction in Ireland: Recent Progress in Legislation and State Support*"
- Dr Sameer Angras "*Artificial Intelligence in ART*"
- Prof Mike Geary "*Origin of Irish Obstetrics*"

The meeting included a wide array of topics Reproductive Medicine to Obstetrics and showcased Ireland's latest research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. We also discussed clinical risks, medico-legal issues, and have renowned speakers invited to this meeting. A total of 227 people attend in person and on-line on the day. The Institute AGM took place during the lunch break of the Conference.

The Spring Conference was followed by the Institute Annual Ceremony. At the ceremony, 7 new Members and 4 new Associate Members were admitted to the Institute. The Institute Rory O'Connor medal was presented to Dr Alice O'Neill and Dr Luricke Potgieter. The Institute awards this medal to the highest achieving examination candidate at each sitting of the MRCPI examination in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 10 CSCST certificates were presented on the night as well. Finally, two Institute Honorary Fellowships were presented to: Dr Howaida Khair and Prof Juan Diego Villegas. The day was concluded with the Institute Annual Dinner in the Dun Library.

### **East Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECSACOG):**

The Institute met with ECSACOG on Good Friday regarding strengthening ties between the two organisations. A Memorandum of Understanding had been signed at the start of 2023 with the aim of strengthening ties between the organisations moving forward.

In May 2024, Dr Francis Chiwora (ECSACOG Examinations and Credentials Committee Chair from

Zimbabwe), Dr Musimbi Soita (ECSACOG Exams and Credentials Committee Secretary from Kenya, and Prof Dereje Negussie (ECSACOG Registrar from Ethiopia) visited RCPI to observe the OSCE Examinations, share knowledge, and strengthen the relationship between the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and ECSACOG even further. I would like to thank Prof Méabh Ní Bhuinneáin and everyone who made this possible.

#### **JOGS Annual Meeting and Autumn conference:**

The JOGS Annual meeting took place Friday 29th November with the theme Together Towards Tomorrow – Innovations in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Prof Sambit Mukhopadhyay the incoming President of EBCOG was the international guest speaker speaking on *Hysterectomy – Past, Present and Future*. Other speakers included Ms Orfhlaith O Sullivan “*The Future of Stress Urinary Incontinence Treatments* “ and Dr Michael O’Dowd “*Henry Ford: History is more or less bunk(um)*” On the day we also had a lively debate on “*Caesarean Section Rates Do Not Matter Anymore* “.

There were 400 people registered for the event, 215 in person and 97 virtual attendees. The event broke the attendance record for in the No.6 building.

The institute was requested by the Masters of the 3 Dublin Maternities to allow the annual reports meeting to be revived and this took place at the end of the day. Prof Patricia Crowley was the annual reports assessor.

#### **Outgoing Chair message**

This is my last AGM as Chair of the Institute, it has been an honour and a great privilege to serve as your Chair for the last 3 years and I am delighted to welcome Dr Suzanne O’Sullivan as the incoming Chair. Suzanne has all the experience and knowledge of the Institute and the college to do an amazing job and I have no doubt will have a very successful term as your next Chair. I wish her the very best and encourage you all to support her in whatever way you can.

Finally thank you all for your help and support during my term as Chair.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The Institute is governed by a Board, previously named Executive Council. The Board, alongside its sub-committees and joint committees of the Institute, acts as a vital source of information for those interested in obstetric & gynaecological issues in Ireland.

There were four meetings of the Board held between January 2024-December 2024. The dates were: 19<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> September, and 29<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Board January 2024-December 2024:**

#### **OFFICERS**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Chair of the Institute.<br>Institute Representative on the Forum of PGME Training Bodies, RCPI Executive Board, RCPI Advisory Committee. | Prof Sam Coulter-Smith |
|--|------------------------|

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Vice-Chair or Chair-Elect of the Institute. Chair of O&G Exams Board | Prof Mary Higgins        |
| Honorary Treasurer   | Dr Nikhil Purandare      |
| Director of Training   | Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan    |
| IOG Convenor of Meetings   | Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe |
| Coombe Hub Representative  | Prof Mike O'Connell      |
| Cork Hub Representative  | Dr Mairead O'Riordan     |
| NMH Hub Representative   | Dr Shane Higgins         |
| Rotunda Hub Representative   | Dr Rishi Roopnarinesingh |
| West Hub Representative  | Dr Nikhil Purandare      |
| JOGS Representative  | Dr Niamh Fee             |
| Lay Person   | Dr Lorna Roe             |
| Northern Ireland Representative                                      | Inez Cooke               |
| President, RCPI  | Dr Diarmuid O'Shea       |
| Registrar, RCPI  | Prof Michael Keane       |

**Other Institute Representation:**

Contact the Institute Coordinator at [jog@rcpi.ie](mailto:jog@rcpi.ie) to ensure our records are kept up to date.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| RCPI Trainees Committee  | Drs Sorca O'Brien & Daniel Kane for Forum;<br>BST O&G Representative Dr Valerie Julius |
| Forum Professional Competence                                    | Prof Hilary Hoey (for all RCPI training bodies)  |
| Forum Quality & Risk Subcommittee                                | Vacant   |
| European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) | Dr Mike Robson & Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe  |
| The National Obstetric Haemorrhage Group                         | Dr Clóna Murphy, Dr Carmen Regan and Dr Bridgette Byrne                                |
| NPEC Maternal Morbidity Group                                    | Dr Bridgette Byrne, Prof Mary Higgins, Dr C Murphy, Dr G. Méabh Ní Bhuinneáin          |
| NCCP National Advisor in Oncofertility                           | Dr Edgar Mocanu  |
| ICGP Reproductive & Sexual Health Committee                      | Dr Maeve Eogan   |
| National Incident Management Team (NIMT)                         | Dr Peter McKenna   |
| FIGO Clinical Guidelines on Placenta Accreta                     | Prof Donal Brennan   |
| National Obesity Programme                                       | Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe & Dr Jennifer Walsh   |
| FIGO Executive Board   | Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe   |
| Massive Operative Haemorrhage working group and NOCA             | Dr Naomie Burke  |

Vice President, RCPI  
IOG Rep on RCPI Council  
RCPI Executive  
Chair, MRCPI Examination Obstetrics  
and Gynaecology  
Programme Lead, Diploma in Womens  
Health, RCPI/iHeed  
Member, RCPI Examination Board  
Member, RCPI Academic Board  
Member, IOG Speciality Training  
Committee  
RCPI Council Representative, Faculty of  
Paediatrics Governance Review

Prof Mary Higgins

# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dr Sharon Cooley and Mr Barry Quinlan

## General

A surplus of €26,954 was recorded for the 12 months to end June 2024, an increase of €33,788 from last year's deficit of €6,834. This surplus was primarily due to the reversal of accrued costs relating to profit share for ICOGPM events in 2015, 2017 and 2019 totaling €33,597.

## **Income**

Total income (excluding investments) generated for the year ended 30 June 2024 was €163,133, an increase of €947 on last year.

Income is classed under the following headings which are discussed in more detail below:

- Subscriptions and Admission Fees
- Event & Study Day Fee Income & Sponsorship Income
- HSE SLA Grant Income & Project Income
- Other Income (Termination of Pregnancy Funding)

## Subscriptions & Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €43,687 in 2023-24 versus €44,908, a decrease of €1,221 (3%) on last year.

In 2023-24, 66% of Associates and 82% of Members paid their subscriptions.

By comparison, in 2022-23, 59% of Associates and 83% of Members paid their subscriptions.

## **Event & Study Day Fee Income & Sponsorship Income**

Event fee income for 2023-24 was €8,655. Event fee income for 2022-23 was €14,790. This is a result of IOG Winter event being cancelled this year.

€5,710 was earned in sponsorship in 2022-23, €15,050 was earned from sponsorship in 2022-23. This is also a result of the IOG Winter event being cancelled.

## HSE SLA Grant Income & Project Income

This relates to the SLA with the HSE to deliver training.

The amount of €84,295 SLA funding is the proportion of the grant relating to the Institute to cover the cost of overheads and administration costs. This has increased from €81,191 in 2022-23.

Project Funding of €8,000 was received from HSE in 2023-24 for ESCACOG, this was spent on travel and accommodation for visiting observers.

## Other Income (Termination of Pregnancy funding)

€8,745 was released to the P&L in 2023/2024 to cover project costs relating to Termination of Pregnancy funding received from the HSE. €6,247 was released to the P&L in 2022/2023 Last year.

Total funding received for this project was €350,000. We have deferred the balance of €294,058 to the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024.

## Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2024 were €9,771,185 of which €108,752 were apportioned to the Institute. The value of investments apportioned to the Institute increased by €10,370 in 2023-24, compared with an increase of €2,401 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 €74,444 for the year, a decrease of €25,829 on 2022-23, however when the reversal of the miscellaneous cost accrual is removed the costs increased by €7,518.

Included under direct costs are:

- Room hire & catering, which decreased by €1,513.
- Wages and salaries, which increased by €4,059.
- Professional Fees, which decreased by €2,684.
- Provider Costs, which increased by €2,227.
- Travel & accommodation, which increased by €5,519.
- IT infrastructure, which decreased by €2,200.
- Administration & other costs increased by €2,611.
- Miscellaneous costs include a credit for reversal of accrued costs relating to profit share for ICOGPM events in 2015, 2017 and 2019 totaling €33,597.

When the reversal in miscellaneous costs is excluded, the higher spend in 2023-24 versus 2022-23 is due to provider costs, travel & accommodation and subscriptions.

### **Overhead recharge**

Overhead recharge of €72,104 has been charged to the Institute accounts for 2023-24, compared with €70,897 in 2022-23. The increase relates to overheads associated with events and general overhead increases throughout the year (support staff costs, utilities, insurance).

|  | June 2024<br>Actuals | June 2024<br>Budget | Full Yr<br>Variance | June 2023<br>Actuals | Variance to<br>Prior Yr |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                  |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| <b>Fee Income</b>                              |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Fee Income                                     | 8,655                | 16,000              | (7,345)             | 14,790               | (6,135)                 |
|  | <b>8,655</b>         | <b>16,000</b>       | <b>(7,345)</b>      | <b>14,790</b>        | <b>(6,135)</b>          |
| <b>Membership Income</b>                       |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Subscriptions Income                           | 43,687               | 30,105              | 13,582              | 44,908               | (1,221)                 |
| Admissions/Conferring Income                   | 4,040                | -                   | 4,040               | -                    | 4,040                   |
|  | <b>47,727</b>        | <b>30,105</b>       | <b>17,622</b>       | <b>44,908</b>        | <b>2,819</b>            |
| <b>Sponsorship Donations &amp; Fundraising</b> |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Sponsorship Income                             | 5,710                | 18,500              | (12,790)            | 15,050               | (9,340)                 |
|  | <b>5,710</b>         | <b>18,500</b>       | <b>(12,790)</b>     | <b>15,050</b>        | <b>(9,340)</b>          |
| <b>Funding Income</b>                          |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| HSE Main SLA Funding                           | 84,295               | 71,251              | 13,044              | 81,191               | 3,105                   |
| Project Funding - HSE - Global Health          | 8,000                | -                   | 8,000               | -                    | 8,000                   |
|  | <b>92,295</b>        | <b>71,251</b>       | <b>21,044</b>       | <b>81,191</b>        | <b>11,105</b>           |
| <b>Miscellaneous Income</b>                    |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Miscellaneous Income                           | 8,745                | -                   | 8,745               | 6,247                | 2,499                   |
|  | <b>8,745</b>         | <b>-</b>            | <b>8,745</b>        | <b>6,247</b>         | <b>2,499</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL: Income</b>                           | <b>163,133</b>       | <b>135,856</b>      | <b>27,277</b>       | <b>162,185</b>       | <b>947</b>              |
| <b>Direct Expenditure</b>                      |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| <b>Event Costs</b>                             |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Room Hire and Catering                         | 12,092               | 19,260              | (7,168)             | 13,605               | 1,513                   |
|  | <b>12,092</b>        | <b>19,260</b>       | <b>(7,168)</b>      | <b>13,605</b>        | <b>1,513</b>            |
| <b>Staff Costs</b>                             |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Wages & Salaries                               | 40,964               | 38,418              | 2,546               | 36,417               | (4,547)                 |
| PRSI   | 4,526                | 4,245               | 281                 | 4,022                | (504)                   |
| Pension  | 972                  | 2,561               | (1,589)             | 1,964                | 992                     |
|  | <b>46,462</b>        | <b>45,225</b>       | <b>1,238</b>        | <b>42,403</b>        | <b>(4,059)</b>          |
| <b>Other Staff Costs</b>                       |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Employee Benefits                              | 420                  | -                   | 420                 | 420                  | 0                       |
| Office Catering                                | -                    | 800                 | (800)               | -                    | 0                       |
|  | <b>420</b>           | <b>800</b>          | <b>(380)</b>        | <b>420</b>           | <b>0</b>                |
| <b>People Costs (Non-Staff)</b>                |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Provider Costs                                 | 8,745                | -                   | 8,745               | 6,519                | (2,227)                 |
|  | <b>8,745</b>         | <b>-</b>            | <b>8,745</b>        | <b>6,519</b>         | <b>(2,227)</b>          |
| <b>Professional Fees</b>                       |                      |                     |                     |                      |                         |
| Professional Fees                              | -                    | -                   | 0                   | 2,684                | 2,684                   |
|  | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>            | <b>0</b>            | <b>2,684</b>         | <b>2,684</b>            |

|   |                 |               |                 |                |                |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Travel, Accommodation and Subsistence</b>          |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Accommodation   | 7,123           | 4,000         | 3,123           | 4,878          | (2,245)        |
| Travel - Mileage                                      | 427             | -             | -               | -              | (427)          |
| Travel - Flights                                      | 170             | -             | 170             | -              | (170)          |
| Travel - Other  | 14,917          | 2,300         | 12,617          | 954            | (13,963)       |
| Subsistence   | -               | 600           | (600)           | 11,286         | 11,286         |
|   | <b>22,637</b>   | <b>6,900</b>  | <b>15,310</b>   | <b>17,118</b>  | <b>(5,519)</b> |
| <b>Administration Costs</b>                           |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Bank Charges  | 32              | -             | 32              | 20             | (12)           |
| Stationery  | -               | 820           | (820)           | -              | 0              |
| Photography   | 738             | -             | 738             | 1,230          | 492            |
| Presentations, Gifts, Medals                          | 193             | 800           | (607)           | 1,585          | 1,393          |
| Direct Meeting Costs                                  | -               | -             | 0               | 500            | 500            |
|   | <b>963</b>      | <b>1,620</b>  | <b>657</b>      | <b>3,336</b>   | <b>1,873</b>   |
| <b>IT Costs</b>                                       |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Direct IT Infrastructure: Hardware                    | -               | -             | 0               | 2,952          | 2,952          |
| Direct IT Telecommunications: Data                    | 9,103           | 9,102         | 1               | 8,351          | (752)          |
| IT Managed Service                                    | -               | -             | -               | -              | 0              |
|   | <b>9,103</b>    | <b>9,102</b>  | <b>1</b>        | <b>11,303</b>  | <b>2,200</b>   |
| <b>Miscellaneous Costs</b>                            |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Subscriptions   | 6,368           | 4,320         | 2,048           | 1,863          | (4,505)        |
| Miscellaneous Costs                                   | (32,346)        | 10,500        | (42,846)        | 1,273          | 33,619         |
|   | <b>(25,978)</b> | <b>14,820</b> | <b>(40,798)</b> | <b>3,136</b>   | <b>29,113</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL: Direct Expenditure</b>                      | <b>74,444</b>   | <b>97,727</b> | <b>(23,709)</b> | <b>100,524</b> | <b>25,829</b>  |
| <b>Earnings before Investments &amp; Overheads</b>    | <b>88,688</b>   | <b>38,129</b> | <b>3,567</b>    | <b>61,662</b>  | <b>26,776</b>  |
| <b>Investment Income &amp; Bank Interest Received</b> |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Valuation of Investments    | 10,370          | -             | 10,370          | 2,401          | 7,968          |
|   | <b>10,370</b>   | <b>-</b>      | <b>10,370</b>   | <b>2,401</b>   | <b>7,968</b>   |
| <b>Overhead Allocation</b>                            |                 |               |                 |                |                |
| Overhead Cost   | 72,104          | -             | 72,104          | 70,897         | (1,207)        |
|   | <b>72,104</b>   | <b>-</b>      | <b>72,104</b>   | <b>70,897</b>  | <b>(1,207)</b> |
| <b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>                          | <b>26,954</b>   | <b>38,129</b> | <b>11,175</b>   | <b>(6,834)</b> | <b>33,788</b>  |

# Scientific Meetings Report

Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe and Dr Nikhil Purandare

The last year was a very successful year for the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in terms of the academic throughput.

The IOG conducted 6 online webinars on the following topics:

1. Labour Ward Management
2. Maternal Medicine
3. Perimenopausal Wellbeing
4. Reproductive Rights as Human Rights
5. Clinical Solutions in Infertility
6. Challenges to the delivery of Termination of Pregnancy service

The Reproductive Rights and Infertility webinar were delivered in collaboration with FIGO.

The total attendance at all the webinars was greater than 1200.

The 2 annual meetings at No 6 Kildare street were very well attended.

The Annual Spring Meeting had 227 attendees which included in person and on-line attendees. The feedback was excellent with the discussions on clinical genetics, medicolegal aspects of our practice, robotic surgery and management of fibroids being the highlights. Prof. Frank Louwen from Germany, EBCOG President and President Elect of FIGO, Prof Juan Diego Villegas, Columbia, FIGO Division Director for Benign Gynaecology and Prof. Asma Khalil from the United Kingdom were our international guests.

The JOGS meeting in November highlighted the high quality of research being done by our trainees in Ireland in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It was followed by an IOG session on very topical issues such as the management of Stress Urinary Incontinence, the rising caesarean section rate and the future of training in gynaecology. We were delighted to see the revival of the Dublin Reports meeting that generated much debate. Prof Sambit Mukhopadhyay the incoming President of EBCOG was the international guest speaker. Prof Patricia Crowley was the annual reports assessor.

# NSD Report

## Director of Training and Education

Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan

## National Specialty Directors HST:

Prof Keelin O'Donoghue, Dr Cathy Monteith,  
Ms Orfhlaith O' Sullivan

## National Specialty Directors BST:

Dr Tasneem Ramhendar, Dr Azriny Khalid

## Specialty Training Committee Members:

Prof Keelin O'Donoghue, Dr Cathy Monteith, Ms Orfhlaith O' Sullivan, Dr Tasneem Ramhendar, Dr Azriny Khalid, Dr Eddie O' Donnell, Prof Shane Higgins, Dr Eibhlin Healy, Dr Rebecca Moore, Dr Aoife O'Neill, Dr Naomi Burke, Dr Jennifer Hogan, Dr Matthew McKernan, Dr Feras Abu Saadeh, Dr Ruaidhri McVey, Dr Vijay Hiremath, Dr Nadine Farah, Dr Naro Imcha, Prof Mary Higgins

## HST July 2024 – Feb 2025

|                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Year | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year | 4 <sup>th</sup> Year | 5 <sup>th</sup> Year | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Trainees in Clinical Posts in Ireland | 16                   | 15                   | 18                   | 9                    | 8                    | 66    |
| Clinical Out of Programme in Ireland  | 0                    | 0                    | 4                    | 9                    | 5                    | 18    |
| Flexible Training/LTFT Training       | 0                    | 0                    | 1                    | 0                    | 2                    | 3     |
| Leave of Absence/Withdrawn            | 0                    | 1                    | 2                    | 2                    | 3                    | 8     |
| <b>Total</b>                          | 16                   | 16                   | 25                   | 20                   | 18                   |       |

\*69 active posts with some posts having 2 HST trainees in 1 year

- 94 trainees on scheme including OCPE
- 47 (%) Dublin, 53 (%) outside Dublin
- 20/69 of active posts (%) in small/medium units (excluding Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick)
- 10 male and 84 female trainees on scheme (11% and 89 %)

## Trainees on OCPE

| 1 <sup>st</sup> year on OCPE | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year on OCPE | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year on OCPE | 4 <sup>th</sup> year on OCPE |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12                           | 3                            | 3                            | 1                            |

## Evaluation review

| EYE | PYE | FYE | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 24  | 2   | 5   | 31    |

\*Further assessments scheduled in May 2025

**Location of Trainees:**

| Location      | Number | Location                     | Number |
|---------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| Rotunda       | 9      | Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda | 5      |
| NMH           | 9      | Mullingar                    | 1      |
| Coombe        | 8      | Mayo                         | 2      |
| CUMH/SIVUH    | 9      | Portlaoise                   | 1      |
| Galway        | 5      | Mater                        | 2      |
| Limerick      | 6      | Tallaght                     | 2      |
| Wexford       | 4      | St James                     | 1      |
| Waterford     | 4      | Connolly                     | 1      |
| Portiuncula   | 1      | Sligo                        | 1      |
| Cavan General | 1      | Bons Tralee                  | 1      |

**BST July 2024 – Feb 2025**

| 1 <sup>st</sup> year | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | Total |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 29                   | 27                   | 21                   | 77    |

The NSDs coordinate recruitment, assessment, curriculum development and remediation for all BST trainees, alongside the RCPI. The BST programme works with Hub Coordinators, where hub assignments are managed centrally. The Hub Coordinator works on behalf of the Hub and not the hospital in which they are located. Actual postings are coordinated by five Hub coordinators:

- Dr Nadine Farrah: Coombe Hub (Coombe Women and Infants Maternity Hospital, St James’s Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Midwest Regional Hospital Portlaoise, Midwest Regional Hospital Mullingar)
- Dr Etaoin Kent: Rotunda Hub (Rotunda Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, Cavan General Hospital)
- Dr Michael O’Leary: West Hub (University Hospital Galway, University Maternity Hospital Limerick, Letterkenny University Hospital, Mayo University Hospital, Portiuncula Hospital, Sligo General Hospital)
- Prof Shane Higgins: NMH Hub (National Maternity Hospital, St. Luke’s Hospital Kilkenny, Wexford General Hospital, Mater Misericordiae)
- Dr Azy Khalid: CUMH Hub (Cork University Maternity Hospital, University Hospital Waterford, University Hospital Kerry, Limerick Hospital, South Tipperary General Hospital)

From July 2020 year 3 of the programme has become national and is not allocated by hub.

| Training Breakdown  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Total |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Evaluations         | 0               | 27              | 19              | 46    |
| Interim Evaluations | 0               | 2               | 1               | 3     |

|                      |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Extra time on scheme | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Withdrawn            | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leave of absence     | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

\*Year 1 assessments scheduled for 16th May 2025.

**Location of Trainees:**

| Location    | Number | Location                     | Number |
|-------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| Portiuncula | 1      | Mater                        | 1      |
| NMH         | 11     | Kerry                        | 1      |
| Beaumont    | 1      | Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda | 4      |
| Coombe      | 8      | Portlaoise                   | 3      |
| Connolly    | 1      | Rotunda                      | 11     |
| CUMH        | 12     | St James                     | 2      |
| Galway      | 3      | Sligo                        | 1      |
| Mullingar   | 3      | South Tipperary              | 1      |
| Limerick    | 5      | Tallaght                     | 1      |
| Letterkenny | 1      | Waterford                    | 3      |
| Mayo        | 1      | Wexford                      | 2      |

**CSCSTs Awarded July 24 to February 25**

| Name                 |
|----------------------|
| Dr Mary Barrett      |
| Dr Laura Linehan     |
| Dr Simon Craven      |
| Dr Nada Warreth      |
| Dr Ellen McMahon     |
| Dr Joan Lennon       |
| Dr Sabina Tabirca    |
| Dr Catherine O'Regan |
| Dr Niamh Fee         |
| Dr Daniel Galvin     |
| Dr Sarah Nicholason  |
| Dr Tariq Bholah      |
| Dr Elmuiz Haggaz     |

## **Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists/HSE Joint Working Group**

### **MDE Ireland**

Michael F O'Hare MD, FRCPI, FRCOG

The Joint Working Group was set up in July 2007, and MDE Ireland, based at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre in Cork, commenced formal maternal death data collection for Ireland in January 2009 in collaboration with the long established UK Confidential Enquiry. The project is funded by the HSE.

Under the umbrella of NPEU/MBRRACE-UK based at the University of Oxford, statistics for UK and Ireland are published annually, on a rolling basis. Topic-specific chapters, however, continue to appear every three years.

The most recent report containing UK and Ireland maternal mortality data for 2020-2022 was launched at a well attended virtual scientific meeting hosted by MBRRACE-UK in October 2024. To coincide with this publication, MDE Ireland published a Data Brief covering the same triennium.

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) for Ireland for 2020-2022, from direct and indirect causes occurring during or within 42 days of pregnancy end, was 8.3 per 100,000 maternities. I would again draw specific attention to the emergence of suicide as the leading direct cause of maternal death, and the leading cause of late deaths in Ireland. For the first time, there was a statistically significant increase in the number of deaths due to suicide during pregnancy and up to one year postnatally in 2020-2022 compared with the previous decade 2010-2019.

As before, members of the Institute are strongly urged to bring this and previous reports to the attention of their trainees. All reports are available on the MDE Ireland website.

The most recent meeting of the Joint Working Group was held in October 2024 by Zoom.

Thanks are due to all members of the Institute who have contributed in any way to the success of this project.

MDE Ireland looks forward to a continuing association with the UK Confidential Enquiry and NPEU/MBRRACE-UK.

#### **REFERENCE**

O'Hare MF, Manning E, Corcoran P, Greene RA on behalf of MDE Ireland. Confidential Maternal Death Enquiry in Ireland. Data Brief No. 7. Cork: MDE Ireland, October 2024.



# Healthcare Leadership Function

Dr Trevor Duffy, Head of Healthcare Leadership

## Overview

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

The first cohort completed the pilot mentorship programme in 2024. Additional retired doctors have volunteered to participate in mentorship. Two mentor training groups completed training in June and October 2024 and work started on a second phase of the programme with an expression of interest communicated to early-stage consultants in November 2024. Response levels have been positive with 25 consultants seeking to participate in the next cohort. Feedback from both mentees and mentors who participated in first cohort has been very positive. The evaluation surveys completed by mentees during the programme have provided valuable insights on the benefits of mentorship.

## 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 core Committee group of active members met in May 2024 to discuss areas of interest. On 17 October 2024, RCPI hosted retired members for lunch during St Luke's Symposium. Increased numbers of retired members are now contributing to the College through their involvement in mentorship, examinations, CPD audits, representation on committees and heritage projects. To date, twenty members participated in mentorship training to support early-stage consultants. RCPI provides ongoing support to the committee as the Academy evolves.

## Leadership Forum

RCPI Leadership Forum was established in 2024. 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 2024 with a guest speaker Dr Chris Luke and a second meeting on 24 October to review and discuss the Clinical Engagement Report commissioned by RCPI. These meetings were hybrid format, with over 35 Clinical Leads and CAG Chairs participating in the meetings.

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. The College will plan networking events, seminars and training to support these leaders in their roles.

The Leadership Forum Group will be involved in the implementation phase of the Clinical Engagement Review. Improving communication and connectivity within this leadership group is part of the scope of the Leadership Forum.

### **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 are actively seeking a viable funding model for this 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 414 doctors were enrolled in the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Schemes (279 on the Specialist Division Scheme and 135 on the General 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. For the 2023 – 2024 PCS year, Training Bodies were only required to submit the Quantitative (KPI) Report, and this report was submitted on behalf of the Institute 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% (90% for IOG Specialist Division Scheme and 81% for the General Division Scheme).

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 12 doctors from the Faculty of Public Health Medicine Schemes.

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 PGMTBs will continue as accredited CPD Providers for the next five years. However, in June 2025, PGMTBs will be required to submit two examples of CPD activities demonstrating compliance with the new criteria. The PGMTBs 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         | 241                   | 1707            |
| Non RCPI     | 368                   | 2369            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>609</b>            | <b>4076</b>     |

### National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

RCPI currently manages four National 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 HSE, voluntary and private hospitals. Based on findings from analysis of 2023 data, the programmes 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 Bronchoscopy Quality Improvement (NBQI) Programme

The NBQI Programme has, over the course of the 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 as guidance. A network of local QI clinical leads has been established, with 24 out of a possible total of 27 respiratory consultants on board to date. This network will be key in ensuring the programme can be run locally. Discussions are underway regarding the development of a data collection tool 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.

### **National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement (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 HSE 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 Quality Improvement (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 HSE 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 key quality areas including report turnaround times (TAT) and peer reviews. The findings for report TAT were found to be similar to the previous year with almost half of hospitals meeting the recommended target. 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 Histopathology Quality Improvement (NHQI) Programme**

The 10th annual national data report was released by the NHQI Programme in November 2024 and presented at the annual conference. The report presented aggregated findings from 21 HSE and voluntary and seven private laboratories on national data collected between 1 January and 31 December 2023. The data reveal that workload figures have continued to rise steadily since 2019, the highest figures to date for cases, specimens and blocks across all participating laboratories reported in 2023. Aggregated findings presented in the report revealed that laboratories met targets for intradepartmental consultations, multidisciplinary team reviews, addendum reporting and frozen section concordance rates. Report findings also indicated that laboratories continue to face challenges in meeting the turnaround time targets for histology, cytology and autopsy cases.

### **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. Seven maternity teams have taken part over all cohorts to date. Huddles have focused on reduction of harm and identification of risk in the various settings.

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><b>Patient Safety and Dignity</b></p>                            | <p><b>‘Changing Horizons Framing the Delivery of Training to 2030 and Beyond’.</b><br/> 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 <a href="#">here</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Health Equity</b></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. 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><b>Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)</b></p>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 related harm.</li> <li>• Paper published in Global Paediatrics Sep 2024 <a href="#">The adverse effects of vaping in young people - ScienceDirect.</a></li> <li>• Prevention of NCDs/keeping people well is a major theme of ‘Changing Horizons’ discussion and report launched 2024</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• RCPI joined the Irish Health Promotion Alliance in 2024.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Climate Change and Healthcare /Sustainable Healthcare</b></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>This group is working on recommendations for integration of healthcare sustainability into RCPI curricula.</p> <p>RCPI as member of Irish Climate and Health Alliance developing a position paper on</p>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Active Travel- to be published in 2025. RCPI has also contributed to Climate and Health Alliance General Election Manifesto.   |
| <b>Influencing Public Health Legislation</b> | <p><b>Passing of Tobacco 21 legislation</b></p> <p>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 <a href="#">here</a>) 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><b>Assisted Dying</b></p> <p>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 (1 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 (DOH)**

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.

| <b>Date of Issue</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
|----------------------|--|
| 12 February 2024     | <a href="#">NIAC Recommendations to CMO re. Herpes Zoster vaccination</a>  |
| 16 April 2024        | <a href="#">NIAC Recommendations re. passive immunisation of infants against RSV during the 2024/2025 season</a> |
| 25 October 2024      | <a href="#">NIAC updated recommendations for pneumococcal conjugate vaccination</a>                              |



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.

## **Postgraduate Training and Examinations Function**

Ms Muríosa Prendergast, Head of Operations

### **Purpose**

The overall aim of the Operations Function within the RCPI is to focus on consistent and process-driven operational delivery of training, education and registry activities to support our trainees and learners through their training journey. all that we do as we support doctors. Key parts to that include the delivery and supports for training, educational delivery and registry activities. The Operations department was restructured in September 2024 with and there are many plans for expansion and improvement of processes and services within the function.

The office supports approximately 1,750 trainees and 1,300 trainers in the administration of RCPI's 32 training programmes. In terms of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists this is the three-year BST programme and the five-year HST training scheme.

### **Training and Education Delivery**

Ms Zoë Cashman, Education and Training Delivery Manager

The purpose of the Training and Education Delivery Department is to support the key activities of the RCPI Training Bodies as it relates to the delivery of training and the education courses underpinning training.

The purpose of the office is to be a model for excellence and leadership in the development and delivery of postgraduate specialist training programmes, emphasising high quality service, efficiency, effectiveness and excellence in Trainer and Trainee engagement on behalf of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the other five Faculties and Institutes of the College: Faculty of Pathology, Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Faculty of Paediatrics and the Institute of Medicine.

### **Admissions**

Ms Tanya Chapple, Admissions Manager

The purpose of the Admissions office is to provide high quality support to our six Faculties and Institutes in the delivery of recruitment, enrolment, onboarding, induction, and new intake allocations. Their role includes reviewing and assessment of applications to our BST and HST programmes, determining eligibility for admission. They coordinate interviews as part of the selection process, and work with our clinical leads to complete new intake allocations for our incoming trainees.

### **Registry**

Ms Kelly Webster, Registry Manager

The Registry department serves a number of different functions. It is responsible for managing and maintaining records and academic administration. The Faculties department sits within this pillar and its purpose is providing high-quality administrative services to the Boards and various Committees of the six Faculties and Institutes. Registry also houses the customer service delivery function as the first point of contact for trainee, trainer and external queries.

## **Global Training and Partnerships**

Sinead Lucey, Head of Business Development, RCPI

The Department is responsible for developing, managing, coordinating, and delivering the College's examinations, both at home and internationally. Our Membership examinations now have a strong global presence. The Examination Department staff work closely with the MRCPI Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) examination board who include clinicians in active practice and those which have recently retired but retain an active interest in training and assessment.

Over the past year, we have all worked together, RCPI staff and clinicians, to increase our capacity to offer more exams in Obstetrics and Gynaecology while continuing to support BST trainees in their career journeys. As a practical examination of the latter, eligible BST trainees can now sit the MRCPI written

examination after 18 months of O&G training rather than 24 months, providing potentially two opportunities to pass the examination before application for HST. At the same time, we've ensured that all our candidates, both international and local, are well looked after.

With more exam spaces available internationally, we've managed to significantly reduce the waiting list for the O&G OSCE/Clinical examination. This has also opened up more spaces for candidates to take the written exams, making them more accessible for all.

This year, we had the highest number of candidates sitting the MRCPI O&G Part II Written Exam, with 664 candidates taking part across two diets. This represents a 247% increase compared to July 2021–June 2022.

We have also been growing our overseas centres for O&G exams. Since March 2022, we have successfully opened and delivered exams in Al Ain (UAE), Muscat (Oman), and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). These examinations run parallel with the MRCPI clinical examinations in Ireland, adapting to time zone differences and including RCPI staff and clinicians in international centres for clear communication across the sites.

| <b>Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Exams</b> |                    |  |                          |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>July 2023-June 2024</b>                       |                    |  |                          |
| <b>Location</b>                                  | <b>Month, Year</b> | <b>Centre Name</b>                                 | <b>Number Candidates</b> |
| Al Ain, UAE                                      | Nov-23             | UAE College of Medicine and Health Sciences        | 69                       |
| Dublin, Ireland                                  | Nov-23             | No 6 Kildare Street, RCPI                          | 32                       |
| Muscat, Oman                                     | Feb-24             | The Royal Hospital                                 | 66                       |
| Riyadh, Saudi Arabia                             | May-24             | Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital, Khurais Branch Road | 67                       |
| Dublin, Ireland                                  | May 24             | No 6 Kildare Street, RCPI                          | 68                       |

Importantly, the pass rates for our examinations remain consistent with previous years, maintaining our high standards and ensuring fairness for all candidates. These achievements reflect our ongoing efforts to expand and improve our examinations, providing better opportunities for candidates globally.

The expertise and knowledge of the RCPI examination department allows these high standards and fairness for candidates. In parallel, the voluntary work by clinicians who write the examination questions, convene the written and clinical examinations, and sit on the examination board helps maintain the excellent standards that are recognised by all. The parallel work by both groups, with a spirit of mutual respect and appreciation, allows us to work with candidates and support them, to have their hard work and training recognised, and their careers to progress.

**MRCPI O&G Examination Board members:**

The Chair of the O&G Exam Board, Prof. Mary Higgins, works closely with the Written Exam Convenor, Dr. Mark Hehir, and the Clinical Exam Convenor, Dr. Nikhil Purandare, alongside esteemed members of the Exam Board, including Dr. Carole Barry who stepped down from the Board in 2024, Prof. Paul Byrne, Dr. Maeve Eogan, Dr. Declan Keane, Dr. Meena Ramphul, Dr. Gillian Ryan, Dr. Niamh Murphy, and Dr. Cathy Monteith. Their invaluable contributions ensure the exams are conducted with the highest standards of fairness and professionalism.

RCPI Examination department members: The delivery of the exams would not be possible without the essential work of the Exams Department. With Sinead Freeman as Senior Manager, Louise Treacy as Operations Manager, Rachel Bishop as Team Lead, Virginia Cidfuentes as Acting Team Lead, and coordinators Sirpa Makinen and Rebecca Weafer, their efforts ensure the exams are conducted efficiently and effectively.

### **IMGTI Sponsored Programme**

The international sponsored programme enables qualified medical Trainees from Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) to undertake a fixed period of training in clinical services in Ireland. Trainees participating in these programmes are fully sponsored by their governments for the duration of their training. All places on the international sponsored programme are supernumerary.

RCPI offers two training streams under the sponsored route, Residency and Fellowship, and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.

### **International Residency Training Programme**

The International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is open to doctors upon completion of their Internship. The programme enables doctors to complete residency training in Ireland before returning to their home country with a Saudi/Arab Board equivalent qualification and membership in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Currently, there are sixteen Residency programme graduates and eight in training. Until this year, two residency programmes have been available: Internal Medicine and Paediatrics. This year, the International Residency Programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the International Basic Training in Histopathology launched, the first trainees are expected in 2026/7. Particular mention goes to Tasneem Ramhendar and Azriny Khalid for all their work in getting the Residency programme approved and open for applications.

### **International Clinical Fellowship Programme**

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers structured, curriculum-based specialist training at a senior level for doctors who wish to pursue higher training in their chosen specialty or sub-specialty. Programmes in Obstetrics and Gynaecology continue to be extremely popular, with applications far outnumbering places. The current programmes offered are Gynaecology Surgery, Labour Ward Management, Maternal Medicine and Urogynaecology. There have been thirteen graduates to date, with six currently in training. This year has seen the launch of new International Fellowship Programmes at the institute, including Fertility Care, Advanced Medical Education, and Advanced Gynaecological Surgery. Thank you to Suzanne O'Sullivan for all her support with the growth and success of the International Programme.

### **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 Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 6 candidates were approved for Fellowship. They were then invited to confer at the Institute Conference in March 2024. The campaign remains ongoing, in November 2024 a further 24 candidates were approved and will be invited to confer at the Institute conference in March 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.

## **RCPI Education**

Diarmuid Breathnach, Head of Professional Affairs, RCPI

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

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

### **INFOGRAPHIC:**

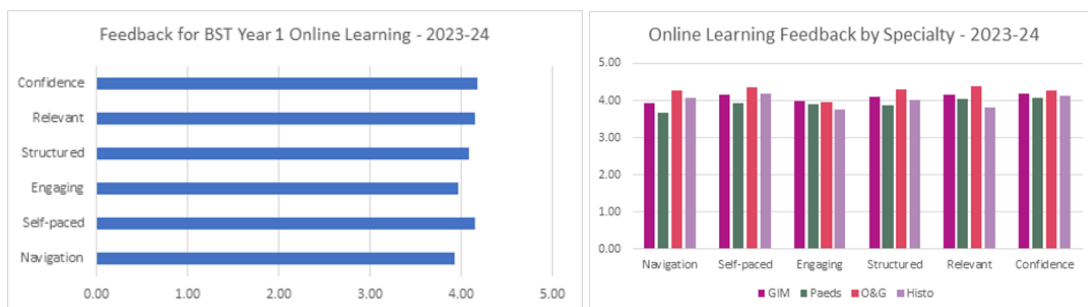
- Over 11,700 learners accessed Brightspace
- 134 tutorials and workshops delivered
- 6,299 attendees at 58 CPD events
- 5,811 total attendees
- 81% of participants across 11 Professional Competence Schemes met the PCS requirements

- 1,086 new enrolments across 11 Professional Competence Schemes
- 2,335 participants on RCPI Courses
- 2,043 participants on RCPI iheed programmes

### TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

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

Trainees were asked to complete a feedback survey each quarter. From a total of 951 responses, feedback was positive, with participants articulating high levels of confidence in the programme. Relevance, structure and the self-paced nature of the programme were also scored highly.



In the 2024-25 training year, Taught Programmes will be rolled out to Year 2 of BST and Year 1 of Higher Specialist Training (HST).

### IRISH CLINICIAN EDUCATION TRACK (ICET)

In the 2023-24 college year, RCPI piloted a new Irish Clinician Education Track (ICET) through Higher Specialist Training. This innovative programme, appealing to Trainees seeking professional development as clinical educators, provides to doctors on a HST programme funding towards two years of out-of-clinical-programme experience (OCPE), wherein they'll be involved in supervised teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

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

Four more Trainees joined the programme in July 2024.

### STUDY DAY PROJECT

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

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

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

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

### MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FELLOWSHIPS

RCPI's Management Consultant Fellowships, created in partnership with PwC Ireland and EY Ireland, offers Trainees on a HST programme the opportunity to work full-time for a one-year period as a management consultant to gain practical business and management experience in a healthcare context. In its third year, the Management Consultant Fellowships were awarded to six Trainees, a 50% increase on its first cohort in July 2001: Dr Claire Connellan (HST General Paediatrics), Dr Claire Mc Ateer (HST Geriatric Medicine), Dr David Tansey (HST Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus), Dr Jane Noble (HST Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus), Dr Patrick Coughlan (HST Respiratory Medicine); and Dr Sarah Kyne (HST General Paediatrics).

### **ASPIRE FELLOWSHIPS**

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

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

RCPI had 23 doctors on its Aspire Fellowships in the 2023-24 training year.

### **NEW CONTRACT WITH TEST REACH**

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

### **NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY**

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

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

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

### **ENHANCING OUR EDUCATION OFFERING**

RCPI's Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Genetics and Genomics, accredited at QQI Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualification, was launched in September 2023. It had 25 learners registered to the programme in the 2023-2024 training year.

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

- Health Economics
- An Introduction to Medicolegal Report Writing
- An Introduction to Medical Consent
- Effective Teaching Skills: Workplace Based Assessment (WBA)
- Effective Teaching Skills: Directly Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS)
- Effective Teaching Skills: Giving a Lecture
- Effective Teaching Skills: Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX)

- Effective teaching skills: Techniques for effective bedside teaching
- Physicians as Trainers: Clinical Supervision
- Physicians as Trainers: Conducting Skills Training in a Clinical Setting
- Seven new Obstetrics and Gynaecology “practical scenario” modules provide practical information regarding specific pregnancy and delivery issues that Obstetrics & Gynaecology Trainees face during their training.
- Family Planning
- A simulated training course Intrapartum Simulated Obstetrics Training (ISOT) has been developed to support RCPI Obstetrics and Gynaecology BST Trainees as they transition to Junior Registrar year.

### **CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME (CPD-SS)**

A total of 983 Learners were enrolled on the Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD- SS) in the 2023-24 training year, representing an all-time high for RCPI – a 25 per cent in enrolments on last year.

### **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROGRAMMES**

Since 2011, RCPI’s Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare has been making significant strides. This year marked the 26th intake of the programme, welcoming 10 teams from various healthcare settings nationwide. To date, over 750 healthcare professionals have been trained in Quality Improvement (QI) through this initiative.

So far, Situation Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) Collaborative – a programme designed to build a safety culture, funded by HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate – has been delivered to over 70 clinical teams representing 37 hospitals and more than 280 clinical staff from medical, nursing, ambulance service, administrative, psychology, dietetics, physiotherapy and pharmacy backgrounds. Nine clinical teams completed the programme in the 2023-24 training year.

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

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

### **IHEED PARTNERSHIP**

Under RCPI’s ongoing, successful partnership with iheed, 2,043 Learners participated across our six programmes in the 2023-24 training year, an increase on 1,973 in the previous year.

RCPI and iheed currently offer; *Professional Diploma in Paediatrics, Professional Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Professional Diploma in Dermatology, Professional Diploma in Medicine for the Older Person, Professional Diploma in Infectious Diseases, and Professional Diploma in Occupational Medicine.*

The second programme launched in the RCPI / iheed partnership was the Professional Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology which was subsequently validated by QQI as a postgraduate award on the national framework and provides direct entry to MRCPI Obstetrics & Gynaecology Part II.



Led by Professor Mary Higgins and Dr Mairead O’Riordan, this wholly online programme has recruited 1009 learners since November 2020. Tuition is led by the programme board and a faculty of 19 tutors. The learner profile is predominantly doctors, nurses and midwives recruited from Ireland, UK, Middle East and Asia Pacific.

Within this learner population, over 100 Irish doctors working in Middle East and Asia Pacific have enrolled on the programme, maintaining a valuable connection to RCPI while working abroad.

# **Institute Membership**

**New enrolments into Membership of the Institute**

**Enrolment on 2025:**

**Membership: 7**

**Associate Membership: 1**

**Honorary Fellowship: 2**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 07 March 2025 - Spring Conference and AGM
- 28 November 2025, JOGS Annual Meeting