



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
MEDICINE**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

‘Thank you to all the Trainees, Members and Fellows of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for your unstinting, sustained response to protect the population from SARS-CoV-2. With your support, we will build a stronger specialty to meet the needs of a reformed public health service.’

A Message from the Dean

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About the Faculty

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

The Faculty achieves this aim through:

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

Supporting Functions

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

- Postgraduate Training and Education: Colm Small, Head
- Professional Affairs: Ann O'Shaughnessy, Head
- International Affairs: John Magner, Head
- Facilities, Finance and ICT: Sheila Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer
- All of the above are under the management of the CEO, Dr Terry McWade

A Message from the Dean

Prof Emer Shelley.



Dear Members and Fellows,

Welcome to the AGM of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, December 2020.

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has had a major impact on all Faculty affiliates. Whether you are involved in controlling transmission at local level, contact tracing, developing guidance, contributing to surveillance reports, carrying out prevalence studies or other research, planning the forthcoming vaccination campaign, supporting business continuity or contributing in other ways, your work has made an important difference. Dr Colm Henry, the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO), has acknowledged that many lives have been saved by the work of public health physicians. Thank you to all the Trainees, Members and Fellows of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for your unstinting, sustained response to protect the population from SARS-CoV-2. With your support we will build a stronger specialty to meet the needs of a reformed public health service.

The effectiveness of the public health response is all the more remarkable given the workforce deficits at the outset, with inadequate multidisciplinary teams, information systems and other resources in most units and departments.

The pressures of high caseloads requiring a rapid response, long working hours and continuous change have been stressful for all those involved. The Health and Wellbeing section on the RCPI website has information on maintaining mental health. If you feel overwhelmed, there are several sources of advice and support, so please seek out help: See <https://www.rcpi.ie/physician-wellbeing/where-to-go-for-help-and-advice/>

Business Continuity and Supporting the Public Health Response to the Pandemic

As outlined below and described in more detail in other sections of this report, the Faculty maintained priority activities as much as possible during the year. Great credit and thanks to all those who supported Faculty activities, including those who continued as trainers or examiners.

- 'Meetings' of the Board and other committees, interviews, assessments, study days, examinations and education activities were moved online.

- Communications with Trainees, Members and Fellows were maintained, including providing information on College webinars.
- Some trainees were redeployed during the initial response in February and March but interviews for Higher Specialist Training (HST), end of year assessments, and July placements and rotations went ahead as planned. CSCST dates were brought forward for SpRs who had met all training requirements. Work on the New Curriculum was paused but is now back on track.
- Examinations due to be held in April were rescheduled to July and September.
- The Summer Scientific Meeting was cancelled but Winter Scientific webinars are planned for December 9th 2020 and January 20th 2021. Combined Admission Ceremonies for 2020 and 2021 are planned for May 26th.
- As Dean, I participated in the Department of Health's Medical Leaders Forum (MLF) chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Holohan, and the Health Service Executive's (HSE) Clinical Leaders Forum, chaired by Dr Colm Henry. I raised deficits in public health resources at the MLF about workforce at the end of May and participated in the HSE Workshop on workforce planning in June. I also responded to media requests for interviews on a range of topics related to the pandemic response.
- The Faculty responded to consultations on testing strategies for healthcare workers and to Medical Council surveys on the impact of the pandemic on HST and on priorities in restoring 'non-COVID' services.

While it won't be 'business as usual', based on developments this year it will be easier to plan for training, examinations and professional events for the year ahead. Engagement with our membership will be a priority, to encourage greater participation in Faculty activities.

Developments in the RCPI and Faculty Governance

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) was launched on January 23rd, replacing the Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training. The College now consists of four Faculties – Occupational Medicine, Paediatrics, Pathology, and Public Health Medicine - and two Institutes – the IOM, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Twenty-one Faculty Fellows applied for Fellowship of the College (FRCPI) and an online admission ceremony was held with the Faculty of Occupational Medicine in October. This process was to facilitate Fellows who wished to participate in College elections for the President and Council held during the Summer.

From now on, Faculty representation on Council will be by a Faculty Fellow, by election if more than one person is nominated. The Dean will be a member of the Executive of the College and not of Council as heretofore. With the proposed change to Standing Orders, the representative on Council will be one of the Fellows on the Board of the Faculty.

The College advertised in January 2020 for applicants to contribute to the work of Boards and Committees. In keeping with governance requirements for diversity, the Faculty agreed to have two 'lay' members on the Board. The purpose is to provide expertise and represent views beyond medicine and public health. Starting with the September Board Meeting, we have benefited from the contributions of Prof Alan Baird and Ms Janis Morrissey.

Another step to improve diversity and representation is the appointment of a specialist registrar (SpR), Dr Teresa O'Dowd, to join the Board. Structures for trainee representation will be that the Representative for Public Health Training will liaise with the SpR on the Board who in turn will be Public Health Representative on the National Trainee Committee of the College.

The membership of committees will be reviewed in the year ahead, to acknowledge those who have served and to increase involvement by younger Members and Fellows.

A full review of Faculty Board and Committee terms of reference is proposed, to align with those of the RCPI. This will involve a substantial revision of Faculty documentation. Drafts were prepared but there wasn't the capacity in the Faculty to pursue this during the year.

Implementation of the Crowe Horwath Report and Reform of the Public Health Service

Following the publication of the Crowe Horwath report in December 2018, the Department of Health established an Implementation Oversight Group in March 2019. The Faculty held a Conference and Workshop on the New Model of Public Health on September 25th 2019. The report, drafted by Drs Kenneth Beatty, Matt Robinson and Eimear Burke has been circulated. Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, presented at the conference on the proposal which the HSE submitted to the Department, including the structure for the public health service, workforce requirements and the distribution of public health physicians across services. The Implementation Oversight Group at the Department of Health had its final meeting in December 2019, after which work on implementation was transferred to the HSE.

During 2019 the Faculty undertook the work requested by the Department of Health to support implementation of the Crowe Horwath report: review of the Curriculum for HST (Lead by Dr Máirín Boland); settings for training (Dr Suzanne Cotter); resources for education and training in leadership and management (Dr Ian Quintyne); to respond to requests to contribute to the National Doctor Training and Planning Unit's (NDTP) workforce plan for public health medicine – this was informed by previous submissions to the NDTP; and to explore the potential for joint training with other medical specialties (Prof Elizabeth Keane). To support the SpRs at this time of change, the Faculty added to identify the needs of SpRs for coaching and advice (Dr Alan Smith).

Due to work pressures, it has not been possible to collate summaries and conclusions of the Faculty's work packages, and to crosscheck for consistency, duplication and gaps. It is hoped that the output will feed into the work being carried forward by the HSE.

The CCO's office is leading on implementation of the reformed service. Dr Marie Casey was appointed half time to lead on system design and planning, and Dr Greg Martin, also half time, to lead on education and training. A small working group was to be established to advise on education and training needs. Monthly meetings were planned to the end of June but did not place due to the pandemic.

At a meeting with management in the CCO's office in October, the Faculty was informed that the focus was on structures and staffing to respond to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, after which work will commence on the model for the future. Workforce planning for the service has implications for specialist training. The NDTP consulted on the Faculty's demographic analysis submitted in 2018 but there hasn't been engagement on this aspect of planning for reform.

Finance

As members of the RCPI Executive Committee, the Deans receive regular updates on the College's finances. There are ongoing developments in how accounts are presented to increase transparency on how costs are allocated across the Faculties and Institutes.

Dr Peter Wright, Honorary Treasurer, is supported by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. They have maintained oversight of the Faculty's budget, income and expenditure, as described in Dr Wright's report, supplemented by the accounts provided by the College's Finance Department.

Specialist Training

Dr Máirín Boland is National Specialty Director and her report describes the delivery of the HST Programme during the year. She describes the impact of the pandemic on training. It is to the credit of all concerned that trainees were uniformly positive about their experiences when asked at the end of year assessments in June.

Congratulations to the six doctors who received their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Higher Specialist Training (CSCST): Drs Peter Barrett, Heather Burns, Helena Ferriss, Katherine Harkin, Desmond Hickey and Geraldine McDarby. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to present the certs to them during a future ceremony.

Reaccreditation of HST by the Medical Council

As part of the reaccreditation process, the Council's Team met Faculty representatives and College staff in November 2019. The Council's final report was issued in October. HST was reaccredited for a five-year period. The Faculty will prepare a plan to set out how the Council's recommendations will be addressed. This report will be submitted in April 2021 and the plan will be reviewed with the Council in May.

Examinations

The Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee is chaired by Dr Derval Igoe. Dr Regina Kiernan stood down during the year after a term of continuous quality improvement as Part I Convenor and Dr Paul Kavanagh has started in this role. Dr Lourda Geoghegan has agreed to lead on the development of Part III, the Oral Examination of Professional Competence. Dr Mary Ward is overall Convenor as well as Convenor of the Part II Examination, and her report includes information on exam sittings during the year and plans for the year ahead.

Professional Competence

Information on the RCPI's Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) is included in the report on Professional Affairs. Of those enrolled on the Public Health Medicine scheme, 104 are on the Specialist Register and 28 on the General Division. Usually, public health physicians are among the best performers in the RCPI in meeting all the Medical Council's PCS requirements. Since those requirements were suspended for the year 2019 to 2020, the level of compliance was lower than usual across all specialties. However, there was substantial learning in responding to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, especially for public health medicine.

Education

Dr Emer O'Connell chairs the Meetings Committee which organise the Faculty Winter and Summer Scientific Meetings. Information on those in the past year is included in Dr O'Connell's report, along with information on other education events involving the Faculty.

EUPHA 2021

A meeting of the European Public Health Association is due to be held in Dublin in November 2021. It is unclear at present if it will go ahead as planned or whether there will be an online meeting, with EUPHA Dublin postponed to 2023. The call for abstracts has been circulated.

Global Health

As part of his lead role for Global Health in the HSE, Dr David Weakliam is Chair of the Global Health Strategic Working Group under the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies which has had support from Public Health Medicine specialists and registrars. In view of the opportunity to contribute directly to this Working Group, the Global Health Committee will no longer be a standing committee of the Faculty. However, it will be possible to establish a public health medicine group to examine a specific issue if the need is identified in the future.

Bursaries and Awards

The Board agreed to support Drs Ina Kelly and Abbey Collins to pursue a Diploma in Medical Law. The need for expertise in this has been highlighted in responding to the pandemic and the learning will be shared with our trainees and hopefully also with members.

The Dorothy Stopford Price Medal Competition will be incorporated into the session for other College Awards at the National Trainee Study Day which was postponed from December 2020 to May 2021.

ASPIRE: Dr Breda Smyth, HSE West, was the Trainer awarded this 12-month post-CSCST Fellowship in Health Service Improvement. The successful applicant was Dr Geraldine McDarby who started the Fellowship in October.

ICAT: As a second year SpR, Dr Andrea Bowe was successful in her application to undertake a PhD on a data driven approach to analysing the association between perinatal variables and IQ, with her supervisor Prof Deirdre Murray, Clinical Lead Paediatrics, CUH. Dr Bowe started the dual training programme in July.

Policy and Advocacy

As reported last year, Dr Julie Heslin and colleagues collaborated with the Faculty of Paediatrics in the preparation of the Position Paper on the Implications of Homelessness and Inadequate Housing on the Health of Children which was published in November 2019. The Communications unit in College supported dissemination of the paper and it received substantial media coverage.

Dr Philip Crowley, National Director in the Quality Improvement Division, met Dr Heslin and Prof Ellen Crushell, Dean of the Faculty of Paediatrics and myself. It was planned to send a proposal to the CCO for a programme structure to link with Social Inclusion, engaging with clinicians with a commitment to homeless people but it was not subsequently possible to progress this.

The HSE has set up a group on the impact on the foetus of maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy. When finished, it will go to the Boards of the Faculties of Paediatrics and Public Health Medicine and the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for comment, before going to the College Executive and thence to Council for approval.

The Faculty was a collaborating organisation for a position paper on the Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on Children, including education and provision of health care. Drafted by the National Clinical Programme and the Faculty of Paediatrics, it was published around the time schools reopened in September, having been closed since March.

The Faculty of Paediatrics and the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology have drafted a position paper aiming to improve the rate of breastfeeding in Ireland. Ms Janis Morrissey has commented on it for the Faculty. It will be circulated to the Board and when agreed, the Faculty will join other sponsoring Faculties when it goes to the Executive and thence to Council for adoption.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement and gratitude must first go to all colleagues in public health medicine who have worked tirelessly since the beginning of the year to reduce the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the Irish population.

The President, Prof Mary Horgan, was elected for a further three-year term and has continued to be supportive and inclusive of the Faculty in College activities throughout the year. You will have received a substantial amount of information in the regular ezines about College events and developments.

The CEO, Dr Terry McWade, has been extremely active on a wide range of developments in training, education and examinations, and to improve college governance. This was particularly evident in the College's flexibility in responding rapidly to the restrictions to control the pandemic, supported by Ms Sheila Gallagher who leads on College finances and operations.

Other staff in the RCPI – Colm Small, Dr Ann O'Shaughnessy and the teams working with them - have provided support and advice in a friendly and professional manner throughout the year, in relation to training, examinations, events, professional competence, reaccreditation and applications for the Specialist Division of the Medical Register. Siobhan Creaton and the RCPI Communications staff compile much of the information disseminated in ezines and reminders, and were particularly busy in responding to media requests about the pandemic.

Special thanks to Louis Lavelle, Faculty Manager, for his wise advice and contribution to Faculty business in what has been a busy year. Barbara Conneely has started as Team Lead and is living up to her reputation for efficiency and expert knowledge of College regulations. Claire Doyle, Faculty Coordinator, made a seamless transition to 'working from home' and has been exceptionally helpful in maintaining Faculty and Training activities, as well as responding to many wide-ranging queries. Her work to support the Officers of the Board and the administration of specialist training is much appreciated.

I am grateful to the Faculty Officers, Dr Lorraine Doherty (Dean Elect) and Dr Peter Wright (Honorary Treasurer) for their advice and support during the year. Also, to Prof Joe Barry who lead on the appointment and induction of new Board Members.

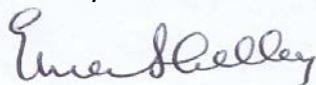
It has been a challenge to maintain the training programme and examinations during the year. Thanks are due to Dr Mairin Boland, who as well as her role as National Specialty Director, is leading on a major review of the Curriculum.

Our examinations could not have been held, with standards maintained, without Dr Mary Ward, the Convenor of Examinations. Special thanks to Dr Regina Kiernan who stepped down during the year as Convenor of the Part I exam and thanks to Paul Kavanagh who started in the role. We have been privileged to have Prof Robert Clarke as Extern Examiner. His expert and wise oversight of the examinations will be greatly missed.

I am grateful to the Members of the Board who continued to oversee and advise on all Faculty activities, including Dr Sarah Doyle who finishes her term of office. Dr Julie Heslin was Honorary Secretary for several years until the 2019 AGM and contributed beyond that role, so thank you Julie. I'm grateful also to Dr Derval Igoe who served as Honorary Treasurer and Past Treasurer and is also demitting.

Credit and thanks also to those who Chair the subcommittees of the Board, including Dr Derval Igoe who started as Chair of the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee. Sincere thanks are also due to the long-standing chairs of other committees. Dr Emer O'Connell, Dr Anne Sheahan, Dr David Weakliam, Dr Fenton Howell, and to all who participate in these committees and give willingly of their expertise and time.

Finally, I would like to thank all Fellows and Members for their continuing engagement in Faculty activities.



Professor Emer Shelley
Dean, Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Faculty Representation

Expert Group	
The Forum Working Group on Health and Wellbeing	Dr Marie Laffoy
RCPI Strategy Development	Prof Joe Barry
National Medical Training Strategy	Dr Mairin Boland
Faculty in Northern Ireland Committee and Education and Faculty Affairs Committee (UK)	Dr Mairin Boland

Business of the Honorary Secretary

Prof Emer Shelley

From December 2019 to January 2020, the Board met on 7 occasions, on January 15th, March 25th, June 10th, July 21st, September 16th, Oct 21st and November 18th.

The names and attendance of the Board and Committees are included in this report in accordance with Standing Order XVII (f).

Dr Sarah Doyle, Dr Julie Heslin and Dr Derval Igoe will demit from the Board on completion of their term of office.

During the year Professor Emer Shelley served as Dean and as Honorary Secretary, Dr Lorraine Doherty as Dean Elect and Dr Peter Wright as Honorary Treasurer. Dr Doherty will be unable to take on the role of Dean at this time due to heavy work commitments as National Clinical Lead for Health Protection. The Board has welcomed the proposal that Prof Cecily Kelleher will join the Board as Dean Elect. In view of this, the Board has also agreed to the proposal that Prof Shelley would continue as Dean for one further year, to the AGM in 2021. Permission is being sought from the College Censors for these appointments which do not accord with the Standing Orders of the Faculty.

The Faculty's annual admission ceremony did not take place this year. Those due to be admitted will be included in the ceremony in May 2021.

Six doctors completed higher specialist training since the last AGM.

Currently, the Faculty of Public Health Medicine has 34 Honorary Fellows, 136 Fellows and 77 Members.

The Board

The Faculty is governed by the Board, the Chair of which is the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean served on the Council and on the Executive Committee of the College. Dr Brid Farrell, the observer from the Northern Ireland Affairs committee of the Faculty of Public Health was unable to participate this year.

Board membership for 2019/2020 period and attendance at meetings was as follows:

Board member	Position	No. of meetings
Prof Emer Shelley	Dean	7
Dr Lorraine Doherty	Vice Dean	3
Dr Julie Heslin	Past Hon Secretary	5
Dr Derval Igoe	Past Treasurer	5
Dr Mairin Boland	National Speciality Director	3
Dr Mary Ward	Fellow/Convenor of Exams (from Spring 2019)	2
Dr Peter Wright	Hon Treasurer	5
Dr Ruth McDermott	Member	4
Dr Ina Kelly	Fellow	5
Dr Sarah Doyle	Fellow	1
Dr Regina Kiernan	Fellow	7
Dr Philip Crowley	Fellow	4
Dr Caroline Mason Mohan	Fellow	3
Prof Joe Barry	Fellow	6
Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick	Fellow	7
Ms Janis Morrissey	Lay Representative (from September)	3
Prof Alan Baird	Lay Representative (from September)	3

Honorary Treasurer and Finance and General Purposes Committee

Dr Peter Wright

Report for Financial Year 2019 – 2020

Introduction

The Faculty finances are overseen by the Treasurer and the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The remit of the committee is to oversee and manage financial matters on behalf of the Faculty, to provide direction to the Board on the strategic use of Faculty funds and to bring recommendations to the Board on financial matters. The members of this committee are Dr Sarah Doyle, Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, Dr Siobhan Jennings, Dr Annette Rhatigan and Dr Peter Wright.

The Profit and Loss Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30th June 2020 and the associated commentary have been prepared by RCPI Finance Department and are presented in the next section of this report.

Summary

There was a surplus of €9,129 at the end of June 2020 compared to a figure of €6,948 at the end of the previous year. As of June 2020, the overall faculty surplus and reserves are €368,102.

Total income for the year (excluding investment income) was €139,150. This has decreased by €18,471 (12%) on last year. As in previous years, income comes from three sources, subscriptions and faculty admissions, event fees and the HSE grant for the provision of training. Receipts from subscriptions were €21,934, which is a decrease of €1,188 (5%) from the previous year. The Admission Ceremony was cancelled in May 2020 resulting in nil income this year as opposed to €5,740 the previous year. Event fee income this year was €10,460 a decrease of €12,040 (54%) from the previous year due to cancellation of the Summer Scientific Meeting as a result of the pandemic. The HSE grant income came to €106,756, an increase of €497 compared to the previous year. It is of note that the overhead absorbed by the College was €28,021.

Investment income at the end of June 2020 was €166,735, which is similar to the previous year and represent 2% of the overall College investments of €8,069,111.

Faculty expenditure includes direct costs such as running events, indirect costs including staffing and administration costs, and the College overhead recharge, which includes rent, insurance, light, heat etc. Direct costs were €9,796, a reduction of 59% compared to the previous year and largely due to the cancellation of the Summer Scientific Meeting. Indirect costs were down 13% on the previous year at €42,233. No bursaries were paid out in 2019-2020. The College overhead recharge was €78,101 compared to €80,184 the previous year.

The College is reviewing how it presents the accounts of Faculties and Institutes to provide greater transparency on how costs are allocated. It has been explained that while the profit and loss accounts show accumulated reserves for each training body, some of these are due to the cap on College recouping costs from Faculties. Also, the reserves across Faculties are counterbalanced by the liabilities in the balance sheet of the College as a whole.

I would like to thank the Faculty Finance and General Purposes Committee for their ongoing support and advice.

Finance Report

Barry Quinlan

Income and Expenditure for Financial Year ended 30 June 2020

General: A surplus of €9,129 was generated for the 12 months to end June 2020. This is a slight increase on last year's surplus of €6,948.

Income

Total Income (excluding investment income) generated for the year end June 2020 was €139,150. This has decreased by €18,471 (12%) on last year.

Income is classed under three broad headings:

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

Subscriptions and Admission Fees

Receipts from Subscriptions were €21,934 in 2019-20 versus €23,122 in 2018-19, a decrease of €1,188 (5%) on last year. No admission income received in 2019-20 versus €5,740 in 2018-19 – admission ceremony cancelled in May 2020.

In 2019-20, 87% of Fellows and 72% of Members paid their subscriptions. In 2018-19, 84% of Fellows and 78% of Members paid their subscriptions.

Event Fee Income and Sponsorship

Event fee income for 2019-20 was €10,460 which is a decrease of €12,040 (54%) versus 2018-19. This is as a result of the cancellation of the Summer Scientific Meeting in May 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

HSE Grant Income

This relates to the Service Level Agreement to deliver training. In 2019-20, the overall HSE SLA amounted to €5M. This is calculated on the basis of a per capita element and a structural funding element. The amount received from the HSE has remained static for the last five years despite an increase in the number of trainees.

The amount of €106,756 is the proportion of the grant relating to the Faculty to cover cost of overheads and administration running costs. This has increased by €497 when compared to 2018-19. Wages and salaries increased by €2,580 and the overhead recharge from the College

decreased by €2,083. Historically the loss for the Faculty has been capped at €6,800 and the College absorbed the remainder of the overhead. The overhead absorbed by the College in 2019-20 was €28,021.

Investments

Investments held by the College at the end of June 2020 were €8,069,111, of which €166,735 were apportioned to the Faculty. The investments apportioned to the Faculty have held their value when compared to 2018-19.

Costs

Costs are categorised as follows:

- Direct Costs, which can be attributed to specific projects/events;
- Indirect Costs, which are staffing and administration costs;
- Overhead recharge, which is for rent, insurance, light, heat, etc, and also to cover the provision of the services of Finance, IT and HR, etc.

Direct Costs

Direct Costs total €9,796 for the year, a decrease of €14,199 (59%) on last year mainly due to the cancellation of the Summer Scientific Meeting in May 2020

Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs total €42,233 and show a decrease of €6,401 (13%) on last year.

In 2019-20 salary costs have increased by €2,580. No bursaries were paid out in 2019-20 versus €8,815 in 2018-19.

Overhead recharge

Overhead recharge of €78,101 has been charged to the Public Health accounts for 2019-20 versus €80,184 in 2018-19. This constitutes 1% of the overall College overhead.

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MANAGEMENT REPORT PACK

FOR THE MONTH OF - JUNE 2019

Income and Expenditure account (by expense type)

	Year to date			PRIOR YTD ACTUAL	VARIANCE to PRIOR YR ACTUAL
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE to BUDGET		
INCOME					
SUBSCRIPTIONS	23,122	24,615	-1,493	23,191	-69
FELLOWS SUBSCRIPTIONS	17,690	18,410	-720	17,150	540
MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS	5,432	6,205	-773	6,041	-609
ADMISSIONS	5,740	2,150	3,590	1,720	4,020
FACULTY ADMISSIONS	5,740	2,150	3,590	1,720	4,020
FEE INCOME	22,500	29,500	-7,000	25,258	-2,758
EVENT INCOME	22,050	29,500	-7,450	24,758	-2,708
ADMISSION CEREMONY AND DINNER INCOME	450	0	450	500	-50
GRANT INCOME	106,259	67,420	38,839	66,236	40,022
HSE/ MET-R QUARTERLY GRANTS	106,259	67,420	38,839	66,236	40,022
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME (EXCL INVESTMENT)	157,621	123,685	33,936	116,405	41,215
TOTAL INCOME	157,621	123,685	33,936	116,405	41,215
DIRECT COSTS					
ROOM HIRE AND CATERING	-17,381	-19,725	2,344	-18,612	1,231
ROOM HIRE	-664	0	-664	0	-664
CATERING	-15,237	-16,000	763	-16,994	1,757
BEVERAGES	-664	-2,250	1,586	-1,213	548
COMMITTEE MEETING COSTS	-465	-575	110	-405	-59
COMMITTEE CATERING COSTS	-31	-600	569	0	-31
SPEAKERS FEES/PROVIDER COSTS	-624	-1,350	726	-732	108
PRESENTATIONS AND GIFTS	-624	-1,350	726	-732	108
TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION - DIRECT	-2,999	-3,400	401	-2,625	-375
TRAVEL	-475	-1,250	775	-681	506
ACCOMMODATION	-1,761	-1,600	-161	-1,376	-385
COMMITTEE TRAVEL COSTS	-763	-550	-213	-267	-496
DIRECT ADVERTISING	-330	0	-330	0	-330
ADVERTISING	-330	0	-330	0	-330
DIRECT ADMINISTRATION COSTS	-80	-120	40	0	-80
STATIONERY	0	-120	120	0	0
OTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECT COSTS	-80	0	-80	0	-80
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	-2,546	-5,200	2,654	-3,427	879
OTHER DIRECT COST	-2,546	-4,000	1,454	-3,047	502
PRIZES AND MEDALS	0	-1,200	1,200	-380	380
PROJECT OVERHEAD CHARGES	-3	0	-3	0	-3
PROFESSIONAL AND MEDICAL CONSULTANT FEES	-33	0	-33	0	-33
INTERVIEW TRAVEL COSTS	-33	0	-33	0	-33
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	-23,995	-29,795	5,800	-25,395	1,401
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	133,626	93,890	39,736	91,010	42,616
INDIRECT COSTS					
STAFFING COSTS	-32,675	-34,635	1,960	-21,723	-11,152
WAGES AND SALARIES	-28,909	-29,900	991	-19,304	-9,605
PRSI	-3,152	-3,244	92	-2,086	-1,067
PENSION	-613	-1,491	878	-333	-480
INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION COSTS	0	-100	100	0	0
STATIONERY COSTS	0	-100	100	0	0
TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION - INDIRECT	-1,546	-4,800	3,254	-4,163	2,617
TRAVEL	-302	-2,700	2,398	-2,705	2,403
ACCOMMODATION	-469	-1,350	881	-363	-106
EXPENSES	-775	-750	-25	-1,095	320
MISCELLANEOUS INDIRECT COSTS	-14,079	-9,400	-4,679	-19,313	5,234
MISCELLANEOUS COSTS	-2,113	-1,400	-713	-1,449	-664
SUBSCRIPTIONS	-80	0	-80	0	-80
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	-8,815	-8,000	-815	-16,000	7,185
MISC. CATERING COSTS	-2,696	0	-2,696	-684	-1,812
MISC. MEETING COSTS	-375	0	-375	-680	605
BANK CHARGES	-135	0	-135	8	-143
BANK CHARGES	-135	0	-135	-1	-134
FINANCIAL EXCHANGE GAIN	0	0	0	9	-9
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	-48,634	-48,935	301	-45,191	-3,444
Earnings before interest, depreciation, investments and overheads	84,992	44,955	40,037	45,819	39,172
INVESTMENT COSTS	2,140	0	2,140	5,487	-3,347
GAIN/(DIMINUTION) ON INVESTMENT COSTS	2,140	0	2,140	5,487	-3,347
OTHER ITEMS	-80,184	-51,313	-28,871	-51,313	-28,871
OVERHEAD RECHARGE	-80,184	-51,313	-28,871	-51,313	-28,871
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	6,948	-6,358	13,306	-8	6,955

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MANAGEMENT REPORT PACK

FOR THE MONTH OF - JUNE 2019

Income and Expenditure account (by expense type)

	Year to date			PRIOR YTD ACTUAL	VARIANCE to PRIOR YR ACTUAL
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE to BUDGET		
INCOME					
SUBSCRIPTIONS	23,122	24,615	-1,493	23,191	-69
FELLOWS SUBSCRIPTIONS	17,690	18,410	-720	17,150	540
MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS	5,432	6,205	-773	6,041	-609
ADMISSIONS	5,740	2,150	3,590	1,720	4,020
FACULTY ADMISSIONS	5,740	2,150	3,590	1,720	4,020
FEE INCOME	22,500	29,500	-7,000	25,258	-2,758
EVENT INCOME	22,050	29,500	-7,450	24,758	-2,708
ADMISSION CEREMONY AND DINNER INCOME	450	0	450	500	-50
GRANT INCOME	106,259	67,420	38,839	66,236	40,022
HSE/ MET-R QUARTERLY GRANTS	106,259	67,420	38,839	66,236	40,022
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME (EXCL INVESTMENT)	157,621	123,685	33,936	116,405	41,215
TOTAL INCOME	157,621	123,685	33,936	116,405	41,215
DIRECT COSTS					
ROOM HIRE AND CATERING	-17,381	-19,725	2,344	-18,612	1,231
ROOM HIRE	-684	0	-684	0	-684
CATERING	-15,237	-16,000	763	-16,094	1,757
BEVERAGES	-664	-2,250	1,586	-1,213	548
COMMITTEE MEETING COSTS	-465	-575	110	-405	-59
COMMITTEE CATERING COSTS	-31	-900	869	0	-31
SPEAKERS FEES/PROVIDER COSTS	-624	-1,350	726	-732	108
PRESENTATIONS AND GIFTS	-624	-1,350	726	-732	108
TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION - DIRECT	-2,909	-3,400	491	-2,825	-375
TRAVEL	-475	-1,250	775	-681	506
ACCOMMODATION	-1,761	-1,600	-161	-1,376	-385
COMMITTEE TRAVEL COSTS	-763	-550	-213	-267	-496
DIRECT ADVERTISING	-330	0	-330	0	-330
ADVERTISING	-330	0	-330	0	-330
DIRECT ADMINISTRATION COSTS	-80	-120	40	0	-80
STATIONERY	0	-120	120	0	0
OTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECT COSTS	-80	0	-80	0	-80
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	-2,546	-5,200	2,652	-3,427	879
OTHER DIRECT COST	-2,546	-4,000	1,454	-3,047	502
PRIZES AND MEDALS	0	-1,200	1,200	-380	380
PROJECT OVERHEAD CHARGES	-3	0	-3	0	-3
PROFESSIONAL AND MEDICAL CONSULTANT FEES	-33	0	-33	0	-33
INTERVIEW TRAVEL COSTS	-33	0	-33	0	-33
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	-23,995	-29,795	5,800	-25,395	1,401
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	133,626	93,890	39,736	91,010	42,616
INDIRECT COSTS					
STAFFING COSTS	-32,875	-34,635	1,760	-21,723	-11,152
WAGES AND SALARIES	-28,900	-29,900	991	-19,304	-9,605
PRSI	-3,152	-3,244	92	-2,086	-1,067
PENSION	-613	-1,491	878	-333	-480
INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION COSTS	0	-100	100	0	0
STATIONERY COSTS	0	-100	100	0	0
TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION - INDIRECT	-1,546	-4,800	3,254	-4,163	2,617
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MISCELLANEOUS COSTS	-2,113	-1,400	-713	-1,449	-664
SUBSCRIPTIONS	-80	0	-80	0	-80
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	-815	-8,000	7,185	-16,000	7,185
MISC. CATERING COSTS	-2,696	0	-2,696	-894	-1,812
MISC. MEETING COSTS	-375	0	-375	-680	605
BANK CHARGES	-135	0	-135	8	-143
BANK CHARGES	-135	0	-135	-1	-134
FINANCIAL EXCHANGE GAIN	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	-48,634	-48,935	301	-45,191	-3,444
Earnings before interest, depreciation, investments and overheads	84,992	44,955	40,037	45,819	39,172
INVESTMENT COSTS	2,140	0	2,140	5,487	-3,347
GAIN(DIMINUTION) ON INVESTMENT COSTS	2,140	0	2,140	5,487	-3,347
OTHER ITEMS	-80,184	-51,313	-28,871	-51,313	-28,871
OVERHEAD RECHARGE	-80,184	-51,313	-28,871	-51,313	-28,871
SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	6,048	-6,358	13,306	-6	6,955

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE MONTH OF - JUNE 2019

	ACTUAL
FIXED ASSETS	
INVESTMENT AT COST	166,626
INVESTMENT FUND	166,626
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>166,626</u>
CURRENT ASSETS	
BANK AND CASH	112,516
P.H.M. CURRENT ACCOUNT	112,516
DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS	103,645
ACCRUED INCOME	103,645
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>216,161</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS	-18,499
CREDITORS LEDGER CONTROL A/C	-17,827
ACCRUALS	-671
INTERCOMPANY (LIABILITY)	3,814
INTER COMPANY - AMOUNT OWED TO SUPPORT DEPT	3,814
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>-14,685</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	201,476
LONGTERM LIABILITIES TOTAL	<u>0</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>368,102</u>
SURPLUS AND RESERVES	
RESERVES	-361,154
RETAINED RESERVES B/F	-361,154
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-8,948
SURPLUS AND RESERVES TOTAL	<u>-368,102</u>

National Specialty Director

Dr Máirín Boland

Overview

This has been a year like no other. Both Trainers and Trainees have been thrown full-tilt into this Public Health emergency of international concern, and all normalities have disappeared. Online meetings and evaluations, post redeployment, working from home but with the demand of a pressurised service response – all these changes to the way we work have brought challenges for the delivery of training to our SpR group.

The finite capacity of Public Health to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to long working hours and a high and unremitting workload, which has been difficult to sustain. The entire focus on health protection has meant that trainees have found it problematic to achieve competencies in other domains. Distant working relationships may lessen the informal mentorships that occur; and formal and informal reflective interactions and evaluations have been reduced. This has undoubtedly been a difficult year for training. Yet many opportunities have presented themselves, for leadership, for teamwork, data management and surveillance, outbreak control, measuring and monitoring infection rates and interventions. Trainees and trainers have risen to the challenge, working together to deliver a high quality public health response.

New Intake

Following an intake of eight Specialist Registrars in July 2020, we now have 33 doctors undertaking Higher Specialist Training in Public Health Medicine. SpRs are in training posts around the country in Regional Departments of Public Health and in a range of Specialty placements.

We welcome SpRs who commenced training in July 2020: Drs Ellen Cosgrave, Allison Deane, Kathleen McDonnell, Caitriona Kelly, Philippa White, Peter Naughton, Clíodhna Ni Bhuachalla and Julianne Harte. We also welcome the first Public Health Medicine International Clinical Fellow, Dr Salma Alkalbani, who commenced year one of her three year Fellowship in Dublin. Truly a baptism of fire for all.

Induction

The year for our new SpRs started with a Faculty-specific online induction in July 2020, with introductions from the Dean, the NSD, and others to welcome newcomers to the Faculty. The session covered the development of the Public Health specialty to date, current structures

within the RCPI, Faculty activities, training matters, including the MFPHMI examinations, the curriculum, learning opportunities and assessments. The New Model of Public Health was discussed.

Trainee wellbeing was emphasised, and HSE and RCPI supports were outlined, including the role of the RCPI Health and Wellbeing Department. The importance of close trainee-trainer collaboration was highlighted; this is especially vital as ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemic have altered significantly.

A separate induction session organised by the College provided information for those entering HST across all specialties.

Rotation Options

Current sites in PHM HST include the eight Departments of Public Health, the Department of Health, National Immunisation Office, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, National Cancer Control Programme, Health Intelligence Unit, and National Quality Improvement Division. The opportunity for a six-month secondment to the Quality Team in the World Health Organization in Geneva has been re-established commencing in July 2021. The training opportunity in UCD CSTAR is unfortunately not on offer this year. We are looking into other training opportunities.

Site Accreditation

The process of site accreditation to determine the ability of an institution to deliver Higher Specialist Training according to the requirements defined by the Public Health is changing, with a holistic RCPI approach. Sites are in the process of submitting their site accreditation details.

Progress in Training

End of year Assessments/ Evaluations with trainees and trainers took place over summer this year, with some further assessments (Interim, Final) following later in the autumn.

Congratulations to SpRs who completed training and obtained their certificates of satisfactory completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) during the year: Drs Peter Barrett, Heather Burns, Helena Ferris, Katharine Harkin, Des Hickey and Ger McDarby. I wish them very well in their careers in Public Health Medicine.

Study Days and Protected Time

Study days were an early casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2020 study sessions recommenced, with afternoon on-line sessions delivered to SpRs weekly in areas other than health protection, in an effort to widen the scope of learning. Thanks are extended to all who participated in these educational events; the high attendance showed they were very well received.

Thanks to Dr Kenneth Beatty, co-chair with Dr Triona McCarthy of the Trainee-Trainer committee for chairing these sessions.

In November a showcase of specialty sites was delivered online - particularly relevant to those choosing non-Public Health Department sites next year (those currently in 2nd year).

In early December a joint study day with Infectious Disease and Microbiology SpRs was well attended with sessions from Public Health, Microbiology and Infectious Disease NSDs, Prof Philip Nolan on modelling and Dr Pete Lunn on Behavioural Science.

Protected time (one half day) was agreed weekly for SpRs to assist continued learning, examination preparation and personal development.

Curriculum Review

We started a major curriculum review over 2 years ago, with some delay in progress this year. The penultimate phase of the curriculum review was delivered via two Delphi sessions with SpRs in late November to refine learning outcomes and assessment methodologies for use in the new curriculum and its e-portfolio when rolled out in July 2021. Thanks to Dr Niamh Bambury and Dr Aisling Smyth RCPI Educationalist for their Trojan work. Specialists will be invited to review the learning outcomes in a series of short workshops. This is an important last step where SPHMs can contribute further before our team builds the final national HST curriculum and assessment tool suite which can then be reflected in the improved, more user-friendly e-portfolio. A grant has been applied for from the Irish Network of Healthcare Educators to assist final write-up.

Awards

One of our Public Health SpRs Dr Andrea Bowe was successful in her application for the Irish Clinician Academic Training scheme (ICAT), which is a five-year programme intercalating a PhD with HST clinical training. Congratulations to her on her success in a very competitive field. The aim of the programme is to train the academic clinicians and academic scientists of the

future to ensure the quality of medical education and training, improve quality of care, and attract and retain high calibre professionals to the health system.

In July 2020 Dr Geraldine McDarby became the first ASPIRE Fellow in Public Health based with Dr Breda Smyth in the department of Public Health HSE West. This is a post-CSCST Fellowship in Quality Improvement. The aim of the Aspire initiative is to stimulate the design and introduction of a number of high-quality, relevant and valuable fellowships (as recommended in the MacCraith report) and demonstrate the high quality specialist training available in Ireland. Congratulations to Drs Smyth and McDarby on their success.

A further 40 post CSCST Fellowships (additional training following CSCST) are being offered from July 2021. These require development and proposal via Training Bodies, and if accepted will be offered for competitive interview. Proposals should be high quality, answering unmet patient need, specialty and service priorities, and supporting the delivery of COVID services, so there is ample scope for PHM proposals which are welcome.

Unfortunately, the North South SpR competition day was not possible this year, but we look forward to collaborating cross border as soon as we can.

Faculty and RCPI Committees

The NSD chairs the Specialty Training Committee (STC) and, *ex officio*, sits on and reports to the Faculty Board and is also a member of the Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee. Other committees and subgroups that I attend within the Faculty include The Curriculum Review Group and the STC Trainer-Trainee subcommittee of the STC.

Within the College I attend the RCPI Research Ethics Committee, the Ethics Working Group, International Clinical Fellowship liaisons, Training Site Accreditation Working Group and I contribute to the HST leadership lecture programme. In the broader context of medical training I am a member of the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and the Forum subcommittee on Postgraduate Training.

Deputy NSD

The role of Deputy NSD is intended to be created shortly to support the NSD position in leading the delivery of training for 2021 and onwards. The role is busy and this additional support is welcome.

Thanks to Prof Emer Shelley for her particular support of the NSD role this year.

Convenor of Examinations

Dr. Mary Ward

Examination Sittings

Part I: Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Part II MFPHMI sitting was rescheduled from April to September 2020. See the table below for more details and comparison:

	Applications	Candidates	Pass
April 2019	10	8	7
September 2020	9	7	5

Part II: Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Part II MFPHMI sittings of the Oral examination of submitted Public Health Reports (PHRs) were rescheduled from April to July and from October to November 2020. They were held virtually via Zoom.

Details are shown in the table below. Unsuccessful PHRs were deemed suitable for resubmission at a later sitting.

	Applications	Candidates	PHRs - Pass	PHRs - Fail
July 2020	9	9 (6 X 2 PHRs 3 X 1 PHR)	8	7
November 2020	9	9 (5 X 2 PHRs 4 X 1 PHR)	9	5

Review of the examinations

Part I: The next sitting is likely to be scheduled for the last week of April 2021. The proposal to move Part I to an online platform (provided by TestReach) has been introduced to the examiners. This option will be explored further in the upcoming months.

Part II: The next sitting is likely to be scheduled for the middle of April 2021. It may be held virtually, subject to the state of the pandemic. Further guidance regarding writing PHRs will be developed for SpRs.

Part III: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, development of the Part III examination was paused. The existing form of General Oral will be held in January 2021 and March 2021. Following this, the current plan is for the subsequent Part III to be an Oral Examination of Professional Competence (OEPC), to be held in October 2021, subject to the state of the pandemic and capacity to undertake this developmental work.

The Public Health Medicine Examinations Committee

Dr Derval Igoe (Chair), Prof. Elizabeth Keane, Prof. Emer Shelley, Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick, Dr. Mary Ward, Dr. Regina Kiernan, Dr Anna Clarke, Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Dr Paul Kavanagh, Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, Dr Ina Kelly, Dr Julie Heslin

Meetings Committee

Dr Emer O'Connell

Committee members

Dr Eibhlín Connolly, Dr Lourda Geoghegan, Dr Howard Johnson, Dr Regina Kiernan, Dr. Caroline Mason Mohan, Dr Triona McCarthy, Dr Áine McNamara, Dr Máire O'Connor, Dr Mary T O'Mahony and Dr Annette Rhatigan, Ms Kerry McArdle and Mr Shane Walshe.

2019 Winter Scientific Meeting

The Winter Scientific Meeting was held on December 4th 2019. From submitted abstracts there were 27 'Three Minute Magic' and three longer presentations. Guest speakers were:

- Dr Elzbieta Drazkiewicz Grodzicka discussed 'trust and conspiracy theories as it relates to vaccination and vaccine hesitancy'
- Dr Lynda Sisson, Dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and HSE National Clinical Lead for Workplace Health and Well Being advised on improving our health, and
- Margaret O' Neill, National Dietetic Lead, and her colleagues Aoife Ryan and Sharon Kennelly presented on 'Malnutrition in an Obesogenic Environment'.

2020 Summer Scientific Meeting

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on our members and on the health service, there was no summer scientific meeting held in 2020.

2020 Winter Scientific Meeting

Abstracts were requested and received for this meeting. As the meeting will be in a webinar format, there will be a limited number of medium length oral abstract presentations. Nine of these will take place on the 9th December, mainly abstracts themed on Covid-19 Infection. A further number will be presented at a second WSM 2020 date in early 2021. There will be posters for viewing also.

On the 9th December, we are very fortunate to have Prof Martin McKee as our Keynote speaker. Prof McKee will speak on *Preparing for the Pandemic: Health Systems Fit for the Future*. He is the Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Research Director of the European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies. He is immediate Past President of the European Association of Public Health and was

for many years the Editor of the European Journal of Public Health. Among his many qualifications and distinctions, Prof McKee is a Fellow of the RCPI.

Other Meetings

The AGM on December 2nd 2019 was followed by 'Journeys in advocacy: Are we there yet?' Speakers were Dr Fenton Howell (tobacco control), Prof Joe Barry (reducing alcohol related harm) and Dr Declan Bedford (reducing road traffic injuries).

Public Health and Mental Health was the topic of a meeting on Dec 13th 2019, chaired by Prof David Cotter, Professor of Psychiatry in the RCSI. There was interest in pursuing the collaboration, perhaps through a joint study day with SpRs in Psychiatry.

At the RCPI Population Health Masterclass on January 15th 2020 Dr Ina Kelly spoke about the impacts of climate change on health and Colette Bonner informed us about the contribution of the Department of Health to the national effort to mitigate and monitor those impacts.

The Senior Members Special Interest Group meeting on March 2nd included a presentation by the RCPI Professional Competence Team. The next meeting is planned for Spring 2021.

Faculty affiliates contributed to the RCPI a series of Online Clinical Webinars on COVID-19:
March 18th: Drs Fiona Cianci and Breda Smyth on the public health stages of the response to the pandemic and on modelling respectively

May 13th: Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick on diagnostic tests for COVID-19

June 10th: Prof Mary Codd on 10 things we learned about COVI-19 in 100 days

June 25th: A joint webinar with Occupational Medicine. Prof Mary Codd, Lessons from contact tracing; Dr Abigail Collins, the health protection role in residential care settings; Dr Ina Kelly, Protecting Ireland's meat factory workers: the public health perspective; Dr Derval Igoe, The Study to Investigate COVID-19 infection in Ireland, SCOPI; along with Dr John Gallagher and Dr Deirdre Gleeson from Occupational Medicine.

Global Health Committee

David Weakliam

The remit of the Global Health Committee is to engage in global health to benefit the practice of public health medicine in Ireland as well as contributing to improving health in economically developing countries.

The work of the Committee has evolved in recent years as the Faculty has engaged increasingly with broader global health initiatives within RCPI and with the Global Health Strategic Working Group under the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies (the Forum). These have become effective avenues to fulfil the remit of the Committee and as a result the Committee did not meet formally in 2020.

Profs David Weakliam and Diarmuid O'Donovan have continued to play leading roles in the HSE-RCPI EQUALS Initiative which donates medical equipment and supports the development of post-graduate specialist training programmes in Zambia. The Specialty Training Programme has become established under the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery with four hundred trainees participating in 2020.

Dr David Weakliam is Chair of the Global Health Strategic Working Group under the Forum which has had strong public health input from several Public Health Medicine specialists and registrars. It launched 'Global Health Education Ireland' at its inaugural global health symposium in October 2019. This initiative seeks to work with other disciplines to support education and training programmes in less developed countries. A sub-group was established in 2020 to develop a framework for core global health competencies for doctors working in Ireland and to incorporate these into all specialist medical training programmes. Again, the sub-group has strong public health participation.

The Chair considered the future direction of the Committee on a number of occasions with the Dean, Prof Emer Shelley. As the Forum is now taking a leading role in global health, it is envisaged that the Faculty will engage primarily through this channel, in coordination with other Training Bodies. Trainees, Members and Fellows will be invited to provide input on specific projects and time-bound Faculty working groups may be organised as the need arises. This approach has been agreed by the Board.

Postgraduate Training and Education

Colm Small

Purpose

The aim of the Postgraduate Training and Education (PTE) Function is to pursue excellence in the delivery of the products, services and supports that we offer. To meet the need for skilled, competent and experienced doctors to match the needs of society, working in the specialties and geographic areas where they are most needed. Our goal is always to ensure consistency in the structure and standards of the products, services and supports that we deliver. This is underpinned by a quality assurance and quality improvement framework.

The College and the PTE Function have been very responsive and innovative as we all have risen to the considerable challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic

Faculties and Training

The purpose of the office is to support the key activities of the RCPI Training Bodies. It is responsible for providing high quality administrative services to the RCPI Council, Executive, Boards and Committees of the six Faculties and Institutes.

The office is also responsible for the delivery of the RCPI postgraduate training programmes, emphasising high quality service, efficiency, effectiveness and excellence in Trainer and Trainee engagement on behalf of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine and the other five Faculties and Institutes in the RCPI.

The office supports approximately 1,400 trainees and 1,100 trainers in the administration of our 29 training programmes. In terms of Public Health Medicine that is our BST in General Internal Medicine or Paediatrics or Obstetrics and Gynaecology or Histopathology or evidence of an equivalent qualification, such as completion of General Practice training with the Irish College of General Practitioners, moving on then to our four-year HST programme.

For the academic training year 2019-20, given that most of the training had been completed before Covid-19, we were confident that trainees receiving a CSCST in summer 2020 had met their curricular requirements.

Assessment and Programme Development

The Assessment and Programme Development department has responsibility for the educational development of the College's postgraduate training programmes and the

College's membership examinations as well as supporting their delivery. The work of the department includes the design and development of an extensive range of postgraduate medical education programmes for doctors in training and for fully qualified specialists; the development of specialist training curricula and assessment methods and the on-going evaluation of all programmes and curricula.

Examinations Department

The purpose of the department is to develop, manage, coordinate and deliver the College's examinations both nationally and internationally.

The RCPI was the first training body in these islands to introduce written examination by remote invigilation. This is where a candidate sits the same examination (structure, format and length) online, but in a quiet, secure place of the candidates choosing. Instead of travelling to an examination centre and sitting the computer-based examination with other candidates, a candidate does the same test as originally planned, but at their own computer, e.g. at home or at work. Candidates are supervised remotely by invigilators throughout the examination.

We successfully ran two examinations with remote invigilation in March 2020. The postponed College Membership examinations from the end of March and April 2020 recommenced from late June 2020. We published a full calendar in late May 2020 to show the written examination diets from summer 2020 through to the end of 2021. We will be offering the usual number of examination diets, prioritising our BST trainees while at the same time looking after all our international and other examination candidates.

The College's Public Health Membership examinations were successfully re-started from the summer onwards having been postponed from earlier in the year due to the pandemic. All the Faculty's examinations have been supported and offered again as we do our best to support our candidates and examiners in a safe way.

Accreditation and Quality Improvement Office

As part of an overall approach to improving quality in postgraduate medical education and training, the RCPI and its constituent training bodies are committed to a programme of continuous quality improvement initiatives. These initiatives, along with the recommendations from the Imrie Report, continue to form part of the overall strategic plan for postgraduate medical education and training.

A key priority for this office is the establishment of a system of overall Hospital Accreditation. The first pilot for Hospital Accreditation was planned for Q3 2020 but with the pandemic hitting in spring 2020, this is now planned for Q2 2021. In the meantime, this

department has been actively managing and reviewing quality in this area and working with individual sites. All site inspections from February 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic. In the spring of this year we introduced an interim process whereby all sites that were due/overdue an inspection were asked to complete documentation, including trainee feedback on the site. Some sites have been prioritised for physical site inspection, if possible, towards the end of this year.

This office also supports the Medical Council accreditation of postgraduate training bodies and programmes as well as the assessment of applications to the Specialist Division of the Register.

Health and Wellbeing Department

Our health and wellbeing service is key for our trainees and the College takes this area very seriously. This department has a Director and a Manager and apart from supporting individual doctors, the office is proactive with a number of initiatives and projects ongoing at any one time.

Professional Affairs

Ann O'Shaughnessy

The aim of the Professional Affairs function is to develop and deliver educational activities relating to the remit of our professional bodies. Currently the function has seven departments – Education Development, Research, Quality Improvement (QI), Specialty Quality Improvement (SQI), Traffic Medicine, Professional Competence and the Postgraduate Medical Educational Centre (PMEC). As well as the Deans and the Education leads from the Faculties and Institutes, the function has substantial medical input in each department:

- Dr Sinead Murphy, Director of Education and Professional Development
- Prof Richard Costello, Director of Research
- Dr Peter Lachman, Faculty Lead of QI
- Prof Conor O'Keane, Chair of SQI Steering Group
- Prof Des O'Neill, Director of Traffic Medicine
- Prof Hilary Hoey, Director of Professional Competence.

Education Development

The purpose of the Education Development department is to develop programmes across the continuum of postgraduate medical education, to provide a wide range of education and training activities and to meet the needs of the wider health system. This is achieved through wide consultation with relevant stakeholders including clinicians, HSE senior management personnel, hospital CEOs and patient groups. We also ensure that our interventions incorporate the Medical Council Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice.

Education needs emerge from annual curricula reviews, NSDs, National Clinical Programmes and National Standards for Healthcare as well as high-profile patient safety reviews where national lessons are identified. Every learning intervention undergoes regular quality assurance, for which the Education Specialist works closely with the facilitators and subject matter experts as well as reviewing feedback. The Education Development team has worked closely with the NSDs and other key stakeholders on the initiatives described below.

- In the 2019-20 academic year, Education Development (ED) developed and delivered seven online courses including on Making Every Contact Count (online and workshop development with HSE) and HPV Vaccination.
- In spring 2020, all mandatory face-to-face courses were converted to a virtual/online format in response to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Upcoming educational initiatives include BST Principles of Antibiotics (online course updated) and Effective Teaching Skills (online course (updated)).

PMEC

The Postgraduate Medical Education Centre (PMEC) is responsible for coordinating the delivery of education and training events for Trainees, Members and Fellows, working closely with a range of departments, clinicians and lecturers. Between August 2019 and June 2020, we delivered educational training to approximately 6000 participants across 158 courses including mandatory training for BST and HST programmes, Masterclasses, online courses, Diplomas and Certificates, Conferences and Faculty events.

PMEC continues to support running the annual conferences for Faculty of Public Health Medicine, including the Winter Scientific Meeting on December 4th 2019 with 108 participants attending the event.

Public Health and Occupational Medicine co- hosted and presented a webinar on June 25th entitled **SARS- CoV-2: Experiences and Perspectives** including the following topics: contact tracing, protection of those in residential care facilities, the public health response to COVID-19 in meat factories and the study to investigate COVID-19 infection in Ireland. A total of 277 registered for this webinar.

RCPI's COVID 19 Webinar series was a response to the global pandemic. The webinars allowed all trainees, members and fellows access to the series live or as a recorded event. Record numbers signed into these events initially held on a weekly basis, on average 400 per week and as many as 1200 for the most attended webinar. These weekly webinars provided expert updates from national and international subject matter experts on all areas relating to COVID 19 across all specialties. The online COVID 19 series may be accessed here: <https://courses.rcpi.ie/product?catalog=COVID-19-A-Clinical-Perspective-online-recording>

Dr Sinead Murphy Director of Education hosted the webinar on “Resilience skills for dealing with Covid-19 and beyond”. This was to assist all professionals coping with stress and anxiety while working through the COVID- 19 crisis. A total of 186 people registered.

A broad range of courses relevant to all specialties was made available to all trainees, members and fellows in 2019-2020. Courses of particular relevance to Public Health Medicine include:

- Ethics (1) Foundation (2) Ethics for Public Health
- Wellness Matters
- Decision making Skills
- Quality improvement: (1) QI in Action, (2) Diploma in Leadership and Quality in Healthcare
- Health Economics

- Data analysis: (1) Introduction to data analysis using SPSS, (2) Introduction to Data Visualisation
- Leadership: (1) in Clinical Practice (2) Certificate in Leadership for new Consultants
- Communications: (1) Mastering Communications (2) Making Every Contact Count
- Doctors as teachers
- Physicians as Trainers (1) Essential Skills for Trainers, (2) Supervision and Performance Management, (3) Identifying and Managing Distressed Trainee

New Diplomas in 2019 / 2020:

The Diploma in Obstetrics and Women’s Health, RCPI’s first online diploma, is aimed at doctors caring for women from adolescence to old age. The course includes a range of topics from family planning to hormone replacement therapy and screening for gynaecological malignancy.

Diploma in Medicine for the Older Person covers how to diagnose, treat and manage a wide range of conditions and clinical presentations in older people. Modules cover mobility, cognition, falls and bone health, community care, neurological disorders, multi-morbidities and frailty, psychiatry in old age, and legal aspects of gerontology. The diploma also addresses the role of the multidisciplinary team, the importance of communication and teamwork between clinicians across clinical sites and settings.

Research

We conduct and support research in postgraduate medical training, health and working conditions of doctors and quality of healthcare. Prof Richard Costello, Director of Research, provides strategic guidance, review and approval of research collaborations, and policies and promotion of good research practices.

Research in 2019/2020 included the Hospital Doctors Retention and Motivation study, a HRB-funded project led by Dr Niamh Humphries which focusses on the emigration, retention and motivation of hospital doctors in Ireland. In response to the impact of COVID-19, the HDRM team conducted virtual interviews with 48 hospital doctors in July 2020. The team are analysing and writing up the findings which will inform policy during the ongoing response to COVID-19.

The Training Post Evaluation (TPE) is an anonymous online survey of all trainees to harness feedback from trainees on each rotation they completed over the previous year. The 2018/19 report was based on the first three years of the TPE, comprising evaluations on 1,495 Basic Specialist Training (BST) and 600 Higher Specialist Training (HST) posts across 86 sites.

The Doctors Training Outcomes Research Project aims to review the training pathways in BST and HST on an annual basis. The project conducts anonymous review of the application, interview and training processes (rotations, annual assessment, MRCPI for Basic Specialist Trainees, etc.), as well as the progression of trainees to their next career stages. This will create an evidence base for continuous quality improvement of postgraduate medical training. Data collection commenced in 2020 and results will be reported in 2020/2021.

A comprehensive report was compiled in 2019/20 of eight years of the PCS which analysed patterns of credits and audit activity by gender, age, specialty, division of the register and college affiliation. Additionally, a survey of PCS participants aimed to better understand perceived benefits and challenges of participating in PCS and the educational preferences of PCS participants. We anticipate disseminating the results in late 2020.

The Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety (RCQPS) which was established in 2013 is a collaboration between the Health Research Board, the QI Division of the HSE and the RCPI. The collaborative identifies the most pressing issues affecting healthcare quality and patient safety and allocates funding for research into these.

The RCQPS launched a fund to support the national research response to COVID-19. Health and social care systems adapted rapidly and put new processes in place for patients and health care workers. There is an opportunity to learn from these adaptations and to improve patient care beyond the pandemic.

The RCPI Research Ethics Committee reviewed 33 applications in 2019/2020.

Quality Improvement

This department manages a number of QI initiatives designed to empower doctors and other health workers to lead improvements in healthcare services. We continue to deliver QI training through a one-day introduction to QI as part of mandatory training in HST. We also provide a number of courses and opportunities such as:

- Fundamentals of QI is a one-hour online introduction to QI quality improvement in healthcare through an understanding of the participant's role and considering their potential to improve patient care.
- 'QI in Action' ran through 2019-20 with two cohorts and almost 50 attendees from hospitals and clinical services all over Ireland. The course is designed for participants to gain the skills and experience of delivering a QI project in their workplace.
- The Quality Improvement Scholarship in Residence Programme is for fourth- and fifth-year Specialist Registrars and senior GP trainees. The one-academic year programme was developed by RCPI and the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua)

and offers Trainees an opportunity to develop competence for their future roles as clinical leaders and the potential to become teaching faculty on the RCPI QI programmes. Five SpRs successfully completed this programme in 2019/2020.

- The Covid-19 Quality and Safety open-access video series was presented by QI experts to help those working in healthcare with a suite of resources and practical tools for dealing with quality and safety in a crisis/pandemic.

This year we delivered the second Irish Situation Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) Collaborative, with 10 teams from frontline paediatric or neonatal hospital settings. This six-month programme supports participating teams to implement the SAFE improvement bundle developed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, UK. This aims to enhance a safety culture through interventions such as a Paediatric Early Warning System, effective communication, and the huddle, as developed by Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

The National Specialty Quality Improvement (SQI) Programmes gather QI data in three diagnostic specialties: histopathology, gastrointestinal endoscopy and radiology. The programmes are funded by the HSE National QI Division, aiming to optimise patient care through supporting the use of evidence-based QI in diagnosis and reporting. The data is reported locally and aggregated in annual National Data Reports. The findings can be used to drive QI in hospitals.

Ireland is currently the only country in the world running national programmes such as these across public and private hospitals and the guidelines and data policies they produce are attracting international interest. The programmes are members of the European Clinical Audit Network (ECAN) established by the National Office for Clinical Audit (NOCA) and their Dutch counterparts, the Dutch Institute for Clinical Audit (DICA). ECAN focuses on sharing learning, collaboration on projects and promotion of clinical audit as a vital component of QI in health care.

National Office for Traffic Medicine

The National Office for Traffic Medicine (NOTM) was established by the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the RCPI to lead the development and implementation of a national framework on standards in Traffic Medicine.

A new edition of the Sláinte agus Tiomáint, Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines (9th Ed.) was produced in 2020 and work was completed on three new patient/driver information leaflets on stroke, vision and pregnancy.

Both NOTM education courses (Certificate in Traffic Medicine and Certificate in Road Safety, Mobility and Health) were delivered this year. The Clinical Update in Traffic Medicine and the Traffic Medicine Research Seminar which were due to take place in Spring were held by Webinar in the Autumn. The Working Group continues to provide educational opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, including the Mary Ward Essay competition. The Office continues to administer the RSA Bursary in Traffic Medicine.

NOTM staff conducted a systematic review of Alcohol and Crash Risk as part of a broader collaboration with Monash University Accident Research Centre in Melbourne and six articles were published in peer-reviewed journals: COVID-19, vision and driving; psychotropic drugs, mental health and driving; perceptions and attitudes towards driving risk related to medical fitness to drive; driving as a travel option for older adults; transportation equity, health and aging; crash risk after stroke or TIA.

Professional Competence

The purpose of this department is to develop and deliver 11 Professional Competence Schemes (PCS) and management of the CPD Event Approval Process. Our Clinical Leads are the Director of Professional Competence and the Clinical Lead for CPD Event Approval. We work closely with the Deans and Chairs of RCPI's Training Bodies, the Medical Council and international CPD Organisations to continuously improve the standards of our services. We also work closely with the RCPI Education and Quality Committee and CPD Organisers in the delivery of our services.

Summary of Key Activities in 2019-2020

The Annual Verification Process for the 2018/19 PCS year involved a random selection of 2% of all Scheme participants plus a further 2% of those who had not met requirements for 2018/19 from each of the RCPI's 11 Schemes (a total of 164 participants) plus 30 doctors who failed to complete their corrective actions in previous years were automatically included in the Verification Process. Four doctors from the Faculty of Public Health Medicine Specialist Division Scheme and 1 from the General Division were included. Online administrator reviews were conducted to prepare constructive advice for the doctors. Pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for a few Clinician Reviewers to complete their reviews, so the Verification Process was deferred until August 2020. When the reviews have been completed, results were circulated and verified doctors will have the annotation added to their next Annual Statement.

Annual Statements of Participation were generated in May 2020, enumerating the annual total of credits claimed for the last five years of professional competence. As instructed by the Medical Council, an additional annotation was added to all Statements to indicate that

due to COVID-19, there were extenuating circumstances which prevented doctors from engaging in and recording the required CPD and Audit activities for the 2019/20 Scheme year.

The new ePortfolio facilitates mobile access and simplifies recording of learning activities along with more effective administration and management of the Professional Competence Schemes. In addition, automated CPD credits are provided to doctors participating in RCPI learning activities.

We conduct an annual study regarding CPD and PCS outcomes to identify good practice, barriers preventing it and the support which would help doctors fulfil their PCS requirements. It also provides a better understanding of the educational needs of our participants. In addition, we conducted a survey of all RCPI participants in 2018 in order to obtain feedback on their PCS experience including their attitudes, perceived benefits, barriers to participating in the legally required CPD Schemes along with their recommendations to improve the process. We also conducted anonymised in-depth telephone interviews with a representative sample of doctors who had not met their PCS requirements.

The results of these studies showed that participant perceptions regarding CPD were generally very positive. Major barriers to CPD compliance in our studies included time and finances to engage in CPD activities particularly amongst NCHDs not in training programmes and working in rural hospitals. The results have been discussed at the Education and Quality Committee.

Medical Council

In response to COVID-19, the Medical Council confirmed that a declaration of compliance with maintenance of professional competence for the 2019/20 Scheme year would not be required when registering with the Medical Council in 2020. Postgraduate Training Bodies were also not required to verify or audit doctors' professional competence records for the 2019 – 2020 Scheme year.

The Medical Council confirmed that for the 2020/21 Scheme year, the following will apply:

- The annual Clinical/Practice Audit requirement has been removed
- Doctors are only required to record 25 CPD credits instead of the usual 50 credits. The other 25 credits will be considered as met arising from increased learning by doctors during COVID-19
- Of the 25 credits that must be recorded, doctors are permitted to record these credits in any CPD category and CPD requirements for each category will not apply

Two Qualitative Reports outlining the activity and governance for the 2019/20 year for the Faculty of Public Health Medicine’s Specialist and General Division Schemes were submitted to the Medical Council in June 2020, as well as The Quantitative Report on required Key Performance Indicators (KPI). KPIs included the number enrolled and the number who recorded zero credits, verifications completed, educational activities recognised by the PGTB and the number of hours provided by the PGTB. A progress report on the 19/20 Action Plan for RCPI’s eleven Schemes was also submitted at the end of June 2020.

CPD Event Approval

RCPI reviews and accredits activities provided by the RCPI and other individuals or bodies for the purpose of awarding CPD credits. Activity for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 October 2020:

Type	Applications Approved	Credits Allowed
RCPI	135	1003
Non RCPI	391	1546
TOTAL	526	2549

Feedback

The Professional Competence Department welcomes feedback from all our PCS participants in order to identify areas of good practice, barriers preventing it and recommendations to improve the process. We are happy to help with any queries relating to CPD.

International Affairs

John Magner

Growth in International Medical Graduate Training Initiative

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative provides a route for sponsored overseas doctors to experience structured postgraduate medical training in the Irish public health service. It enables medical Trainees from the Gulf Cooperation Council (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman) to undertake a fixed period of training in clinical services in Ireland. Trainees participating within these programmes are fully sponsored by their governments for the duration of their training. RCPI offers two streams of training under this Initiative, Fellowship and Residency and interest in these programmes has been building steadily since their introduction.

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. These programmes are now available in 35 specialties, including Public Health Medicine. Now in its fifth year of full operation, 60 Trainees have graduated and returned home to embed their knowledge and skills in health services in their own countries. This year, we have 56 trainees on this programme across all specialties. A new Special Interest Fellowship Programme will provide access to training at a sub-specialty level.

Our first trainee on the International Clinical Training Programme in Public Health began the Masters in Public Health in University College Dublin in September 2020 and will progress to Clinical Training with the HSE upon completion of the MPH Programme.

We received significant interest in the Public Health Fellowship Programme this year and received 10 applications from candidates across the Gulf Countries. Shortlisting and Interviews are under way.

International Residency Training Programme

Our International Residency Training Programme (IRTP) is offered to doctors upon completion of their Internship. This programme enables them to complete residency training in Ireland before returning to their home country with a Saudi Board equivalent qualification and Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. This programme is currently offered in Internal Medicine and Paediatrics.

RCPI IMG HSE Scholarship Programme Intake

The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan's (CPSP's) working relationship with the HSE and the Forum of the Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, continues to provide a Postgraduate Scholarship Programme in Ireland for doctors from Pakistan. This allows doctors who are enrolled with the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan to complete two years of their training in Ireland.

The Sudan Medical Specialisation Board (SMSB) has joined the CPSP in offering the programme in 2018 and their first cohort of trainees from Sudan completed their programme in 2020.

There are 70 doctors from the CPSP and SMSB currently in training in various medical and surgical specialties.

Improving Training and Health Worldwide

The RCPI continues to focus on international business development with focus on growing opportunities in examinations, education and professional development. One example of this is the collaborative partnership with Dublin headquartered iheed Health Training Limited – a successful medical education technology organisation that partners with medical universities and postgraduate training bodies to reach doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals all around the world. The first programme under this partnership is the Diploma in Paediatrics, a 22-week blended learning programme. Two intakes, in March and August 2020 have already occurred, with a third intake in November 2020 and excellent participant feedback has been received. The future plan is to continue with three intakes per calendar year, with 50 Irish and 100 international students per intake.

Increasing Contribution to Global Health Efforts under the EQUALS Initiative

The EQUALS Initiative is a joint venture between RCPI and the HSE that supports training and equipment needs in less developed countries. In July 2020 two additional shipments of decommissioned medical equipment were sent from hospitals in Ireland to Lusaka, Zambia. The equipment was tested pre- and post-shipment by clinical engineers of the EQUALS Initiative before it was distributed across the country to teaching hospitals and health clinics.

To support the new Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS), the RCPI worked with the EQUALS Initiative to develop a tailored Train the Trainer course which was delivered in October 2019.

Karl Bergin (Head of Clinical Engineering, Coombe Women's & Infants University Hospital) travelled to Lusaka in November 2019 to deliver a 4-day Clinical engineering workshop to engineers from across Zambia. This training will allow engineers to more effectively repair and test equipment used throughout the health service. High-grade toolkits purchased by the EQUALS initiative were also distributed to in-need engineering departments.

Administration and contact details

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

Faculty Coordinator	Claire Doyle	01 863 9714 ClaireDoyle@rcpi.ie
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Faculty Manager at RCPI	Louis Lavelle	01 863 9714 LouisLavelle@rcpi.ie
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Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) Administrator	Deirdre Donegan	01 863 9703 DeirdreDonegan@rcpi.ie

Other key departments are linked to the Faculty's pages on www.rcpi.ie