

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

Annual Faculty Newsletter
2008/2009



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
IN IRELAND
Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn



Dean's Introduction



Dear Colleagues,

Fellows of the Faculty of Radiologists are acutely aware of the changing environment within which radiologists now practice. A confluence of factors, including the reorganisation of clinical services, the advent of a statutory quality agency (Heath Information and Quality Agency-HIQA), the ever increasing volume and complexity of radiology practice, the reorganisation of postgraduate medical education, and the unrealistic expectations with respect to radiology standards have all lead to a challenging and difficult environment in both clinical practice and in education. At this time therefore, it behoves the Faculty of Radiologists to engage wholeheartedly with all agencies to ensure radiologists continue to maintain a central role in the delivery of clinical services, retain their clinical independence, practice to the highest clinical standards and remain central in the education of radiologists. This engagement means that the Faculty will be operating in areas hitherto outside its domain.

The main areas of focus for the Faculty in the coming year include:

Education

Education has been, and continues to be, the central focus of Faculty activity. The general environment within which the Faculty operates has changed significantly in the last number of years. The funding of education now lies with the HSE and Professor Gerard Bury, former President of the Medical Council, has been appointed Director of Education and Training within the HSE. The new Medical Practitioners Act authorises the Medical Council both to certify postgraduate training bodies, and the education and training they provide.

The drive towards competency based training rather than the traditional apprenticeship model will help shape our training programme. The reorganisation of clinical services (including cancer services and hospital reorganisation) are further factors which will affect the delivery of postgraduate training. The emerging role of universities in postgraduate medical education is another potential factor in the new educational environment.

The National Radiology Training Programme has been the leading postgraduate medical training programme in the country for many years. The Faculty must strive to maintain this high standard by proactively adapting to a changing environment. To this end, over the coming months, the Faculty will review the National Radiology Training Programme to assess the potential impact of recent developments and to ensure it continues to provide registrars with optimal training.

Quality Assurance

Involvement by the Faculty in Quality Assurance has been endorsed by the Board of the Faculty and also by the AGM of the Faculty in September 2008. A number of factors have led the Faculty to engage systematically in this area. These factors include the creation HIQA, the incipient mandatory competence assurance provided for in the new Medical Practitioners Act, the development of national standards in areas of cancer services by the NCCP, and the recent high profile incidents in radiology. The Faculty has response has included discussions with the HSE, HIQA, and the Department of Health & Children. It is hoped that this will lead to inter-institutional consensus in the area of quality assurance and the appropriate level and degree of response when adverse incidents arise.



The Faculty is also in discussion with the Medical Council in the area of Competence Assurance. This has been facilitated greatly by the establishment of the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies. Under the new Medical Practitioner's Act, the Medical Council is likely to devolve competence assurance to postgraduate bodies, but will retain the ability to accredit the processes involved. Within the Faculty structures, the areas of quality and competence assurance have been subsumed under one sub committee of the Board and I am grateful for the lead taken by Committee Chairman, Dr Ronan McDermott in these issues.

Scientific Meetings

The organisation of scientific meetings has been an integral part of the Faculty activities for many years. The feedback from Fellows has informed the format of these meetings. It is the policy of the Faculty to continue to organise three meetings a year on the island of Ireland. This will allow Fellows to meet the mandated requirements of the Medical Council with respect to CME within Ireland. I am grateful for the considerable work of Dr PK Ellis and Dr. Catriona O'Sullivan in this regard.

Validation

The Medical Council is in dialogue with the Faculty on the issue of validation/certification. This has become an increasingly onerous and difficult task for the Faculty. Clarity of the legal framework and processes within which the Faculty operates is critical. The Faculty is particularly indebted to Dr. William Torreggiani and Professor Peter McCarthy for their considerable efforts in this area.

International Affairs

The Faculty association with the Kuwait Radiology training programme continues to be an integral and important part of Faculty affairs. The Faculty values the opportunity it provides for an international dimension to its affairs. The expansion of the RCSI international programmes may afford the Faculty an opportunity to diversify further in this area. I would like to thank Dr. David McInerney and Dr. Denis O'Connell for their great work in organising the Kuwait training programme.

Relationship with RCSI

The Faculty of Radiologists values its close relationship with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland since its foundation in 1961. The RCSI is currently undergoing a review of its governance structures and the Faculty is engaging positively and constructively with the college, to help develop a modern, practical and efficient governance structure.

Teleradiology

Radiological practice has benefited significantly from the major technological innovations of the last ten to twenty years. RIS/PACS have a significant role to play in the development of quality and efficiency within a radiology department. The Faculty has worked with the national integrated medical information system project (NIMIS) to help and encourage the development of a national PACS system. This will have undoubted benefits for all patients. The Faculty is grateful to Dr Leo Lawler in his capacity as a Faculty representative on the board of NIMIS.

Another aspect of this technological development is the increasing worldwide use of teleradiology in a variety of situations. This has led to the danger of the so called commoditization of radiology, where the intrinsic role of the radiologist as a clinician is negated, with subsequent detrimental effects on patient care. Specifically in this regard, Faculty Officers have made representations to European Commissioners, MEP's and DOH officials in favour of adopting amendments to an EU Directive on cross border healthcare. Dr Brady has outlined the details of this in his report. The Faculty is also engaging with HIQA and the Department of Health & Children to ensure that licensing standards in radiology will apply equally to static facilities, mobile facilities and teleradiology. The Faculty is also engaging to ensure that the standards proposed are best practice international standards.





Radiation Protection

The increasing regulatory framework around radiation exposure calls for constant vigilance from the Faculty. The mandated involvement of nurse practitioners in the requesting of radiological investigations has necessitated Faculty involvement in framing the appropriate structures in nurse education. The Faculty is indebted to Dr. Ronan Ryan and Dr Peter Kavanagh for their considerable efforts in this area.

Finance and General Purposes

The development of subcommittees related to the F&GP committee has been an excellent innovation in the last number of years. These include Breast (Chair, Dr. Patricia Fitzsimons), Cardiac (Chair, Dr. Leo Lawler), Nuclear Medicine (Chair, Dr. Martin O'Connell & Dr. Jim Clarke) and Interventional subgroups (Chair, Prof. Michael Lee). The Faculty is delighted to facilitate the setting up of other subgroups as required. These groups are a tremendous resource for the Faculty on sub-specialty issues and I am grateful to the Chairs of the various groups for the time and expertise freely given. Dr Ian Kelly capably continues to keep the Faculty on track in its financial affairs despite the stormy economic climate.

Acknowledgments

I am extremely indebted to all my colleagues on the Board, whose outstanding support and enthusiasm for Faculty projects has been of great assistance during the past academic year. I would particularly like to thank Dr. Adrian Brady for his invaluable support and advice as Honorary Secretary during the past year. This year we welcome Dr Barry Kelly back to the Board and he has agreed to serve as Vice Dean and Chairman of the Research Committee. We are also delighted to welcome Dr Ronan McDermott who has taken on the onerous position of chairman of the Quality Assurance Committee.

I would like to pay tribute to two outstanding members who leave the Board this year. Professor Peter McCarthy retires after two terms on the Board of the Faculty of Radiologists. As immediate past Dean he has been a great support to me during my first year as Dean. During his time on the Faculty Board, he served on a large number of committees and took many responsible roles including Dean, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Part I Examiner. The Board wishes him well in his future career. Dr Catriona O'Sullivan also retires from the Board this year. Dr O'Sullivan worked tirelessly on behalf of Radiation Oncology during her time on the Board. She served as Chairman of the Radiation Oncology Committee and advanced the development of the National Training Programme in Radiation Oncology.

Finally I would like to thank most sincerely Ms. Jennifer O'Brien and Ms. Karen Milling for their invaluable dedicated work in the Faculty office during the past year. Their support and professionalism throughout the year has been outstanding.

Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide
Dean
Faculty of Radiologists





Annual Reports of Committees 2008/2009

Radiation Oncology Committee

In 2008 The SpR Training Program in Radiation Oncology was visited by an International Accreditation Team, led by the Dean of the Faculty of Radiologists Professor Peter McCarthy, and including Professor Michael Baumann, Professor of Radiation Oncology, Dresden University, Germany. Professor Baumann is President Emeritus of The European Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ESTRO). He was accompanied by Dr Seamus McAleer, Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Belfast City Hospital N.I., where Northern Ireland clinical and radiation oncology services are now located.

For the first time there were applications from radiotherapy centres outside Dublin to be accredited for training purposes. The Radiotherapy Department in University College Hospital Galway, which opened in 2005, was accredited for SpR training from year 2-5 of the Five Year Training Program. St Luke's Hospital will continue to be the location for year 1 of the program, as it has a long established & well developed lecture program, leading to SpR eligibility to sit the primary FFRCRCS examination. Two SpR's have been selected to relocate to UCHG for minimum of 1 year, but have the option to remain for a longer period, or be replaced by two more SpR's in July 2010. They will be trained by the three Consultant Radiation Oncologists in UCHG. In addition two SpR's will return from Belfast in year 3 to St Luke's Hospital.

The Annual Scientific Meeting was very successful, with the awarding of an Honorary Fellowship to distinguished Irish graduate Professor Brian O'Sullivan, a UCD/St Vincent's graduate. Professor O'Sullivan is Professor of Radiation Oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto and the University of Ontario. Professor O'Sullivan is a world leader in the management of Head & Neck and

Adult Sarcoma Oncology. He was the 4th Visiting Professor at St Luke's Hospital on this occasion, and delivered the St Luke's Keynote address to a combined Radiology and Radiation Oncology session on "Diagnostic & Therapeutic Radiology in the Multidisciplinary Management of Soft Tissue Sarcomas". A session on the multidisciplinary management of Adult Sarcomas was developed to include Surgery, Pathology and Chemotherapy. He was joined by Professor Desmond Carney, (Medical Oncology), Dr Maureen O'Sullivan (Pathology) and Professor Eric Masterson (Surgery).

A session on Follow Up Care, Post Treatment Care and Palliative Care, with contributions from the UK by Professor Jane Maher, from Toronto by Dr David Fitzpatrick, and from Irish GP Dr Emer Loughrey, was followed by a session on New Technologies, in particular Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT), in Head & Neck and Prostate Cancer. Speakers included Dr Hakan Nystrom (Physicist) from Norway, Dr Viv Cosgrave (Physicist) from Manchester, and a visiting Post Fellowship Senior Registrar Dr Mazen El-Bassiouni.

There was a Special Guest Lecture given by Dr Joseph Kigula, Head of Radiotherapy in Kampala, Uganda. Dr Kigula outlined the shortfall in resources required to provide hostel accommodation in Kampala, for patients receiving treatment from other parts of Uganda. He also outlined the need to provide covered OPD facilities in the Radiotherapy Department for patients waiting to receive radiotherapy. He had already given this lecture the previous day to the Chairman of the St. Luke's Research Fund, who administer the "St Luke's Hospital / Moriarty Scholarship". By way of introduction Dr Catriona O'Sullivan spoke briefly on the Patient Lodge Facilities at St Luke's Hospital, as a comparison of their requirement and present deficit. After his



guest lecture Dr O'Sullivan was pleased to inform him that the scholarship fund would support his department, by providing him with the necessary funds to complete the lodge accommodation, repaint the Radiotherapy Department, and undertake the cost of building the covered OPD facility.

On Saturday morning the St Luke's Registrar's Prize was awarded to a year 3 SpR Dr Paul Kelly, based at St Luke's Hospital, for his presentation on a Linear Accelerator Treatment planning study in Prostate Cancer. The Astra Zeneca funded Junior Prize went to a recently qualified Radiation Therapist from the TCD School of Radiation Therapy, for her presentation on "Factors influencing the cosmetic outcome of Post Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction patients"

In 2009 an SpR Travelling Bursary has been established, funded by IPSEN, whose purpose is to support an SpR for a period of time abroad visiting an International Institute, enabling an SpR to acquire skills to further their personal education & the discipline of Radiation Oncology. This inaugural bursary will be awarded by open competition in early 2009. As part of the award, the successful candidate will be required to give a presentation at the ASM, outlining their period of time abroad, & utilisation of the bursary.

In the Eastern Region, Radiation Oncology moves ever closer to the development of two additional Departments of Radiation Oncology, under a single network whose aim is to deliver enhanced capacity and state of the art technology in facilities sited in North Dublin on the Beaumont campus, and in South Dublin on the St James's campus by the end of 2010.

Additional Radiation Oncology Consultants have been appointed to fulfil the enhanced capacity requirements, and provide consultant delivered radiotherapy to cancer patients. Because sophisticated planning and delivery is resource and time intensive, and improvements in technology require continuous technical retraining by Radiation Oncologists, patient care will need to be delivered utilising a different model, and will present challenges in an era where treatment will be consultant delivered. An example model is the inclusion of Advanced Nurse Practitioners as care partners. SpR's will be recruited & trained to meet future consultant requirements, but not to provide

the present model of care which has often been consultant led, due to staffing shortages. The new appointments will go a long way to redress the balance, so long envisaged in the Hollywood Report (2005).

Dr. Catriona O'Sullivan
Chairperson, Radiation Oncology Committee





Quality Assurance Committee

The academic year of 2008-2009 has seen a fundamental and significant change to the Faculty Committee on Quality Assurance. Recent years have seen Radiology and Radiologists in the news for the wrong reasons. High media profile incidents involving poor patient outcomes have pointed to radiological error and discrepancy as a core issue. A public perception exists that perfection is achievable, and that any error or discrepancy in reporting radiological studies represents a wrong that must be punished. Resource intensive reviews of individual practices have taken place threatening to undermine public confidence in the practice of Radiology in Ireland. The Faculty of Radiologists has chosen to take the lead in responding to these challenges. At the AGM in September of 2008, the Faculty undertook to address Professional Competence and established the Quality Assurance Committee to pursue this agenda. This decision represents a significant addition to the Faculty's traditional role of Education and Training. The Committee has met three times this academic year.

At the outset of this process, the Faculty produced a discussion paper entitled, "Errors and discrepancies in radiology: frequency, causes, prevention and management." The document has served as the basis for discussions between the Faculty and the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Hospitals Office of the HSE. These discussions and further work on the document have a number of goals;

1. To define error or discrepancy in radiology and acknowledge its inevitability in clinical practice.
2. To outline both individual and systemic factors that contribute to underperformance.

3. To establish the components of an integrated quality assurance program for radiologists.
4. To agree a means of assessing risk and establish a hierarchy of appropriate responses to discrepancies when they arise.

A Quality Assurance programme will likely include such elements as CME, audit, communication and imaging protocols, equipment maintenance, departmental discrepancy meetings, double reporting where appropriate, self assessment and 360° appraisal.

The committee has engaged with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies whose Sub Committee for Competence Assurance was reformed in June 2009. The Committee objective is to work with the HSE and Medical Council to assist in establishing QA schemes for all medical specialties thus allowing doctors to satisfactorily demonstrate that they are maintaining appropriate standards in their clinical and non-clinical domain. The Faculty can play a leadership role in the work of the Forum to this end.

The Committee, of course, continues its work with regard to recording of CME/CPD credits and assessing medical meetings with respect to CME/CPD credit allocation.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their input and support over the year.

Dr. Ronan McDermott
Chairperson, Quality Assurance Committee



Annual Reports of Committees 2008/2009

Education Committee

The Education Committee continues its work in overseeing the core educational remit of the Faculty. I would like to thank all members of the Education Committee, in particular the local coordinators for their valuable input during the last academic year. I would also like to thank Dr Julie O'Brien who has acted as the trainee representative on the Committee for two years. We wish her well in her future career. I would like to welcome Dr Mark Knox who joins the Committee in the next academic year as trainee representative. I would also like to thank Dr David Brophy the National Coordinator for the training programme who has done sterling work throughout the year to ensure the high standard of training programme is maintained. I would like to thank all the teachers and lecturers who have given freely of their time to ensure a comprehensive educational programme.

In addition to the organised weekly lectures a number of shorter training courses have been organised by the Faculty for the benefit of the registrars. I would like to thank Dr Max Ryan for organising the Emergency Medicine Course which is of significant benefit to registrars at the beginning of their training. Professor Malone continues to organise the Practice Based Learning Programme which has proved a significant addition to the radiology curriculum. I would like to thank Dr David Brophy and his IR colleagues for organising the inaugural IR Skills Course this year. This programme utilises the latest technology, including simulators, to introduce registrars to IR skills. The Career Guidance Seminars continues on a yearly basis and has proved extremely useful for the registrars.

European Affairs

Dr. Éamann Breatnach continues as Chairman of the Education Group in the European Society of Radiology. The Faculty would like to acknowledge

his work in this area and are grateful for his continued liaison with the Faculty.

Examinations

The Faculty would like to thank all examiners, and in particular the external examiners Dr. Michael Collins, Dr. Sheila Rankin, Prof. Bleddyn Jones, Dr. Jackie Harney, Dr Anton Collins and Dr. Jim Virjee. The Faculty would like to pay particular tribute to the retiring examiners; Dr. Adrian Brady, Dr. Frank Keeling, Dr John Stack, Dr. John Murray, Dr. John Buckley (Part I Chief Examiner), Dr Barry Kelly and Dr Neil O'Donovan.

Part I FFR RCSI (Diagnosis):

Dr. William Torreggiani (Chief Part I Examiner)
Dr. John Upton
Dr. Ronan McDermott
Dr. Max Ryan
Mr. Colin Walsh
Dr. Neil O'Donovan
Dr. Anton Collins (Extern)
Dr. Jim Virjee (Extern)

Part II FFR RCSI (Diagnosis):

Dr. Clare Roche (Chief Part II Examiner)
Dr. Stephen Skehan
Dr. Mark Logan
Dr. Edward Fitzgerald
Dr. John Buckley
Dr. Michael Collins (Extern)
Dr. Sheila Rankin (Extern)
Dr. David O'Keeffe (Observer)

Part II FFR RCSI (Therapy):

Dr Clare Faul (Chief Examiner)
Prof Donal Hollywood
Prof Bleddyn Jones (Extern)
Dr Jackie Harney (Extern)
Dr. Joe Martin (Observer)
Dr. David Stewart (Extern)



Examination Results

The following candidates were successful in the 2008/2009 Examinations:

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - September 2008

Dr. Aiman Quateen

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - May 2009

Dr. Nouf SMH Al Ajmi

Dr. Sarah Barrett

Dr. Naomi Campbell

Dr. Lee Crush

Dr. Oisin Flanagan

Dr. Leo Galvin

Dr. Jan Frank Gerstenmaier

Dr. Sarah Hayes

Dr. Sum Leong

Dr. Niamh Long

Dr. Dearbhail O'Driscoll

Dr. Deirdre O'Mahony

Dr. Ailbhe O'Neill

Dr. Kevin Pennycooke

Dr. Triona Walshe

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRRC SI), Kuwait - Nov 2008

Dr. Lamyah Ahmad Al Sarraf

Dr. Said Khalfan Alaghbari

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiotherapy (FFRRC SI), Dublin - Nov 2008

Dr. Mohamad Amir Abdul Aziz

Dr. Jennifer Gilmore

Dr. Paul Kelly

Dr. Jamsari Khalid

Dr. Lorraine Walsh

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRRC SI), Dublin - March 2009

Dr. Ammar Al Jumah

Dr. Majedah Barrak Al Zanki

Dr. Emma Kelliher

Dr. Rowland Okello Okumu

Dr. Tarak Masri Alhadi Ramadan

Dr. Michael Slattery

Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide

Dean

Faculty of Radiologists

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRRC SI), Dublin - Nov. 2008

Dr. Hani Ibrahim Ahmed Al Fadhel

Dr. Peter Beddy

Dr. Jennifer Bracken

Dr. Fiona Carty

Dr. Holly Delaney

Dr. Eithne DeLappe

Dr. Edward Valentine Gough

Dr. John Moriarty

Dr. Damian Mullan

Dr. Grainne Murphy

Dr. Owen O'Connor

Dr. Ronan Ryan

Dr. Colette Shaw

Dr. Eavan Thornton

Dr. Simon Walsh

Dr. Emily Ward

Postgraduate Conferring December 2008





Annual Reports of Committees 2008/2009

Research Committee

The Research Committee met three times this year continuing its activities of pump priming research by grant awarding.

Faculty Grants

The total funding potentially available for the 2009 round of research grants is €15,000, ten from the Faculty and five through the aegis of the ISIR. Although funding now comes directly through the Faculty it was felt prudent to maintain a potentially high ceiling to encourage excellence and enable innovation and originality. The new ISIR/Faculty Interventional award has been conceived to: promote research in interventional radiology; promote collaboration and multi-institutional research; catalyse and advance the principles of a national interventional database or registry and foster a research ethic early in training.

The ISIR has funded a research grant €5000 to the Faculty Research Committee. Projects are invited for consideration. The proposed subject under research must involve the practice or science of interventional radiology. Preference will be given to projects that involve: those early in training - 1st years, preferentially - that promote continuity over the full training cycle; that involve interventional radiological practice; that include multi-institution involvement and are prospective in design. Collaboration amongst interventional departments and trainees should also be promoted.

The committee brings to the notice of awardees the imperative to acknowledge the role of Faculty in supporting their research and to forward to the committee notice of presentations, abstracts and publications following from their grant assisted research.

The smooth running of this committee has been the result of considerable industry and adroit stewardship of my predecessor, Dr Ian Kelly, so, to him, huge thanks. Finally, I remain profoundly grateful for all the assistance and support generously provided by the incomparable Jennifer O' Brien and Karen Milling in the Faculty office.

Dr. Barry Kelly
Chairperson, Research Committee



Annual Reports of Committees 2008/2009

International Affairs Committee

The International Affairs Committee has met on four occasions over the preceding year to advise on radiology training overseas and in particular to advise the Kuwaiti Authorities and KIMS (Kuwaiti Institute of Medical Specialisation) on the conduct of the radiology training programme in Kuwait.

A full Part II Programme was provided by a series of teachers during the academic year. The Part I Programme did not take place during this year and is expected to resume in the 2009/10 academic year. The Programme Coordinator, Dr. Denis O'Connell, has arranged the training schedules. The Autumn Final Fellowship Examination was held in Kuwait in 2008 and Kuwaiti Trainees visited Dublin to participate in the Spring Final Fellowship Examination in 2009. Of eleven candidates in the autumn, two passed and of four candidates in the spring, two passed, making four fellowships awarded to Kuwaiti trainees during the year. The Committee is grateful to Dr. Clare Roche, Chief Examiner, and her colleagues for their work.

Members of the Committee are heartened to see substantial steady progress in development of healthcare facilities and education in Kuwait with corresponding interest in radiology training. The accreditation visit will take place during this academic year, final date not yet agreed, and in addition to the established hospitals, two new hospitals will be studied, at Al Jahra and Al Farwaniya.

I would like to record my thanks to my Committee Members for their work and commitment throughout the year. I would also like to record our thanks to Dr. Abdelmohsen Ben-Nakhi, Director, FFRRCSI Training Programme, KIMS, Professor Mehraj Sheikh, Head of University Department of Radiology, University of Kuwait and Dr. Tariq Sinan, Chairman, Faculty of Radiology, KIMS.

Committee Members visit Kuwait in May 2009 to interview for the new Part I Programme commencing 2009/10.

The International Affairs Committee recognises the value of these programmes in involving a wider spectrum of Faculty Members throughout the country in Faculty affairs and in providing a base for further expansion of radiology training overseas which may arise as RCSI continues its overseas developments.

Dr. David McInerney
Chairperson, International Affairs Committee



Radiation Protection Committee

www.radiology.ie/radiation/index.htm

The Radiation Protection Committee met three times in the 2008/2009 academic year. Most of the work of the committee now relates to developments arising from meetings of the **National Radiation Safety Committee**, of which I am a member, and its various subcommittees – the NRSC is advisory to the CEO of the HSE on matters pertaining to medical exposure of patients to ionizing radiation and meets quarterly. Dr. Neil O'Donovan, Consultant Radiologist, South Infirmary, Cork has been appointed as Radiologist advisor to the committee and the related **Medical Exposure Radiation (MER)** Unit of the HSE within the last year.

The findings of the audits conducted by the **Quality Assurance Reference Centre** in 1. Radiology and Nuclear Medicine and 2. Radiation Therapy pertaining to implementation of/compliance with SI 478 have now been issued to CEOs/ General Managers and Consultant Radiologists/ Practitioners in Administrative charge in all relevant institutions.

Actions are recommended for:

HSE
NRSC / MERC
“Holders” of ionising radiation equipment
RPII
Irish Medical Council

This audit/survey is in fact at the forefront of work in this area compared to other European countries. No other country has published or is known to be undertaking such a comprehensive survey of adherence to similar public health legislation. The executive summary's conclusion is overall positive and states that the HSE and Minister for Health and Children can be assured that this public health legislation is being addressed.

The RPII have compiled an excellent and ground-breaking report on estimated population total body dose from medical exposures in Ireland (excluding Radiation therapy). Previous population studies in the 1970s and 1980s looked at gonad doses only. The report is available on their website – www.rpii.ie, under the publications section. Following on from this a multidisciplinary group working as a subcommittee of the NRSC under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael Casey, Medical Physicist, St. Vincent's Hospital, has completed a report on Population Dose from Medical Exposures in Ireland, in compliance with a clause of SI 478. Salient findings are that CT examinations, forming 36% of all procedure numbers, contribute 56% of the collective dose and that Interventional Radiological procedures, forming 7% of all procedure numbers, contribute 18% of the collective dose. Dose per caput in Ireland is 500 μ SV, higher than the UK (380 μ SV), but lower than most other European countries. Following on from this baseline report this subcommittee proposes to investigate, in detail, doses from CT practice.

Dr. Ronan S. Ryan
Chairman, Radiation Protection Committee



Annual Reports of Committees 2008/2009

Scientific Committee

The Annual Scientific Meeting was held from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th September 2008. The theme was Women's Imaging. The meeting was well attended and presentations were generally of a very high quality. Again, the meeting was video conferenced to several locations in the UK and Ireland and my thanks go to Dr. Barry Kelly for his part in organising this element of the meeting. The Honorary Fellows were Professor Brian O'Sullivan from Toronto and Professor Paul Finn from Los Angeles. The Honoured Guest at the annual dinner was the Minister for Health, Mrs Mary Harney.

The MR Users Group Meeting (combined with the Professional Practice and Continued Medical Education meeting) took place in Malahide on Saturday 31st January 2009. Dr. Leo Lawler organised a well attended meeting of the highest quality. Concern was expressed at the lack of registrar attendance at this highly useful meeting. We are looking at ways of addressing this issue at forthcoming meetings.

The Combined Spring Meeting of the Faculty took place in Killenard, County Laois on 24th and 25th April 2009. Radiologists, recognised for their expertise within Ireland, presented on a variety of topics of use to a largely general audience. Presentations were again of the highest quality and one recent innovation is the recent purchase of the Turning Point interactive hand sets to allow audience participation. This worked extremely well during the meeting and was well received by those present. Dr. Nigel Hart was the guest lecturer who gave a fascinating presentation on the recent Medical Everest Expedition and the research that was undertaken during this venture.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee for their continuing hard work. Also, most of the work involved in the organisation of these meetings occurs in the Faculty Office. The Faculty continues to owe a great debt of thanks to Jennifer O'Brien and Karen Milling.

Dr. P. K. Ellis
Chairman, Scientific Committee

Honorary Conferring 2008



Left to right:
Dr. Adrian Brady (Vice-Dean, Faculty of Radiologists);
Professor Paul Finn (Honorary Fellow);
Ms. Eilis McGovern (Vice-President, RCSI);
Professor Peter McCarthy (Dean 2006-2008);
Professor Brian O'Sullivan (Honorary Fellow);
Dr. Catriona O'Sullivan (Board Member of Faculty of Radiologists)



Honorary Secretary's Annual Report 2008/2009

Changes to the Faculty Board

Prof. Peter McCarthy and Dr. Catriona O'Sullivan retire from the Board in 2009. Prof. McCarthy has served 2 terms on the Board, and has occupied the offices of Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and Dean (2006-2008). He has served the Faculty with diligence, intelligence and great care, and guided us with skill through a number of very difficult issues and times. The Board hopes his good counsel will always remain available to future members and officers.

Dr. O'Sullivan is ending her first Board term, during which she has chaired the Radiation Oncology Committee efficiently and with great vision. Radiation Oncology as a specialty has grown significantly in numbers and profile during her Board term. The Radiation Oncology training scheme has broadened to involve centres outside Dublin, and the Fellowship examination in Radiation Oncology has been adapted to bring it into line with other bodies. All of this work has been carefully coordinated through Dr. O'Sullivan's committee, and we hope she will continue to engage with Faculty affairs in the future.

The Board welcomed Dr. Ronan McDermott to the Board as a new member, and Dr. Barry Kelly, returning to the Board for a second term.

The following Board Members agreed to take the following positions:

Vice Dean and Chair of Research Committee:

Dr. Barry Kelly

Honorary Secretary:

Dr. Adrian Brady

Honorary Treasurer & Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee:

Dr. Ian Kelly

Chair of Quality Assurance Committee:

Dr. Ronan McDermott

Chair of Scientific Committee:

Dr. P.K. Ellis *

Chair of Radiation Oncology Committee:

Dr. Catriona O'Sullivan *

Chair of Radiation Protection Committee:

Dr. Ronan Ryan *

Chair of Validation Committee:

Dr. William Torreggiani *

Chair of International Affairs Committee:

Dr. David McInerney *

Representative on Steering Committee
for NursePrescribing in Radiology:

Dr. Peter Kavanagh

(Dr. Patricia Fitzsimons also sits on this group)



National Advisor Committee of Medical Education and Training:
Professor Peter McCarthy *

Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies:
Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide *,
Dr. Adrian Brady,
Dr. RonanMcDermott

National Integrated Medical Information System(NIMIS):
Dr. Leo Lawler
(Faculty representative, reporting to the Board)

* continuing in post from previous year

During the year Dr Éamann Breatnach resigned, for personal reasons, as the Radiology/Pathology representative on The Medical Council. At the time of writing this position remains to be filled.

Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies

The Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies has representation from all the various postgraduate bodies. It is chaired by Professor T. J. McKenna, former President of the RCPI. The Dean and Honorary Secretary of the Faculty, and the Chairman of the Quality Assurance Committee are members of the Forum. The Forum interfaces with a number of bodies including the HSE, the Medical Council, the Department of Health and Children and the National Advisory Committee on Medical Education and Training. Decision-making with respect to postgraduate medical training is increasingly being made by interaction between the HSE, the DoHC and the Forum, rather by direct interaction with specific postgraduate training bodies, as in the past. Recently, the Forum has also had significant input into the development of the Clinical Directorate Model, under the 2008 Consultants' Contract. The Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies is playing an increasingly important role and involvement by the Faculty of Radiologists with this Forum will continue to be extremely important in the future.

Faculty Interaction with the HSE, DoHC and HIQA

Faculty officers have been engaged with senior officials of the HSE, DoHC and HIQA since summer 2008 in drafting a document on discrepancies in radiology, with specific reference to educating the public on this matter, and establishing mechanisms whereby such matters may be investigated in the future. It is expected that a final document will be agreed some time during 2009, which will then be adopted by the HSE as a guide to how allegations of significant radiological error might be investigated and dealt with, and also how radiological discrepancies and errors may be minimised or prevented in the future. Engagement in an exercise such as this is a significant extension of the remit of the Faculty, heretofore concerned mainly with matters of education. This issue was discussed at the Faculty AGM 2008, and approval of the Fellows was obtained at that time for development of this role for the Faculty. Undoubtedly, the specialty of Diagnostic Radiology received a lot of media attention in 2008, and much of the public comment was ill-informed. As the primary body representing the specialty in Ireland in matters of professional standards and education, it is important for the Faculty to do all within its power to educate the public, and to support measures for continued development of standards and competence in our specialty.

Faculty officers engaged in making extensive representations to European Commissioners, MEP's and DoHC officials in the early months of 2009 in favour of adoption of certain amendments to a proposed EU Directive on Cross-Border Health Care, in conjunction with our colleagues in other European Radiology Societies, most notably the ESR and RCR. The amendments proposed were designed to ensure public safety in circumstances where teleradiology services were utilised, by requiring that radiologists engaging in the provision of teleradiology services would be subject to the same licensing and registration requirements as if they were physically present in the jurisdiction where the service is accessed, and that patients involved would be made aware of and consent to the use of teleradiology services. Final voting on third Directive is expected in the second half of 2009; progress to date in this matter has been satisfactory in terms of ensuring appropriate safeguards in the language used in the Directive.





Faculty Appointments in Europe and North America

Dr. Éamann Breatnach continues his contribution as member of the Executive of ESR and Chairman of its Education Committee. He continues as a member of the International Committee of the Radiological Society of North America.

Dr. Julie O'Brien, an SpR in the Adelaide & Meath Hospital is the current trainee representative on the Executive of the European Radiologists Trainee Forum. Dr. Pradeep Govender was the Secretary of this Forum.

Faculty relationship with the RCSI

In recent months, the Dean and Honorary Secretary have been actively engaged in discussions with Dr. Terry McWade, Deputy CEO of the RCSI, and Mr. Freddie Wood (College Council representative on the Faculty Board, and chairman of the RCSI Governance review Committee), aimed at updating the relationship between the Faculty and the College. These meetings have been positive and productive, and we hope they will lead to clarification of our position within the College, and streamlining of our relations with various College offices, to the benefit of the Faculty and the College as a whole.

Faculty Office Staff

The business of the Faculty continues to increase inexorably. The entire Faculty remain indebted to our full time secretary Ms. Jennifer O'Brien whose good humoured, willing, capable and efficient help is pivotal to all the work and achievements of the Faculty of Radiologists. We are also indebted to her able and capable assistant Ms. Karen Milling. Without Jennifer and Karen, the Faculty could not function as it does; their contribution to our continuance is immeasurable, and deserving of appreciation from us all.





Meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Radiologists

Since the last AGM, October 2008, there have been four Board Meetings held - November 2008, January, March and May 2009.

The Board of the Faculty for the year 2008/2009 was constituted as follows:

Dean	Term Of Office	Meetings Attended (Total 4)
Risteárd Ó Laoide	2003 – 2008 (Elected Dean 2008-2010)	4
Vice-Dean Barry Kelly	2008 – 2013	3
Honorary Secretary Adrian Brady	2007 – 2012	3
Honorary Treasurer Ian Kelly	2006 – 2011	4
Board Members		
Peter McCarthy	2004 – 2009	4
Catriona O’Sullivan	2004 – 2009	4
Ronan McDermott	2008 – 2013	2
Patricia Fitzsimons	2005 – 2010	3
William Torreggiani	2006 – 2011	1
Ronan S. Ryan	2006 – 2011	2
Peter Ellis	2007 – 2012	2
Peter Kavanagh	2007 – 2012	3
Clare Faul	2007 – 2012	3
John Stack	2006 – 2011	2
Council Representative:	Mr. Freddie Wood	0
Ex-officio:	Prof. Frank Keane (President, RCSI)	0

Dr. Adrian Brady
Honorary Secretary





Finance and General Purposes Committee Annual Report 2008/2009

The Faculty accounts for the year ended 30th September 2008 were prepared with the assistance of the Finance Department and audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

In line with all investment portfolios, the Faculty's have done equally badly but remain under constant review.

Although revenue levels are holding steady the Faculty faces challenges on several fronts given its income is dependent on subscriptions, training fees and grants indirectly from Government. The hostile financial climate threatens all revenue sources either direct or indirect. The closure of the PGMBD and assimilation of its role into the HSE METR (Medical Education Training and Research) division brought general cut backs and changes in the methods of financing which bring their own difficulties and can be expected to continue to evolve. The Faculty is actively engaged with the new METR division to maintain its share of the post graduate training budget and I am happy to report that we are holding our own in this regard. Subscription fees and registration fees for the three main meetings held annually by the Faculty will be maintained as close as possible to last years levels to acknowledge the strain of the current financial climate.

Dr. Ian Kelly
Honorary Treasurer
Chairperson,
Finance & General Purposes Committee

I am delighted to report that two of the three meetings made a modest profit amply compensating for the losses incurred in the third. The imagination and adaptability of the Scientific Committee is to be congratulated in this regard in devising new formats in new locations which bring new attractions and also lessening the financial burden to the Faculty. The Spring Meeting which traditionally was a costly affair for the Faculty has been very successfully revamped and the revamp is a positive one as well for the Finance Committee.



O'Halpin Linders Faculty of Radiologists Scholarship Report 2008/2009

Faculty members will recall that this scholarship programme was inaugurated in 2005, to commemorate Dr. Dara O'Halpin, Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, The Children's University Hospital, Temple St., Dublin. I am pleased to report that under the programme Dr. Rowland Okello Okumu has recently returned to the Mater Hospital Nairobi to fulfil his commitment to that institution, to coordinate and participate in teaching at the University of Nairobi Radiology Department, and commence to coordinate outreach radiology services to the more deprived areas of Nairobi. The scholarship programme is unique amongst post graduate training body initiatives in that it has sponsored a medical graduate from Kenya, chosen by open competition through a full four and a half year training within the Faculty training scheme. Including all fees, travel and ancillary expenses, each scholarship is valued at approximately 250,000 Euros.

Rowland will return to a city of enormous contrast, where there is massive poverty with its attendant problems. With the experience and training he has gained in radiology in Ireland, we hope and anticipate that his impact on local health care, radiology services and education will be significant. The practical difficulties associated with seeing through this programme are great, and have included commitments from many individuals. There is firstly the commitment and generosity of Mr. Joseph Linders, the late Dara's husband, and the many generous financial benefactors to the programme. Logistic difficulties included those associated with registration, organisation of accommodation etc and the necessity for firm and honest commitment by the candidate to fulfil the obligations inherent to the scholarship.

This has been the case with Rowland and I have every reason to believe that his successor presently training in Cork, Dr. Yusra Sheikh, will be equally committed.

I wish to extend thanks to our Consultant and Faculty colleagues in St. Vincent's University Hospital who were generous in every way to Rowland during his base training there. On behalf of Rowland, and the authorities in Kenya I thank each and every Faculty member who both donated financially, and gave of their time in teaching and monitoring Rowland, ensuring his successful graduation at the Final Fellowship Examination in July 2009. I would also like to thank Dr. Max Ryan and Dr. Michael Hurley and all the Consultant Radiologists and SpR's in Cork University Hospital and Mercy University Hospital Cork for accepting and taking care of Dr. Yusra Sheikh who hopes to sit her final FFR RCSI in November 2009.

Maintenance of such a programme has not been plain sailing, and I thank Dr. Stephanie Ryan and Sr. Surgeon Marian Dolan in the Mater Hospital Nairobi for their constant support and practical assistance.

This is a programme of which the Faculty should feel proud, and I thank the Dean and Board for their support. Subscription to the Scholarship Fund can continue to be given using forms available from the Faculty.





European Affairs

The **European Society of Radiology** has completed its first full year following constitution as merger of the ECR and EAR (European Association of Radiology) in 2007. The Society has gone from strength to strength, and presently can boast 46,000 individual members. E.S.R. is now constitutionally an individual member based organisation but continues through its constitution to recognise the importance of European national and subspecialty societies, and this inter-relationship remains of vital importance to its future. I again would like to congratulate the Dean and Board on their decision to continue to support all Faculty members as individual members.

This year's new President is Christian Herold of Vienna, who replaces Iain McCall who Faculty members will recall is an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty. The Congress President is Gosia Trojanowska of Poland. Adrian Dixon, again Honorary Fellow of the Faculty, remains Editor of European Radiology and Chairman of the Publications Committee.

A major focus of **ESR** in 2008 have been developments in radiologic education, and as Chairman of the Education Committee, it has been my privilege to oversee a number of these. The **European School of Radiology (ESOR)** within **ESR** continues to develop and provides high quality education and training programmes which assist in harmonising radiologic education in Europe. **ESOR** activities include the Gallen Foundation Courses, Gallen Advanced Courses, School of MRI, visiting seminars outside Europe, and visiting scholarships to centres of reference throughout Europe. Many institutions in Ireland have taken an active part in this scholarship programme.

For those who have participated it has been a rewarding experience, and I urge each teaching department, in particular where subspecialty training is available, to apply to **ESOR** as a host department.

Lynn Johnston, past Dean, retired as Chairman of the **European Training Assessment Programme (ETAP)** this year. Under his chairmanship the programme has so far visited 21 training centres throughout Europe. It has reported on each visit, revealing that most centres are aware of and aim towards the ESR 3 + 2 year training recommendation. In his four years as chairman of **ETAP** Dr. Johnston has expanded this programme, and passes on a legacy of commitment to the incoming chairman, M. Laniado, immediate past president of the German Radiological Society. Members of the Faculty who have served on various accreditation visits include Dr. David McInerney, Past Dean. I would be pleased to hear from other Faculty members who would be prepared to serve in this capacity. With an upcoming accreditation of Faculty training procedures due, the Board may consider it appropriate to involve an **ETAP** representative in the process. In the future it is planned to increase the profile of this programme, and to progress with a strategy of parallel visits to training programmes which are highly developed, simultaneously with visits to newer, and less developed training centres.

Other important educational developments include the continuing dialogue between the **European Society of Radiology** and our colleagues in the **European Association of Nuclear Medicine**. This is particularly important in the context of the development of PET CT where Nuclear Medicine skills and training are an essential component for best quality PET CT interpretation.





This remains an issue in mainland Europe where access to PET CT is a problem for many radiologists. The Education Committee has formulated a curriculum for multimodality imaging which it is hoped will identify a formal nuclear medicine knowledge base for radiologists which will qualify them to give individual interpretation of such modality imaging without the requirement of a formal nuclear medicine specialist input.

The **European Training Charter and Curriculum** is under revision, reflecting modern practice, and an updated edition is anticipated during this year.

The **ESR** is proud of the present e-learning tools available. These include **EPOS** (Electronic Presentation Online System), **EDIPS** download (**ESR digital preview system**), **ESOR** (a virtual school), **EPACS** (Electronic Picture Archiving and Communication System), **EECR** (Electronic European Congress of Radiology) and **EURORAD** (radiology cases). All these facilities are available to Faculty members and they represent a huge learning resource. These facilities are supplemented by **ESR** knowledge testing projects to include self assessment, **ECME**, case of the month.

In recognition of the importance of developments of e-educational tools, the society has recently inaugurated a dedicated subcommittee within the Education Group to focus exclusively on these developments, and by providing a common communication platform hope to harmonise efforts and integrate them within the educational effort. Through harmonisation of these activities the prospect of a European Diploma in Radiology to be run under the auspices of the ESR is ever becoming a more real prospect.

In the past number of years the **European Union** has produced a number of directives which directly affect radiology. These have included directives regarding professional mobility, radiation protection, and the working time directive. The Society monitors these developments, and where appropriate makes direct representations to the relevant authorities. Most recently a successful campaign was coordinated seeking changes to the **EU physical Agents (EMF)** directive, which potentially has very serious implications for the clinical use and scientific development of MRI.

The **ESR** working closely with patient groups and other organisations supported by industry has successfully achieved a postponement of the directive which would otherwise have resulted in the marked curtailment of the clinical use and study of magnetic resonance imaging at higher field strengths than 2.5 Tesla. The implications of such a development will be obvious to all radiologists, and postponement of the Commission Directive is a major achievement. Local support for these efforts through representation to new and existing Irish MEP's is requested of Faculty members. Similarly, the drive by EU to promote **E-Health** and **cross border health** care will have a significant and direct impact in radiology. These issues are felt of such importance that a working group dealing with European Commission affairs has recently been set up within the Society. I attended the first meeting of this group which took place in June 2009.

Within the **Professional Organisation Committee** (POC), Chairman Luis Donoso, there are now subcommittees on information and communications technology, and on management in radiology. Further activities include the development of a White Paper on Ethics in Radiology and Manpower issues including the impact of the European Working Time Directive on the Practice of Radiology.

An E-Health subcommittee of the **National Societies Committee** under Guy Frija has been created formally in response to this programme and this will incorporate an audit and standards subcommittee which will develop ESR's ability to maintain the quality of radiology. By setting standards for the performance of teleradiology, and strongly advocating that appropriate insurance and registration criteria be fulfilled within the country of origin of the original Radiologic Act, it is hoped to ensure the benefits of this technology whilst maintaining high standards of patient care and radiologic interpretation.

The proceedings of this group should be of particular interest to Faculty which under the present Dean is developing an ever increasing role in areas of quality and control of radiologic practice.





Other issues promoted by ESR include reiteration that the creation of a radiologic report is a medical act with all the implications of same, and should be exclusively carried out by qualified radiologists. An initiative to a closer working relationship with primary care facilities has been elaborated through publication of a White Paper of cooperation with general practitioners. Through publication of this White Paper the Society encourages a close direct working relationship with providers of primary care services. This is of particular relevance to Irish radiologists who are dealing with such programmes as recently instituted by the HSE primary care group. The ESR is keenly aware of the poor understanding by patients of the functions of a radiologist, and to this end has created a new communications and international relations working group to address these issues.

The **Subspecialties Committee** continues to act as a voice for the various subspecialty societies at Executive level, and through its Chairman, Fred Avni, there is direct representation for paediatric radiology at Executive Board level. Publications on all issues listed above are available to members and can provide Faculty with a useful reference for its own initiatives.

A close working relationship continues between the **ESR European Union of Medical Specialists, Radiology Section (UEMS)**. I am pleased to serve with the Dean as a representative of the Faculty at **UEMS** which represents radiologists in a more political forum.

The **Radiology Trainee Forum (RTF)** is an active group within the Society, reporting through the Education Committee. The Honorary Secretary for this group has been Dr. Pradeep Govender who has been registrar within the Irish Training Programme. Dr. Julie O'Brien has now joined this group. It is gratifying to see such an active interest from Irish trainees in the organisation and all Irish trainees are encouraged to participate in the various activities of the RTF which include the coordination of an RTF booth at ECR, coordination of a highlighted lecture series, and various social events, lectures etc.

The **European Congress of Radiology** is the flagship meeting of the Society. The policy of joining with previous countries in "ECR meets" continues and Faculty members will recall the very successful experience the Faculty enjoyed in this arena under the Deanship of Dr. David McNerney. This meeting offers 122 refresher courses, categorical courses, mini courses, foundation courses, interactive teaching sessions with electronic self assessment and workshops. A new innovation this year includes special focus sessions, and I am pleased to report that a session entitled "Radiology and the Law" mirroring a Faculty Spring '06 programme will be the first of these symposia to take place at ECR in March 2010.

The **E.S.R. office** is always happy to provide assistance to members. It maintains a sophisticated interactive web page, through which it offers a vast array of educational, scientific and professional information for its members. The **E.S.R. Executive Council** and office are aware of the support given to the organisation by the Faculty and its members, and in this regard I would like to thank the Dean, Dr. " Laoide and Board for their active support of the various initiatives listed above throughout the year.

Dr. Éamann Breatnach
Chairman, Education Committee, ESR





Breast Radiology Sub-Group Annual Report 2008/2009

The Breast Radiology Sub-Group met at The Heritage Centre, Killenard on the Friday afternoon of the Combined Spring meeting. A Group to be chaired by Ann O Doherty was set up to liaise with the NCCP on Breast Radiology related issues, the Group will include representatives from each of the eight Cancer Centres and a member from Private Practise.

There were numerous opportunities for CME through the year including the Mater Breast meeting in May, the Nottingham/Galway Breast meeting in June and Laszlo Tabars well attended "Teaching Course in Diagnostic Breast Imaging" in Sept. The Annual Scientific Meeting in Sept 2008 also had a significant Breast Component.

Dr. Patricia Fitzsimons
Chairman of the Breast Radiology Subgroup

Nuclear Medicine Sub-Group Annual Report 2008/2009

The Nuclear Medicine Sub-Group met on the Friday of the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in September. Ruairi O Donnell of M2i Radiopharmaceuticals gave a presentation on new developments in PET Radiotracers in Ireland. This was followed by an open discussion forum on prospects for bringing new tracers into clinical use in the next 2 years in Ireland with a particular emphasis on F18 Fluorocholine and Gallium 68 Dotatate. Some of the difficulties regarding introducing these tracers and possible solutions were discussed.

Dr. Prakash Manoharan, from the Christie Hospital, Manchester gave a stimulating talk on SPECT/CT clinical applications, kindly sponsored by GE Healthcare. The next subcommittee meeting will be held during the 2009 ASM when a DAT Scan master class will be hosted by a guest speaker. All are welcome.

Dr. Martin O'Connell
Dr. Jim Clarke
Nuclear Medicine Sub-Committee



Validation Committee Annual Report 2008/2009

The Validation Committee was originally constituted by the Dean in November 2004 in order to oversee the marked increase in applications to the Faculty for Validation of credentials and training of candidates applying for posts in Ireland. The Validation Committee is a subcommittee of the Board and reports directly to it.

With the recent changes in the Medical Council guidelines, the validation is presently in a phase of evolution, working with the Medical Council in establishing robust and fair guidelines in evaluating candidates. The Validation Committee meets every two to three months and discusses all applications sent to it to assess whether a candidate should be validated. The job has become increasingly important and sometimes very difficult for the committee with the spotlight on the speciality within the press with the highly publicized controversies affecting radiologists over the last two years. The committee's role has become central in trying to assess a radiologists training and qualifications. This is not always easy and the Committee endeavours to be as fair as possible but yet maintaining standards. The new Dean, Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide has taken an avid interest in the Committee and we are presently working with the Medical Council on trying to formalize many of the criteria utilized in making a decision on whether a candidates training should be validated. The group encompasses both diagnostic radiology as well as radiation oncology with Dr Catriona O'Sullivan's position on the Committee giving valuable advice regarding radiation oncology candidates.

The criteria listed below presently apply to get on the Specialist Register but it is likely that these will be modified somewhat over the coming year.

The requirements to be placed on register of specialist training in Radiology.

- 1) Possession of a primary medical qualification eligible for full registration with the Irish Medical Council.
- 2) Possession of the Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists RCSI or equivalent
- 3) Possession of 5 years satisfactory training in Radiology. Training must be deemed equivalent to training in radiology under the auspices of the Faculty of Radiology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
- 4) Up to date CV
- 5) Up to date references
- 6) Proof of training with copies of all relevant degrees
- 7) IELTS certificate in English for all non EU applicants with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four bands



For EU applicants for certificate of specialist doctor or certificate of specialist training, the Medical Council of Ireland has the following rules in its regulations:

Applicants must:

- Be an EU National
- Have an EU Primary Medical Qualification
- Have completed the majority of their training in Ireland

The Medical Council is the competent authority in Ireland responsible for issuing Certificates of Specialist Doctor and Certificates of Specific Training under EU Directive 93/16/EEC as amended. These Certificates are issued to facilitate freedom of movement throughout the EU. The three above criteria must be met for the issue of certificates under the terms of the free-movement directive 93/16/EEC.

The majority of applications are sent through the Medical Council and the Validation Committee works closely and within the rules and regulations of the Medical Council in processing these applications. The Validation Committee expects that the numbers applying will grow substantially over the next few years. We envisage that the Validation Committee will continue to play a major role in ensuring standards in radiology are kept to the same high standard that presently exist and ensuring only fully trained radiologists are validated.

Dr William C. Torreggiani
Chairman of the Validation Committee.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009-2010

Faculty of Radiologists

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 123 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2

Tel: 402 2139
email: radiology@rcsi.ie
Fax: 402 2466
website: radiology.ie

Friday 23rd January 2009

Radiation Oncology SpR Interviews

Saturday 31st January 2009

MR Users, PPCE & Imaging Meeting (Venue: Grand Hotel Malahide, Dublin)

Friday 13th February 2009

Diagnosis SpR Interviews

3rd & 4th March 2009

Mock Exam

Friday 6th to Tuesday 10th March 2009

ECR Congress

30th & 31st March 2009

Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

Friday 24th & Saturday 25th April 2009

Combined Spring Meeting

The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, Killenard, Co. Laois

Friday 24th April 2009

SpR Assessments

The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, Killenard, Co. Laois





18th to 20th May 2009
Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

20th to 22nd May 2009
Primary FFR Radiotherapy

23rd June to 26th 2009
ESGAR, Valencia

13th July 2009
Postgraduate Conferring

7th to 9th September 2009
Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th September 2009
Annual Scientific Meeting and Dinner (Venue: RCSI, Dublin)

9th to 11th November 2009
Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

11th to 13th November 2009
Primary FFR Radiotherapy

29th November to 4th December 2009
RSNA

14th December 2009
Postgraduate Conferring

16th & 17th April 2010
Combined Spring Meeting
Carton House Hotel, Co. Kildare

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th September 2010
Annual Scientific Meeting and Dinner (Venue: RCSI, Dublin)

28th November to 3rd December 2010
RSNA





Membership of Committees

2008 / 2009

Radiation Oncology Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. C. O'Sullivan Prof. D Hollywood Dr. M. Pomeroy Dr. P. Thirion Dr. C. Faul Dr. S. McAleer Dr. C. McGibney Dr. J. Coffey	St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway National Training Co-Ordinator, St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Belvoir Park Hospital, Belfast Cork University Hospital, Cork St. Luke's Hospital
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Corresponding Members:

Dr. M. Maher Dr. J. O'Sullivan Dr. J. Harney Dr. M. Hurley	Mater Private Hospital Belvoir Park Hospital, Belfast Belvoir Park Hospital, Belfast Cork University Hospital
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Ex-Officio	Dr. R. Ó Laoide Dr. A. Brady	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists
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Quality Assurance Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. R. McDermott Dr. C. Collum Prof. D. Malone Dr. M. Maher Dr. D. McNerney Dr. D. O'Driscoll Dr. J. Morris Dr. K. Carroll Dr. H. Kelly Dr. É Breatnach Dr. M. Pomeroy Dr. P. K. Ellis Prof. P. McCarthy Dr. J. Buckley	St. James's Hospital Naas General Hospital St. Vincent's University Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght Letterkenny General Hospital, Donegal Mullingar Regional Hospital St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny Kerry General Hospital, Tralee Mater Misericordiae Hospital University Hospital Galway Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast University Hospital Galway Cork University Hospital
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Ex-Officio	Dr. R. Ó Laoide Dr. A. Brady	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologist
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Education Committee

Chairperson	Dr. R. Ó Laoide Prof. P. McCarthy Dr. D. McNerney Dr. M. Ryan Dr. M. O'Driscoll Dr. C. Brenner Dr. R. Browne Prof. M. Lee Dr. I. Kelly Dr. B. Kelly Dr. R. McDermott Dr. C. Faul Prof. S. Eustace Dr. M. Morrin Dr. B. Morrissey Dr. J O'Brien Dr. S. Ryan Dr. A. Quinn Dr. D. Brophy Dr. I. Davidson Dr. J. Coffey Dr. M. O'Connell Dr. E. Kavanagh Dr. Deirdre Duke Dr. J. Dodd	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists University College Hospital, Galway Adelaide / Meath Hospital, Tallaght Cork University Hospital, Cork Mercy University Hospital, Cork Our Lady's Hospital Adelaide / Meath Hospital, Tallaght Beaumont Hospital Waterford Regional Hospital Royal Victoria Hospital St. James's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Beaumont Hospital Sligo General Hospital Trainee Representative Children's University Hospital, Temple St. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda St. Vincent's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway St. Luke's Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Beaumont Hospital St. Vincent's University Hospital
Ex-Officio:	Dr. A. Brady Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists	

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. I. Kelly	Waterford Regional Hospital
	Dr. J. Stack	Mater Misericordiae Hospital
	Prof. P. McCarthy	University College Hospital, Galway
	Dr. A.J. O'Dwyer	Beaumont Hospital
	Dr. P. Brennan	Beaumont Hospital
	Dr. C O'Sullivan	St. Luke's Hospital
	Dr. R. Deignan	Wexford General Hospital
	Dr. M. McNicholas	Mater Misericordiae Hospital
	Dr. D. McNerney	Adelaide &Meath Hospital, Tallaght
	Dr. N. McEniff	St. James's Hospital
	Prof. D. Malone	St. Vincent's University Hospital
	Dr. L. Johnston	Belfast City Hospital
	Dr. D. Brophy	St. Vincent's University Hospital
	Dr. É Breatnach	Mater Misericordiae Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. R. Ó Laoide	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
	Dr. A. Brady	Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists





International Affairs Committee

Chairperson	Dr. D. McNerney Dr. J. Masterson Dr. D. O'Connell Dr. N. Murphy Dr. J. Kelleher Prof. P. McCarthy Dr. É Breatnach Dr. John Stack	Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght St. Vincent's University Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital University College Hospital, Galway Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin University College Hospital, Galway Mater Misericordiae Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. R. Ó Laoide Dr. A. Brady	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

Radiation Protection Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. R S. Ryan Prof. P. McCarthy Dr. J. Coffey Dr. A Brady Dr. S. Ryan Dr. P. Gilligan	Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar University College Hospital, Galway St. Luke's Hospital Cork University Hospital Children's University Hospital, Temple St. Mater Private Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. R. Ó Laoide Dr. A. Brady	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

Scientific Committee

Chairperson	Dr. P.K. Ellis Dr. B Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr. N. McEniff Dr. D. McNerney Prof. S. Eustace Dr. C. Faul Dr. P. Kennedy Dr. P. Kavanagh Dr. M. Keogan Dr. C. Collins Dr. P. MacEneaney Prof. P. McCarthy Dr. E. Twomey Dr. M. J. O'Connell Dr. M. Logan Prof. M. Maher Dr. É Breatnach Dr. J. Heneghan Dr. L. Lawler Dr. M Elliott	Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast St. Vincent's University Hospital St. James's Hospital Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght Mater Misericordiae Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Royal Victoria Hospital James Connolly Memorial Hospital St. James's Hospital St. Vincent's University Hospital Mercy University Hospital, Cork University College Hospital, Galway Temple Street Children's Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Beaumont Hospital Cork University Hospital/ Mercy University Hospital, Cork Mater Misericordiae Hospital Waterford Regional Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast
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Dr. S. Ryan
Dr. D. Sheppard
Dr. W. Torreggiani

Children's University Hospital, Temple St
Portiuncla Hospital, Ballinasloe
Adelaide & Meath Hospital

Imaging Members

Dr. P. Kenny
Dr. G. O'Reilly
Dr. L. Malone
Dr. M. Casey

Mater Misericordiae Hospital
St. James's Hospital
Beaumont Hospital
St. Vincent's University Hospital

Ex-Officio

Dr. R. Ó Laoide
Dr. A. Brady

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

Research Committee

Chairperson

Dr. I. Kelly
Prof. D. Malone
Prof. M. Lee
Prof. P. McCarthy
Dr. C. Collins
Dr. J. Meaney
Dr. É Breatnach
Prof. M. Maher
Dr. S. Ryan
Dr. D. Brophy

Waterford Regional Hospital
St. Vincent's University Hospital
Beaumont Hospital
University College Hospital, Galway
St. Vincent's University Hospital
St. James's Hospital
Mater Misericordiae Hospital
Cork University Hospital
Children's University Hospital, Temple St.
St. Vincent's University Hospital

Ex-Officio

Dr. R. Ó Laoide
Dr. A. Brady

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

Validation Committee

Chairperson

Dr W. Torreggiani
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Dr. É Breatnach
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Ex-Officio

Dr. R. Ó Laoide
Dr. A. Brady

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists





Deans of the Faculty of Radiologists

2008 – 2010	Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide
2006 – 2008	Professor Peter McCarthy
2004 – 2006	Dr. Éamann Breatnach
2002 - 2004	Dr. David McNerney
2000 – 2002	Dr. Lynn Johnston
1998 - 2000	Dr. James Masterson
1996 - 1998	Dr. John Anthony O'Dwyer
1994 - 1996	Professor Donal MacErlaine
1992 - 1994	Dr. Gerard Hurley
1989 - 1992	Dr. Michael Daly
1987 - 1989	Dr. Michael O'Halloran
1985 - 1987	Dr. James Carr
1983 - 1985	Dr. Noel O'Connell
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1979 - 1981	Dr. Maxmillian Ryan
1977 - 1979	Dr. Owen Cole
1975 -1977	Dr. Dermot Cantwell
1973 -1975	Dr. Donal O'Sullivan
1970 - 1973	Dr. William McHugh
1967 - 1970	Dr. Oliver Chance
1964 - 1967	Dr. Sylvester Boland
1961 - 1964	Dr. Desmond Riordan









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