RCPI Basic Specialist Training Brochure

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Hospital Group

[Image with medical students in scrubs]
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Welcome to the RCSI Group (Beaumont/Connolly hub) for RCPI Basic Specialist Training Brochure. We hope that this brochure will give you a sense of the rich and diverse range of training that we can offer you at this important stage of your career.

The transition from internship to Medical SHO is one of the most daunting but also exciting stages in your career. Every day you will be faced with the prospect of meeting new challenges and making diagnostic and management decisions that you have spent many years before now preparing for. We believe we can support your development as a physician by providing close Consultant contact, regular formal teaching sessions and by giving you exposure to some of the leading clinical and academic specialists in the country each day of your Medical SHO rotation.

Every Consultant in our training scheme is dedicated to ensuring you get the most out of each of the eight posts you rotate through. Each team you work with will incorporate important teaching points to your everyday clinical work on call, on ward rounds and in outpatients. Additionally each department you work in will hold weekly educational meetings designed to highlight to you current evidence-based practice.

Each hospital within this group offers Medical Grand Rounds and each contributes to RCPI BST Core Academic Programme teaching. Educational and administrative support staff are available at Beaumont, Connolly and Drogheda to help with training or educational issues.

Most trainees on our scheme fulfil the mandatory requirement to spend six months outside Dublin without having to move house. The principal hospitals on our rotation outside Dublin are Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitals at Drogheda and Navan both of which are with commuting distance to Dublin.

Finally, we pride ourselves on the high rate of MRCPI success our trainees achieve: in 2016 23 out of 24 candidates on our rotation successively gained their MRCPI! We can offer you comprehensive membership coaching with MCQ and grey case sessions as well as Consultant-provided short and long case bedside tutorials.

Wishing you success on your postgraduate training journey.
The RCSI Group Hub is based in North Dublin (Beaumont and Connolly Hospitals) and in hospitals close to north Dublin in Co. Louth (Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda) and Co. Meath (Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Navan). A number of smaller hospitals in Dublin are also present on our rotations. These include:

Bons Secours Hospital, Glasnevin, Dublin
St. Luke’s Hospital, Rathgar, Dublin
National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

There are currently 72 Medical SHOs on nine BST rotations in our hub. Each rotation contains eight posts of three months duration and is accredited by the RCPI. We aim to include as many specialties on our scheme as possible.

The specialties we offer are:

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<tr>
<th>Cardiology</th>
<th>Respiratory Medicine</th>
<th>Clinical Pharmacology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
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<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Infectious Diseases/HIV</td>
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<td>Acute Medicine</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Medicine</td>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
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Each rotations includes three of the five core specialties stipulated as mandatory by the RCPI, namely three of the following: Cardiology, Respiratory Medicine, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology and Geriatric Medicine.

BST trainees work closely alongside a large number of Specialist Registrars, Lecturers, Clinical tutors, Interns and Consultants. There are almost 100 Consultant Physicians involved in the training of Medical SHOs in our rotation, many of whom hold dual academic roles, positions in postgraduate training bodies or senior leadership and management roles within the Irish health service.
The SHO allocation to hospitals on our rotation as of July 2016 are:

- **Beaumont Hospital**: 46
- **Connolly Hospital**: 10
- **National Rehabilitation Hospital**: 1
- **Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda**: 14
- **Bon Secours Glasnevin**: 1
- **Our Lady of Lourdes, Navan**: 2

*Our Lady of Lourdes, Navan*  
*Bon Secours Glasnevin*  
*National Rehabilitation Hospital*
WHY CHOOSE US?

Why choose the RCSI Group (Beaumont/Connolly hub for RCPI Basic Specialist Training?)

MRCPI teaching

We have a long tradition of supporting MRCPI candidates through each stage of this examination. We provide speciality-by-specialty tutorials for Part I MRCPI MCQs with our SPR, Consultant and Clinical Lecturer staff providing first hand advice about how to avoid common pitfalls in this exam. Tactical advice that will allow you to strategically manage this exam is provided with detailed discussion of commonly occurring topics being used to illustrate. Consultant input is especially important in our opinion for the clinical Part III of the exam. We provide the examiner’s perspective into what examination techniques mark-out a well prepared candidate from a weaker one and go through the importance of presentation in the exam setting.

23 out of 24 SHOs on our rotation successively gained their MRCPI in 2016. Dr. Peter Branagan and Professor Richard Costello oversee our MRCPI teaching and have many years experience in preparing SHOs for each stage of the MRCPI examination.
Beaumont Hospital BST trainees are pictured with Professor Frank Murray, RCPI President at the recent MRCPI Graduation in the Royal College of Physicians.

"23 out of 24 SHOs on our rotation successively gained their MRCPI in 2016."
Clinical teaching

The Consultant trainers on our rotation believe in inculcating teaching to everyday clinical practice and this is done not only in the formal settings outlined below but also at the bedside.

Our wide range of regional and national specialties allows trainees on our rotations to gain a rich blend of experience in not only common general medical presentations but also in complex tertiary referral specialties.

Our Clinical teaching includes:

**MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS**

*Prof Chris Thompson, Beaumont Hospital*

*Dr Regina McQuillan, Beaumont Hospital*
MORNING REPORT
The Consultant trainers on our rotation believe in inculcating teaching to everyday clinical practice and this is done not only in the formal settings outlined below but also at the bedside.

DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING
Each department holds its' individual departmental teaching meetings and multi-disciplinary meetings. Information relating to departmental teaching meetings can be obtained from local postgraduate education staff in each hospital.
Clinical teaching contd...

MONDAY LUNCHTIME SHO TEACHING

The Medicine clinical directorate has recently introduced a weekly Monday lunchtime teaching meeting which is provided by consultants.

Dr. Peter Branagan oversees the Monday lunchtime teaching meeting and the MRCPI Clinical Examination.
Our Tertiary Specialty Units include:

**NATIONAL RENAL TRANSPLANTATION UNIT**

Beaumont Hospital is the National Centre for Kidney Transplantation in Ireland. BST trainees can gain experience in the clinical decision-making relating to both living donor and cadaveric transplantation services. There is a large renal department overseen by five Consultant Nephrologists and allied clinical specialties including Renal Pathology and Clinical Immunology. Beaumont Hospital also manages the largest number of dialysis patients in Ireland.

**RESPIRATORY MEDICINE:**

We have a large Respiratory Department with a dedicated cystic fibrosis unit. We are the National Centre for Alpha 1 Anti-trypsin deficiency patients. We are a regional referral centre with particular expertise in sleep medicine, respiratory failure and difficult asthma. There are dedicated multi-disciplinary meetings for respiratory patients and a rapid access lung clinic.

**ENDOCRINOLOGY AND PITUITARY DISEASE UNIT**

There is a large Endocrinology service in Beaumont and trainees can gain experience in dedicated diabetes and thyroid disease clinics. Of note we offer a de facto National Pituitary Disease service which is closely linked with our Neurosurgery Department.
WHY CHOOSE US?

NEUROLOGY:
We have a large Neurology service, including specialty clinics for Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Movement Disorders, Epilepsy and Headache. Beaumont Hospital has Ireland’s only Epilepsy Monitoring Unit with 24-hour video-EEG monitoring. Experience gained in Neurology at Beaumont is enriched by exposure to allied specialities including neurophysiology, neuroradiology and neuropathology.

CANCER:
We are a dedicated cancer centre (for the north east region of the Republic of Ireland) with specialist rapid access clinics with MDT support for lung cancer, neuro-oncology, bowel cancer and prostate cancer services. We have eight Consultant Physician trainers in Medical and Radiation Oncology, supervising trainees managing cancer care.
GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY:
We have a large Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department providing a regional service for complex inflammatory bowel, liver and biliary disease. We also run one of the busiest diagnostic and interventional endoscopy units in the country providing a national service for endoscopic treatment of early oesophageal cancer and dysplasia and a regional service for other complex interventional endoscopic procedures.

NATIONAL THROMBECTOMY CENTRE FOR ACUTE STROKE:
We offer Ireland’s only 24/7 thrombectomy service. A monthly multi-disciplinary thrombectomy audit meeting is held to discuss thrombectomy cases from the previous month. This meeting is attended by Stroke Consultants from across Dublin and is hosted by the Interventional Neuroradiologist staff.

RHEUMATOLOGY:
We offer regional specialty input to patients with vasculitis.

TROPICAL MEDICINE, HIV AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE:
This service is overseen by Professor Sam MacConkey and Dr. Cora MacNally and is provided to patients across the north east of Ireland. The RCSI Tropical Medicine course is also provided by this Department.
WHY CHOOSE US?

**DERMATOLOGY:**
Dermatology services across the RCSI group include busy outpatient clinics in Beaumont, Connolly and OLOLH Drogheda. We see a broad variety of patients with acute and chronic inflammatory diseases, many of whom require treatment with systemic agents and biologics. We are also part of the Regional Skin Cancer Centre, diagnosing and treating skin cancers in both immuno-competent and immuno-compromised hosts, including transplant patients. Surgical excisions are conducted via a busy Day Procedure service. We run a daily inpatient and A&E consultation service, and run weekly journal clubs and teaching sessions.

All our trainees gain experience at managing common chronic conditions in specialist settings such as The Heart Protection Unit (Heart Failure), Diabetes Day Centre, Haematology and Oncology Day Units, Colman K Byrne Unit (Neurology), Infectious Disease/HIV Centre, Sleep Laboratory and COPD Outreach Centre. Specialist diagnostic and therapeutic services that also contribute to training include endoscopy and endoscopic ultrasound, coronary angiography (2 cardiac catheterisation labs), specialist cardiac device insertion procedures.
We strongly believe our training role extends to helping trainees with career-influencing decisions. We believe in advocating for trainees as they compete for higher specialist training roles and helping those trainees who do not yet have a specific career pathway in mind to identify suitable next steps in their career that will keep open as many future higher training pathways as possible.

We have a large number of Consultants involved in selection of trainees to SPR and other training pathways and we can help you with interview preparation and CV development.

Opportunities for research exist in all specialties at Beaumont and are encouraged by our Consultant trainers. There are a number of basic science research laboratories at the Smurfit Building, Beaumont Hospital.
Connolly Hospital has a particularly friendly working environment, and the feel of a smaller hospital. Despite this, there are over 30,000 emergency room attendances per annum, on a par with the busiest Dublin hospitals. As a principal teaching hospital of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, many trainees will have rotated through as students. There is a vibrant, eclectic and young staff.

We have a particularly young consultant body, which is very committed to teaching and mentorship. Each of our consultants is an RCPI trainer and prides him/herself in providing encouragement and learning opportunities on a formal and in-formal basis. The teaching facilities are of a high standard and there are formal lectures, tutorials and journal clubs across the specialities. On-line lectures are also provided.

We are virtually European Working Time Directive compliant and were one of the first Dublin hospitals to develop innovative and flexible working hours. Despite this, clinical medicine and care of the patient is central to what we do and a huge effort is put into bedside, 1:1 teaching whilst on ward rounds.

Research, both clinical and basic, is encouraged and we have an Annual Research Day where our trainees are encouraged to present their data before their peers with an external reviewer judging prizes. We have an excellent track record in getting BST trainees placed on SpR schemes and we encourage, mentor and promote applicants.

Our trainees rotate through the following specialties: Endocrinology, Respiratory, Gastroenterology, Gerontology and Stroke, Rheumatology, Emergency Medicine and Cardiology. Within each rotation, formal and informal teaching is performed. Each sub-specialty holds their own MDTs and journal clubs.

There is a robust schedule of didactic teaching which includes grand rounds each Wednesday lunchtime and SHO teaching at 1pm on Tuesdays. The Tuesday sessions are exclusive to our senior house officers and content is delivered by consultants and senior registrars. We have an excellent first-time pass rate for the membership examinations.

We feel that Connolly Hospital offers a friendly, welcoming and invigorating place to train and gain Basic Specialist Training. Most of our consultants are active on the Irish Committee for Higher Specialist Training and are happy to assist in application to sub-specialities. We look forward to working with you as BST trainees, and hopefully in the near future...Consultant colleagues!
## Beaumont/Connolly/Louth-Meath Scheme
### JULY 2015-2017

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Drogheda & Navan

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