

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

Dámh na Raideolaithe

Annual Faculty Newsletter
2011/2012



RCSI



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



Dean's Introduction

It's been a busy year! Faculty Board members, Committee members, trainers, trainees and office staff have dealt with a vast range of issues over the past year on behalf of both our specialties, in times of increasing pressures and anxieties about the ability of our health services to cope with demand. Many people have given of their time and energy to develop and protect our training and other endeavours, and great thanks are due to all those who have contributed to the Faculty's continuing effectiveness. I urge you to read the individual reports contained in this document, which give the detail of what's been going on in the past year. A few highlights are mentioned below.

Accreditation

We have been successful in achieving the maximum-possible 5-year accreditation by the Medical Council for our activities as a training body, and for our Diagnostic Radiology training programme. A vast amount of work went into this process, led very ably by the Honorary Secretary and Dean-Elect, Dr. Barry Kelly. Details are given in the Education Committee report.

National Radiology Programme

Under the leadership of Drs. Niall Sheehy and Peter Kavanagh, this programme has been working in conjunction with the HSE and other clinical programmes to represent the interests of radiology and to evaluate if and how we can improve the services we offer our patients. Three separate workstreams are being pursued, and these are detailed in the report from Drs. Kavanagh & Sheehy. I urge you to engage with the programme, and contribute to its work; it is the principal means by which we can feed our experience, knowledge and understanding of our specialty into central HSE planning and expectations.

Professional Competence

The Faculty-run Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) has been running since May 2011, under the able guidance of Dr. Max Ryan, aided more-recently by our new office staff member, Ms. Sarah Drumm. The scheme has achieved almost 100% participation of the expected registrants at the time of writing, and Sarah & Max have successfully completed the required audits and reports to the Medical Council at the end of the first year of the PCS. Participation in PCS is now a legal requirement for continuation in practice as specialists; the work of the Faculty PCS/QA Committee has made it as clear and easy as is possible, and all involved deserve our appreciation for their achievements.

Quality Assurance

Although activity on the QA front may seem to have been quieter this year, the QA programme continues. Much of the focus in recent months has been on the need to put in place an IT infrastructure which will allow practising radiologists record many of the recommended elements of QA, without interfering excessively with their day-to-day work, and report departmental QA data into the central repository. At the time of writing, we hope to have Dept. of Finance approval to go to tender for a national IT support system within the next few weeks, with a view to beginning implementation later in 2012. In the meantime, many individuals and departments have been implementing those elements of QA which are possible on a manual basis. As with PCS, great credit is due to Max Ryan for leading this QA process.

We have now completed the second year of our formal agreement with HSE Medical Education and Training (MET), covering our responsibilities in delivering training, and the supports made available to the Faculty by MET for our training activities. We maintain a very positive relationship with our contacts in MET, and we anticipate a third annual agreement by early summer.

Relations with RCSI

Our financial and HR relations with RCSI are now on a more-formal footing, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with RCSI officers in 2011. This has brought significantly more clarity to our operations in these areas. Particular credit is due to Prof. Dermot Malone, Honorary Treasurer, for the design and operation of this new system; we expect to meet with College officers before the AGM to review the operation of this agreement.

RCSI governance structures have changed in the past two years. The Faculty now has a seat on the College Surgery & Postgraduate Faculties Board, and I have had the honour of serving as Vice-Chair under Prof. Eilis McGovern. This Board has been a useful means of sharing knowledge and experience among the different bodies housed within the College. I'd like to thank Prof. McGovern, her successor as President of the College Mr. Paddy Broe, and the Director and Assistant Director of Surgical Affairs, Mr. Eunan Friel and Mr. Kieran Tangney, for their assistance and cooperation with the Faculty.

International Affairs

In July 2011, we lost our much-loved and esteemed colleague, Dr. Denis O'Connell. Denis had remained active as Kuwait coordinator up to a few days before his death, and he is greatly missed. Dr. James Masterson has taken over the coordinator role, which he continues to fulfill with great efficiency. Under the wise guidance of James and Dr. David McNerney (International Affairs Committee chairman), we hope to be able to put in place a new 3-year agreement with KIMS in 2013 for continuation of our programme.

Radiation Oncology

The Radiation Oncology training programme is changing this year from being based in St. Luke's Hospital and UCH Galway, to a national

programme, under the able direction of National Training Coordinator Dr. Pierre Thirion, and Committee Chair Dr. Clare Faul. An additional part-time Faculty office staff member will be recruited to provide the necessary administrative support.

Dr. Maeve Pomeroy, Board member, continues to develop a Quality Assurance programme for Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Declan Sheppard has taken over as Scientific Committee Chair, and has organized and run very successful MRI (in Carton House) and Spring (in Mount Juliet) meetings this year. The Annual Scientific Meeting planning is almost complete at the time of writing.

Radiation Protection

This Committee, often one of the more obscure but most-complex, is now ably led by Dr. Patricia Cunningham. Her report on the myriad regulations and reports in the Radiation Protection area can be read below.

Information Technology

In the past year, we have upgraded and enhanced the IT infrastructure of the Faculty office, guided by the advice and impressive knowledge of Dr. Niall Sheehy. A project to digitize the office files is commencing in summer 2012.

Validation

Assessment of applications to the Medical Council for Specialist Registration remains a very important Faculty function, carefully managed by the Validation Committee led by Dr. Peter Ellis. We continue to have complex, but generally positive relations with the Medical Council on this matter.

Academic group

Prof. Malone chairs this subgroup, tasked with adopting, where possible, a united approach among the medical schools in Ireland on academic matters, including undergraduate curricula, intern posts etc. Under the aegis of the Education Committee, reviews of our Diagnostic Radiology curriculum and examination structures have been conducted by (respectively) Drs. Mark Elliott and Eoin Kavanagh, new members of the Board.

European Affairs

Dr. Éamann Breatnach remains our leading European representative, recently appointed as Scientific Director of the newly-established European Board of Radiology. His report can be read below. Representation on a number of other European Committees is shared among the Dean, Honorary Secretary & Honorary Treasurer.

Forum

The Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies is a very helpful central body representing all PGTBs in areas of common interest with the HSE and Medical Council. Membership has proven very useful on a number of occasions in recent years; for example, many of the details of the Professional Competence Schemes have been homogenized across all PGTBs through the Forum. I would like to thank current Forum chairman, Prof. Frank Keane, Leo Kearns, Leah O'Toole and John Magner for their great help during my term as Dean.

Office staff & space

Officers and Board members come and go, and much though we might consider our contributions vital while we're there, the key component of continued success for the Faculty is the dedication of our full-time staff, Ms. Jennifer O'Brien (Executive Officer), Ms. Karen Milling and Ms. Sarah Drumm (Operations Assistants). In simple terms, they know what's really going on, and I am deeply indebted to them for their hard work, guidance and support over the past two years.

The Faculty has outgrown its current accommodation. In the past few months, we have re-modelled our existing offices to provide sufficient workspace for Jennifer, Karen & Sarah, and we are in active negotiation with RCSI in an effort to acquire additional space for our administrative and educational activities.

Medical Council

Our engagement with the Medical Council has grown in recent years, as the Council's remit has been extended into areas such as Accreditation and Performance Assessment. We are represented on the Council by Dr. David O'Keeffe, who, in addition to his many other current responsibilities, very-capably brings the voice of our specialties to the table. Council staff, notably Dr. Paul Kavanagh and Mr. Eoin Keehan, have been very approachable and helpful to the Faculty over the past few years.

Retiring Board members

This year, Drs. Peter Ellis, Clare Faul and Peter Kavanagh complete their terms on the Board. All 3 have contributed enormously to the work of the Faculty over the past 5 years; I'm very grateful for their work, and I hope they will consider returning to the Board in the future.

This will be my final Annual Report; my term as Dean ends in October, when Dr. Barry Kelly will become Dean. It has been a great pleasure working with Barry, fuelled by obscure science fiction and 70s-80s musical references. My cultural education will be the poorer for the end of our direct collaboration, but the Faculty will undoubtedly be the richer, as he brings his great wisdom and work ethic to its benefit as incoming Dean. I wish him well, and a fair wind.

Dr. Adrian Brady

Dean

Faculty of Radiologists



Radiation Oncology Committee

New Radiation Centres

The Minister of Health officially opened two new Radiation Oncology centres in March 2012 on the grounds of St James' and Beaumont Hospitals. In May 2011 the centres were clinically operational and to date over 1000 patients have been treated in each centre. The Dublin network introduced a new Radiation Oncology planning technique (Rapid ARC) IMRT to Ireland, which is available in both centres. Over the next year it is envisaged that an expanded stereotactic service will be commenced in the Beaumont Radiation Centre. Both the two new centres and St. Luke's Hospital work as a clinical network with a shared governance and quality assurance format under the auspices of the National Cancer Control Program - HSE. The new centres provide access to state of the art Radiation Oncology training facilities across the three sites for Specialist Registrars training in Radiation Oncology. Increased integration of the centres with the host hospitals also benefits the current training programme.

The Faculty warmly welcomed the recent appointment of Professor Donal Hollywood as designate President of ESTRO.

SPR Programme

The National Cancer Control Programme approved two additional SPR positions in 2011. This increases the overall training programme SpR numbers to 13. Dr Pierre Thirion continues as National Training Coordinator assisted by Dr Brian O'Neill, St Lukes Hospital Coordinator, Dr Maeve Pomeroy, Galway University Hospital Coordinator and designated Coordinator for Cork University Hospital (pending accreditation) Dr Carol McGibney. Two SpRs rotated successfully through Galway University Hospital Radiation Oncology Department in 2011.

The Board of the Faculty of Radiologists has recommended the roll out of an integrated National Training Programme for Radiation Oncology. Dr Thirion (National Coordinator), the local hospital Coordinators and the chair of the Radiation Oncology Committee have agreed a framework document for same. This includes a review of the current syllabus, a move to nationally-delivered lecture programme for part II SpRs and a change in the governance of the programme. The Committee welcomes the recent approval of additional administrative support to the training scheme from the Faculty to facilitate this process.

FFR RCSI Examination

The examination results for both Parts I & II FFR RCSI examinations continue to improve with a recent 100% pass rate for the Part II examination. This is largely thanks to the improvements in the delivery of the part I lecture programme at St Luke's Hospital and a more structured tutorial/visiting professorship for part two examinations. Dr Jennifer Gilmore successfully completed a year OOPPE as a Fellow in brachytherapy at the Institute Gustav Roussy. Ipsen Pharmaceutical Co. sponsored her fellowship and she updated the Faculty on her experience during the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING 2011

As part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Radiologists, an Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Dr Jane Barrett, the current President of the Royal College of Radiologists UK (RCR). During the meeting she delivered the Combined Plenary Session "Lessons from NHS Cancer Reform: Successes and Failures".

Further highlights of the Annual Meeting included the inauguration of a new sponsored Keynote address sponsored by Astellas Pharmaceutical Company which was delivered by Prof. Des Winter entitled “Organ-Preserving Surgery for Rectal Cancer following Neoadjuvant Therapy”.

An interesting session on new technology in Radiation Oncology included a number of interesting updates by specialists from the UK, one of whom, Dr. Neil Burnet, also attended St Luke’s Hospital as a visiting Fellow on the 22nd September 2011.

The 4th Ipsen Radiation Oncology update took place in Carton House in April 2012. During the meeting, a travelling Fellowship sponsored by Ipsen Pharmaceutical Co. and under the governance of the Faculty of Radiologists was awarded to Dr Patricia Daly, who will undertake a Fellowship in Paediatric Oncology in Boston.

Dr Clare Faul MRCPI FFR RCSI
Chair, Radiation Oncology Committee



PCS/Quality Assurance Committee

This year has seen many important and innovative developments for the Faculty of Radiologists combined Quality Assurance and Professional Competence Scheme Committee. This committee continues to actively engage with regulatory authorities such as HIQA, HSE, NCCP and the Medical Council at several levels.

National Quality Assurance Programme in Radiology

The Faculty of Radiologists National Quality Assurance Programme in Radiology in partnership with the HSE, NCCP and RCPI, is continuing to develop and implement a Quality Assurance (QA) programme in Radiology. The fundamental aim of the QA programme is to assure enhancement of patient care with timely, accurate and complete Radiology diagnoses and reports. The National QA programme is intended to complement existing Radiology Departments' practices, and is an evolving process, with planned future regular review by the Faculty. Some elements are already being implemented e.g. discrepancy meetings and communication of critical, urgent and significant unexpected findings.

This year the revised National Radiology QA guidelines and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were released at the Annual Scientific Meeting. These guidelines along with other key documentation are available on the Faculty website.

To support the QA programme, the working group has prepared an ICT infrastructure tender documentation for the capital procurement of an IT solution, to support collection and reporting of QA data with minimal impact on work practices.

We are currently awaiting approval of this documentation by the HSE CMOD (Department of Finance). 42 public Hospital CEOs/ Managers and relevant departmental chairpersons have signed an agreement issued by Dr. Mary Hynes, Chair of the combined Histopathology and Radiology QA Programme Steering Committee. The purpose of this agreement was to assure the QA Steering Committee that the proposed ICT solution would be used by each participating hospital. HSE Regional Directors of Operations (RDOs) have committed to provide annual financial support to maintain the QA ICT solution.

A Programme Update session will be held during the Annual Scientific Meeting on the morning of Saturday 29th of September. Faculty members will be given the opportunity to discuss the guidelines, and the session will permit gathering of feedback on difficulties with the implementation of the QA activities and provide encouragement to full participation in the QA programme.

The QA steering Group also continues to engage with the legislation office of the Dept. of Health & Children in an effort to ensure protection from Freedom of Information request for QA activities. The required Health Information Bill is expected to be drafted this year.

The working group has also engaged with other relevant parties such as the Irish College of General Practitioners and Irish Committee for Emergency Medicine Training (Dr. Martin Rochford) regarding QA alerts.

Special thanks are due to Dr. Fidelma Flanagan, Dr. Niall Sheehy, Ms. Louise Casey (and in her absence Ms. Georgina Farr), QA programme manager and Mr. Brian Dunne (HSE IT) for all their dedication and hard work.

Faculty of Radiologists

Professional Competence Scheme

April 30th 2012 saw the end of Year 1 of the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS). This was initiated by the Medical Council and subsequently enacted by Section 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. This places a legal obligation on all Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists to engage and participate in, and maintain evidence of continuous professional development and audit.

As the body accredited by the Medical Council for the operation and delivery of our PCS, the Faculty of Radiologists has developed a PCS designed to promote self-directed and practice-based learning and quality assurance activities. PCS aims to promote activities that maintain and develop the competencies, which are essential for meeting the changing needs of patients and the healthcare delivery system. It will enable Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists to respond to new challenges from scientific developments in our specialties.

The Faculty of Radiologists PCS consists of two elements:

- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**
- **Audit**

The Medical Council has decided that the cycle of accreditation will be over a rolling five-year period and a minimum of 250 CPD credits is required over this period. The second year of the five-year cycle started on May 1st, 2012.

To achieve compliance, it is required that each specialist earns at a minimum:

- **50 minimum CPD credits per year**
- **250 minimum CPD credits per five year cycle**

The following categories are recognised:

- **External (Maintenance of Knowledge and Skills):** 100 credits per 5 year cycle – 20 minimum per year
- **Internal (Practice Evaluation & Development):** 100 credits per 5 year cycle – 20 minimum per year
- **Personal Learning:** 25 credits minimum per 5 year cycle – 5 minimum per year
- **Research or Teaching:** 10 credits per 5 year cycle – 2 credits per year desirable

- **Audit** (Mandatory, annual minimum 12 hours): Radiologists must pursue 1 audit project per year. The IMC has agreed that attendance at discrepancy meetings may be credited towards audit activity but should not replace a formal audit project each year.

This PCS Year 1 saw 319 registered participants participate in the Faculty PCS. Thank you to all those who have registered on and have paid for the scheme, for which a fee is required in addition to the Faculty annual subscription. All fees received for the PCS are reserved solely to support the scheme, and we submit annual accounts to the Medical Council to ensure that PCS income is used appropriately. In order to ensure its smooth running, the Faculty has employed a full-time member of staff to assist registrants, Ms. Sarah Drumm. Great thanks are due to Sarah for the numerous phone calls and email communications she has undertaken with all registered participants in order to assist them with MedHub and in attaining Medical Council PCS compliance.

MedHub is the online information system currently in use by the Faculty of Radiologists to record CPD and audit activities. Through MedHub, Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists can:

- Maintain an accurate record of their CPD activities as they occur.
- Access a yearly calendar for all activities.
- Have immediate access to indications of CPD levels achieved measured against the program's requirements, allowing them to effectively plan their professional development activities to meet requirements.
- Upload certificates of verification (e.g. accredited CPD points certificates awarded from meetings).
- View and print Statements of Participation. If audited by the Medical Council, you may be required to produce this statement.

Throughout PCS participation, a Radiologist's or Radiation Oncologist's PCS activities may undergo an internal Faculty PCS committee verification process. If selected for this verification process, a participant will be informed if they are PCS compliant or non-compliant. All PCS registrants will receive a statement of participation, which may be required by the IMC for re-registration purposes.

We are constantly looking at ways in which to make the recording of credits on MedHub easier. The latest upgrades include a drop down calendar for adding credits to MedHub (which should alleviate the problems with the original American dating format) and an automatic crediting system for attendees at events organised by the Faculty such as Scientific Meetings. There will be other enhancements taking place over the next few months.

It is important to note the following:

- For all conferences attended, all attendees must sign the register on each day to ensure that you receive your allocation of credits.
- When adding your credits to MedHub, you must make sure that the date you choose is correct.
- Ensure you choose the correct credit type (Internal/External/Personal Learning/Research & Teaching/Audit) as this is what will appear on your certificate.
- If you are organising events such as lectures, meetings etc. that might be eligible for external credits, contact the Faculty office for information on applying for credits.

Our Faculty website is updated on a regular basis to reflect any new information on the scheme:

<http://www.radiology.ie/professional-competence-scheme/>

If you have any queries in relation to the Professional Competence Scheme, please contact Sarah Drumm in the Faculty office on 01-4022139 or pcs@radiology.ie

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the combined PCS/QA Committee and in particular Ms. Sarah Drumm for their commitment and support throughout this year.

Dr. Max Ryan
Chair, PCS/QA Committee

Education Committee



The management and provision of postgraduate training in Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology represents the primary purpose for the existence of the Faculty of Radiologists; our other activities and functions serve largely to support training and maintenance of standards, in direct and indirect ways. Bearing this in mind, the Education Committee of the Faculty is the central body which manages our core activity, and I want to take this opportunity to thank its members for their hard work and dedication over the past year overseeing our training functions. Dr. Ronan Browne has been the National Training Coordinator for Diagnostic Radiology for the two-year period up to July 2012, and has done an outstanding job calmly and efficiently, in the face of many challenges. The Board of the Faculty is very grateful to Ronan for his efforts, and we look forward to working with his successor, Dr. Paul O'Sullivan, who has already begun to engage very effectively with his duties as incoming National Coordinator. Dr. Pierre Thirion is the National Training Coordinator for Radiation Oncology, and has done an excellent job of managing the shift to a national training programme in that specialty; more details will be given in the Radiation Oncology Committee report.

Maintenance of standards of training, and delivery of training on the ground also requires substantial commitment from local coordinators, and radiologists who provide training; we could not function as a postgraduate training body without the voluntary work performed in these roles by many practitioners around the country. The spirit of voluntarism and commitment to the future of our specialties by many individuals must be acknowledged and applauded; much unrecognised work is done by many people to maintain and develop Irish postgraduate training. Likewise, I want to pay tribute to our trainees for their positive engagement in every possible way with

the training programmes. We continue to attract the highest quality of trainees to our training schemes, with very competitive recruitment annually. Through the trainee representatives on the Education Committee, Dr. Micheál Breen, Dr. Aoife Kilcoyne and Dr. Jamsari Khalid, the SpRs on our training schemes have contributed very effectively to the educational work of the Faculty, not least in the Accreditation process undergone in the past year.

Accreditation

The single most labour-intensive issue with which the committee dealt in the last year has been the Medical Council Accreditation process. When we had full reciprocity with the RCR, accreditation of our training programmes was provided by that body. The uncoupling of the FRCR exam from accredited training obliged the Faculty to organise external accreditation by overseas inspectors, which was performed in 2000 and 2005. Under legislation, the Medical Council now has the duty to accredit all postgraduate medical training; the Council began its process of inspecting the training offered by all 13 postgraduate medical training bodies in 2011, and the Faculty volunteered to be one of the first to undergo this process. Preparation for accreditation required a large body of work to prepare our submission to the Council; this process was led by the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Barry Kelly, who deserves the thanks of the Faculty for his outstanding shepherding of the process from beginning to end. Following submission of multiple large volumes of supporting documents outlining our processes and activities, Faculty representatives met with the Council Accreditation Team (comprising, among others, educationalists, representatives of other specialties and an external radiologist assessor from the UK) on November 21st, 2011. Trainee representatives were interviewed at length, followed by an interview with Faculty officers and representatives.

In May 2012, the Faculty received formal confirmation from the Medical Council that the Faculty (as a postgraduate training body) and our programme of specialist training in Diagnostic Radiology have been accredited for the maximum possible 5 year period. The Faculty Board is very pleased with the draft report; the inspectors commended the training programme for many of its innovations.

The Faculty Quality Assurance Programme, the Practice-Based Learning Course and trainee participation in the AIRP (American Institute of Radiologic Pathology) Course came in for especial positive mention. The trainees were also highly commended for their enthusiasm and dedication. One condition was attached to our accreditation, relating to management of overseas 5th year training posts; we have implemented a procedural change to fulfil this condition. A series of recommendations were also made, suggesting some amendments to our procedures; we have already begun to implement these recommendations. The training programme in Diagnostic Radiology was the focus of this accreditation inspection; the Council will, at some time in the future, inspect the training programme in Radiation Oncology. Until such time as that programme is specifically accredited, it continues to be recognised by the Council, under the umbrella of the overall accreditation of the Faculty as a training body.

Systems-Based Practice

The second annual Systems-Based Practice course for 2nd. year trainees was held successfully in April 2012. This course continues to be generously sponsored by Siemens, and we are very grateful for the participation of Dr. Eve O'Toole & Ms. Mary Morrissey of the HSE in the provision of this course. The course provides training in a number of the competencies required of our trainees, including communications and management issues. We have also put in place a process to support trainees in their more senior years in achieving the required competencies by other means before completion of their training.

Training the Trainers

The Faculty conducted some "Training the Trainers" sessions in the past, on an intermittent basis, but these have fallen into abeyance in recent years. We plan to reintroduce this module of training for teachers, coordinators and other interested individuals on an annual basis. The first such course will take place in

October 2012, and is being developed by the Dean-Elect, Dr. Barry Kelly, with an emphasis on Educational Metrics.

Curriculum & Exam Review

Over the past year, our Diagnostic Radiology curriculum has been under review by Dr. Mark Elliott, taking account of current trends in radiology training in other jurisdictions. Dr. Elliott's preliminary recommendations have been discussed at Board level, and will form the basis for an ongoing curriculum review process, which we hope to embed as a continuing Faculty activity.

Dr. Eoin Kavanagh has, at the same time, undertaken a review of the Diagnostic Radiology exam structures with the Chief Examiners for the Part 1 and Final FFR RCSI. Again, arising from our Accreditation experience, the Board believes that a continuing formal review process needs to be a part of our regular activity in the future.

Electronic Educational Resources

Access to STATdx has been provided to all trainees in Diagnostic Radiology for the past year. This online educational and diagnosis-assistance tool has been very positively received. Allied to it is RADPrimer, which will facilitate construction of online assessment tools and examinations on completion of defined training modules. These assessments are presently under development.

From July 2012, the Faculty will begin moving from compilation of manual log books for trainees to online log books, using the MedHub portal. In addition, annual assessments will be moved from a paper-based to an electronic format in the coming year.

We hope to begin delivering some elements of the Part 1 and Final FFR RCSI exams in digital format in autumn 2012, with all image-based components to be digital by autumn 2013. Computer hardware has been acquired for the delivery of digital exams, and we are currently engaging with RCSI regarding a secure location for delivery of these exams in the future.

European Affairs

Faculty officers remain actively engaged in many Committee of the ESR and UEMS. Former Dean, Dr. Éamann Breatnach, has been appointed as Scientific

Director of the newly-established European Board of Radiology, which (as an independent body, closely-affiliated with the ESR) will have responsibility for the conduct of the exam for the European Diploma in Radiology.

Sponsored Overseas Trainees

The acceptance of sponsored trainees on to the Faculty training schemes for the full duration of training ceased some years ago, and there are no plans to re-introduce this practice. However, we hope to be able to accommodate some post-FFR trainees from abroad (especially from Kuwait) in 5th year Fellowship-type posts (of 1 year's duration), in addition to the funded 5th year posts currently available to SpRs on the Irish training programme. There are some logistical difficulties relating to funding, registration and HSE approval which need to be circumvented before these trainees can commence work. These difficulties are common to all postgraduate training bodies (PGTBs), and a working group comprising representatives of the Forum of PGTBs, the Medical Council and the HSE is currently addressing these issues.

Examinations

The Faculty would like to thank all the examiners, including our external examiners: Dr. Sheila Rankin, Dr. Chris George, Dr. Anton Collins, Dr. Huw Roach and Dr. Jim Virjee.

Part I FFR RCSI (Diagnosis):

Dr. Max Ryan (Chief Examiner)
Dr. Huw Roach (Extern)
Dr. Ronan McDermott
Dr. Anton Collins (Extern)
Mr. Colin Walsh
Dr. Neil O'Donovan
Dr. Orla Buckley
Dr. Eric Heffernan
Dr. Ciaran Johnston (Observer)
Dr. Jim Virjee (Kuwait External Examiner)

Part II FFR RCSI (Diagnosis):

Dr. Stephen Skehan (Chief Part II Examiner)
Dr. Sheila Rankin (Extern)
Dr. Chris George (Extern)
Dr. Martina Morrin
Dr. William Torreggiani
Prof. Peter McCarthy (Observer)
Dr. Mary Keogan (Observer)

Part II FRR RCSI (Radiation Oncology):

Prof. Donal Hollywood (Chief Examiner)
Prof. Robert Grieve (Extern)
Dr. Jacqui Harney (Extern)
Dr. Joe Martin
Dr. Charles Gillham (Observer)

The Faculty would like to pay particular tribute to the retiring examiners:

Part II Examiners:

Dr. Michael Collins (Extern)
Dr. Edward Fitzgerald
Dr. John Buckley

Examination Results

The following candidates were successful in the 2011/2012 Examinations:

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - September 2011

Dr. Haya Fahad Abdul-Rahman Al Senan
Dr. Zamel Abdullah Zamel AlZamel Al Zamel
Dr. Kenneth Courtney

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - May 2012

Dr. Karen Billington
Dr. Anne Carroll
Dr. John Kavanagh
Dr. Hong Kuan Kok
Dr. Fiachra Moloney
Dr. David Murphy
Dr. Siobhan O'Neill
Dr. Rory O'Donohoe
Dr. Michael O'Keeffe
Dr. Gerard O'Sullivan
Dr. Davinia Ryan
Dr. Elizabeth Ryan
Dr. Anne Walsh

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Kuwait - May 2012

Dr. Abdullah Hamza Al Khayat
Dr. Mohammad Al Sayegh
Dr. Dawood Ameer Al Shamali
Dr. Heba Abdel-Hamed El Baaly
Dr. Hamzah Fadel A Q A Lari

**Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis
(FFRRC SI), Dublin - November 2011**

Dr. Sarah Barrett
Dr. Naomi Campbell
Dr. Leo Galvin
Dr. Jan Gerstenmaier
Dr. Reuben Grech
Dr. Sara Hayes
Dr. Sum Leong
Dr. Niamh Long
Dr. Deirdre O'Mahony
Dr. Ailbhe O'Neill

**Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis
(FFRRC SI), Dublin - March 2012**

Dr. Olivia Carney
Dr. Oisin Flanagan
Dr. Kevin Pennycooke
Dr. Triona Walshe

**Final Fellowship Examination in Radiotherapy
(FFRRC SI), Dublin - May 2012**

Dr. Nazir Mohd Ibrahim
Dr. Muhammad Faisal Jamaluddin

**Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis
(FFRRC SI), Kuwait - November 2011**

Dr. Thamer Abdulwahab Abdullah
Dr. Abdulmuhsen A A M Al Sahaf
Dr. Amal Mohamed Aziz Genena
Dr. Asma'a Mohammad Jassim Hussain

Dr. Adrian Brady
Chair, Education Committee

Postgraduate Conferring - December 2011



Systems Based Practice & Management Course – April 2012



Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI Systems Based Practice & Management Course 2011/2012

Dr David O'Keeffe (UCHG); Dr Niall Sheehy (St James's Hospital);

Ms Mary Morrissey (Health Intelligence HSE); Dr Ronan Browne, (National Training Programme Coordinator);

Ms Anne Marie (Regan Health Intelligence HSE); Dr David Vaughan (HSE);

Ms Helen Calvey (Siemens Medical Systems); Mr Sean Harrison (Siemens Medical Systems)

Practice Based Learning Presentations 2012



Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI Practice-Based Learning Course 2011/2012: SpR Presentations

Front Row: Dr. Jennifer Sammon, Dr. Maria Twomey (winner), Dr. Jane Cunningham, Ms Mary Morrissey (HSE),
Dr. Eve O'Toole, (NCCP), Judge, Dr. Eoin Kavanagh (Adjudicator),

Dr. Marie Staunton (MUH), Convenor, Dr. Adrian Brady (Dean), Dr. Barry Kelly (Honorary Secretary)

Middle Row: Dr. Martin Arrigan, Dr. Mark Harmon, Dr. Umer Salati, Dr. Edel Kelliher, Dr. David Ferguson,
Prof. Dermot Malone (SVUH), Convenor, Dr. Carol Donagh, Dr. Mahmood Mirza

Back Row: Dr. Sinead McEvoy, Dr. Lisa Lavelle, Dr. Elaine Ni Mhurchu, Dr. Ian Crosbie, Dr. Ian Murphy,
Dr. Alison Corr, Dr. Kenneth Courtney, Dr. Jonathan Ryan



International Affairs Committee

The International Affairs Committee met on five occasions during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The members of the committee were deeply saddened to lose their colleague of many years standing, Dr Denis O'Connell, the long standing Coordinator of the Training Programme. Our many friends and colleagues in Kuwait expressed themselves equally saddened by this loss and recognised the great contribution which he had made over many years to the programme.

Dr James Masterson was asked to take on the ongoing administration of the programme as Coordinator and has agreed to do so.

During this year full Part I and Part II teaching programmes were provided in Kuwait. This has required a larger teaching faculty than before and the committee is happy to record the enthusiastic response of many of the newly-appointed Irish consultants to our request.

Interviews in Kuwait for Part I candidates took place in May 2011 and 13 candidates were selected. Dr Masterson and Dr McNerney attended for these interviews.

Part II Fellowship examinations were carried out in Kuwait in November 2011. 9 candidates sat and 4 passed: Dr. Thamer Abdullah, Dr Abdulmuhsen Al Sahaf, Dr. Amal Genena and Dr. Asma'a Hussain.

The Part I examinations are scheduled to take place in Kuwait on May 14th 2012. 15 candidates sat and 5 passed.

Dr. Abdullah Hamza Al Khayat
Dr. Mohammad Al Sayegh
Dr. Dawood Ameer Al Shamali
Dr. Heba Abdel-Hamed El Baaly
Dr. Hamzah Fadel A Q A Lari

During the year further discussion took place between the Kuwaiti radiologists and the Faculty concerning the development of a Kuwait Board of Radiology. These discussions are ongoing.

The Faculty is endeavouring also to provide facilities for fifth year specialists training posts in Ireland for Kuwaiti trainees. This has raised difficulties in relation to medical registration which has delayed the introduction of these posts. Similar problems are being experienced by other postgraduate training bodies, and discussions with the Medical Council are continuing.

I would like to express my gratitude to my committee members for their work throughout the year. In Kuwait I would like also to thank the Director of the KIMS Training Programme, Dr Abdelmohsen Ben Nakhi, Chairman of the Faculty of Radiology of KIMS, Dr Tariq Sinan and the Head of the University Department of Radiology in the University of Kuwait, Prof. Mehraj Sheikh.

During the year there was correspondence with other Gulf States in relation to radiology training but as yet this has not yet led to any substantial advances.

The Faculty recognises that an international teaching programme of this nature provides teaching opportunities for many Fellows throughout the country and is a platform upon which to develop further overseas teaching should the opportunity arise.

Dr. David McNerney
Chair, International Affairs Committee



Radiation Protection Committee

<http://www.radiology.ie/practice/radiation-protection/>

I took over as Chairperson of the Radiation Protection Committee following my election to the Faculty Board in September 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Dr. Ronan Ryan for all his work and commitment over the recent years. I am also the Faculty representative on the National Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC).

There are a number of initiatives underway involving the NRSC including a National Clinical Audit of Medical Radiological Practices and work relating to adjustment of CT diagnostic reference levels.

There are changes regarding the eye dose limits for occupational exposure to be made in the next few years. New data has emerged internationally that lens opacities occur at doses <1 Gy and therefore the limit for occupational exposure to the lens of the eye should be reduced to 20mSv/y (from 150mSv/y). The changes to the legislation are expected in 2015 and in preparation for this, the Radiation Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) is drafting a document around the issue. The Radiation Protection Committee will be collaborating with the RPII on this matter.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee as well as those in other organisations to maintain a high level of input into matters relating to radiation safety in our practice.

Dr. Patricia Cunningham
Chair, Radiation Protection Committee



Scientific Committee

The Annual Scientific meeting was held from the 21st – 24th of September 2011. As 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Radiologists the ASM was extended by an extra day to celebrate the occasion and the theme of the 2011 meeting was 'Radiology at 50'.

Historical material was included in the meeting, including inputs from former Deans of the Faculty, to review our first half-century. The Honorary Fellows conferred were Prof. András Palkó, President of ESR, Dr. Burton Drayer, President of RSNA, and Dr. Jane Barrett, President of the RCR. A number of former Honorary Fellows and guests joined with us for the celebrations including, Prof. Helen Carty, Prof. Adrian Dixon, Prof. Giles Stevenson and Dr. Mike King.

The Irish MRI meeting (IMRIM) was held on Saturday January 28th 2012 at Carton House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. The theme of the 2012 meeting was "Body MRI". The meeting was again very well attended. In addition to talks on cardiac, hepatobiliary and bowel imaging there were physics talks on MR conditional pacemakers, Prof. Sameh Morcos from Sheffield spoke on the "Safety of MR based contrast agents" and Dr. Mathias Lichy from Erlangen spoke on MR-PET.

The theme of next year's meeting will be musculoskeletal MRI and will be held at the same venue.

The Combined Spring Meeting was held on March 23rd – 24th 2012 at Mount Juliet, Co. Kilkenny. Dr. Steven James from the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham gave a fabulous talk on how to avoid making mistakes in bone tumour imaging, followed shortly thereafter by a talk from Dr. Richard Fitzgerald from the Royal Wolverhampton on what to do if concern is raised about a radiologist's performance.

Dr. David Coughlan from Tallaght gave a talk on the changing imaging requirements for children with UTIs and reviewed new guidelines that are about to be published, while Mr. Martin O'Donohoe from the Mater in Dublin gave us some vascular surgical insights. There were also great talks from Drs. Orla Buckley, Marie Staunton, Tony Geoghegan, Niall Power and Mark Elliott.

In addition to the oral presentations at the ASM there are now poster presentations at all three meetings. These are all of a very high standard and give the SpRs the opportunity to share their knowledge and research interests with a wider audience.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee I would like to thank all those national speakers who give of their time so generously to speak at these meetings for the benefit of the SpRs and their colleagues.

I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee for their diligence.

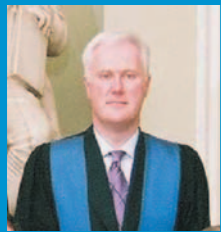
Finally I would like to thank Jennifer O'Brien, Karen Milling and Sarah Drumm, without whose hard work nothing would happen.

Dr. Declan Sheppard
Chair, Scientific Committee

Honorary Conferring 2011



Left to right: Dr. Jane Barrett (Honorary Fellow);
Mr. Patrick Broe (Vice-President, RCSI); Dr. Adrian Brady (Dean 2010-2012);
Professor András Palkó (Honorary Fellow); Dr. Burton Drayer (Honorary Fellow)



Honorary Secretary's Annual Report 2011/2012

Retiring Members of the Board:

Dr. Clare Faul,
Dr. Peter K. Ellis
Dr. Peter Kavanagh.

All three retiring Members have worked tirelessly, and typically modestly, over the last five years. On behalf of the Dean and other Board Members I wish to thank them for their diligence and industry. We would like to thank Dr. Clare Faul for her work firstly as Vice-Dean in 2010/2011, as Chief Examiner for Radiation Oncology and also as Chair of the Radiation Oncology Sub Committee. We would like to thank Dr. Peter K. Ellis for his work in his capacity as Chair of the Scientific and Validation Committees, in addition to his most recent role as Vice-Dean. We would like to thank Dr. Peter Kavanagh for his work in reviewing position papers, as Faculty representative on the Nurse Prescribing Group and currently for his work on the National Radiology Programme.

Accreditation

I am pleased to report that the recent accreditation process with the Medical Council has been successful. The formal reply from the Medical Council has indicated that the Faculty of Radiologists will remain the accredited body for delivery of radiological training in Ireland. The report was highly complimentary. This is a reflection on the professionalism and industry of Radiologists in hospitals, local training coordinators, the national training coordinator, examiners, and all those who have worked tirelessly to achieve such standards of excellence as we have come to expect within our training programme. In particular, the Medical Council singled out the Practice Based Medicine Course, organised by Professor Malone, as an exemplar of excellence.

There were a small number of issues that require amendment. Firstly, the measurements of competence require realignment. Competence, broadly speaking, is judged by both summative (examination) and formative (less formal) metrics. There is now a considerable science base for delivery of medical education at postgraduate level and benchmarks, internationally accepted, are set. Consequently, the Faculty has been asked to adopt these. The metrics for medical education, standards setting, blueprinting and justification for examination structures will be considered at a "Training the Trainers" meeting scheduled now for the autumn of 2012.

Curriculum review and associated consideration of the examination structures has begun. This is under the auspices of Dr. Mark Elliott and Dr. Eoin Kavanagh, both Board Members. It is envisaged that this will work in parallel with the other considerations for competence.

Professional Competence Scheme

The first year of the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) came to an end on April 30th, 2012. All practitioners, on either the Specialist or General Registers must register with a professional competence scheme. The Faculty has implemented the software programme "MedHub" to facilitate uploading of CME credits. All income from PCS registration fees must be utilised for PCS and for no other purpose. Specifically, it will not be used to subsidise any other Faculty activities. Ms. Sarah Drumm has particular responsibility for this scheme.

Europe

The European Society of Radiology has over the last number of years implemented a pan-European examination entitled the European Diploma of Radiology, initially run by ESR, but now under the auspices of the newly-established European Board of Radiology. This examination structure and organisation will be based in Barcelona under the guidance of the European Society of Radiology, but functionally existing as an independent organisation. Ireland is well represented in this structure, with Dr. Adrian Brady, current Dean, a foundation examiner within ESR. Furthermore, Dr. Éamann Breatnach,

former Dean, has recently been appointed Scientific Director of the European Board of Radiology.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank the office staff, Ms. Karen Milling, Ms. Sarah Drumm, and the Executive Officer, Ms. Jennifer O'Brien for their efficiency, professionalism, and unfailing good humour.

Dr. Barry Kelly
Honorary Secretary

Board Photo – May 2012



Back Row (L-R): Dr. Mark Elliott, Dr. Peter Kavanagh, Dr. Niall Sheehy,
Dr. Declan Sheppard, Dr. Max Ryan
Front Row (L-R): Dr. Patricia Cunningham, Professor Dermot Malone,
Dr. Adrian Brady (Dean), Dr. Barry Kelly, Dr. Peter K. Ellis

Meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Radiologists

Since the last AGM, in September 2011, there have been five Board Meetings, in November 2011, February, March, May and June 2012.

The Board of the Faculty for the year 2011/2012 was constituted as follows:

DEAN	TERM OF OFFICE	MEETINGS ATTENDED
ADRIAN BRADY	2007 – 2012 (Elected Dean 2010-2012)	5
VICE-DEAN		
CLARE FAUL	2007 – 2012	3
HONORARY SECRETARY		
BARRY KELLY	2008 – 2013	5
HONORARY TREASURER		
DERMOT MALONE	2009 – 2014	5
BOARD MEMBERS		
PETER ELLIS	2007 – 2012	4
PETER KAVANAGH	2007 – 2012	4
MAEVE POMEROY	2009 – 2014	3
MAX RYAN	2009 – 2014	4
NIAL SHEEHY	2010 – 2015	5
PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM	2011 – 2016	5
MARK ELLIOTT	2011 – 2016	3
EOIN KAVANAGH	2011 – 2016	4
DECLAN SHEPPARD	2011 – 2016	4
EX-OFFICIO:	Prof. Eilis McGovern (President, RCSI)	

Dr. Barry Kelly
Honorary Secretary



Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Faculty accounts for the year ended 30th September 2011 were prepared with the assistance of the Finance Department, RCSI and audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

This was the first year in which the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) worked with the Faculty Executive Officer and RCSI Finance and Human Resources representatives to manage the business affairs of the Faculty. The MAC reported through the FGP to the Board, advising on relevant aspects of the Faculty's interface with RCSI. The MAC has worked consistently and well throughout the year and has provided a reassuring level of consistency, detail and transparency to our dealings with RCSI. All Faculty accounting and HR business is now transacted within the RCSI campus. An annual review meeting with the CEO and President of RCSI is planned for September 2012.

The Faculty relationship with the Medical Education and Training (MET) division of the HSE remained cordial and productive. MET provided the necessary funding to support day-to-day running of the Faculty and funded the training programme management aspects of the MedHub software, point-of-care online decision support (STATdx) and updated modular self-directed learning (ACR files) tools. Ultrasound machines were purchased, enhancing the basic interventional Radiology skills course and allowing the development of a 'competence-based' module in the technical aspects of diagnostic ultrasound scanning. Computers were obtained to begin the process of digitisation of the Faculty examinations. Radiation Oncology training in Ireland will in future be managed through the Faculty offices rather than St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin. Negotiations with MET for funding for 2012-2013 academic year are currently underway. Dr Brady has ably represented the Faculty at the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies.

Last year, Jennifer O'Brien was appointed as our Executive Officer. She has continued her excellent representation of the Faculty in meetings with RCSI, ESR, sponsors and outside agencies. Karen Milling has worked ably as the Operations Assistant with a major role in day-to-Faculty activities. They have been joined by Sarah Drumm, who manages matters associated with the Professional Competence Scheme. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of them for their considerable input and commitment to the Faculty's affairs.

The increasing scope and complexity of Faculty activities, encompassing as it does the administration of the Diagnostic Radiology Training Programmes in Ireland and Kuwait, the Radiation Oncology Training Programme in Ireland; the Professional Competence Scheme and liaison with national and international bodies has led to significant difficulties with office and training space. The F&GP and MAC are addressing this with RCSI, to see whether a solution can be found within the RCSI campus.

My sincere thanks to the Dean, Honorary Secretary and the F&GP members who represent the Interventional Radiology, Paediatric, Breast, Nuclear Medicine, IT and Cardiac Imaging subgroups for their commitment and hard work over the past year.

Prof. Dermot Malone
Honorary Treasurer
Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee

European Affairs



European Board of Radiology

The European Board of Radiology was inaugurated following decision of the Executive Council of European Society of Radiology in 2010. The logic for creating such a new body was the acknowledged necessity to create a distinct body which would evaluate standards of radiologic knowledge, and accreditation of educational facilities in radiology on a Europe-wide level. In addition it was conceived that this body would assist individual radiologists by providing CME evaluation of international scientific meetings, and distance learning programmes. The necessity to structurally and administratively separate such evaluations from the provision of facilities is in line with evolving international practice.

The European Board of Radiology is led by a Scientific Director who chairs the Scientific Board. Shareholders for the new legal entity include the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Past President of the European Society of Radiology. A number of committees report to the Board on specific activities which heretofore have mainly related to development and enhancement of the diploma project.

The first European Diploma in Radiology examination was held in Vienna coinciding with ECR 2011. A programme of annual examinations coinciding with ECR, together with examination episodes at national meetings of major European countries has now been instituted. Strict eligibility criteria apply, and the examination is open to candidates in the last year of training. The examination consists of three components, a multiple choice section, a short case section to include interpretation of normal and abnormal imaging, and an oral component consisting of 20 x 5 minute sessions with two sets of examiners.

The examination is web-based, and based on the knowledge requirements as set out in the revised European Charter and Curriculum. Example multiple choice questions and case material are available on the EBR website. The language of the examination is English, though where the examination is conducted in association with the annual congress of major international societies, facilities to take the oral examination in the local language would be facilitated.

Close co-operation with national societies, and national educational and examination structures are already in existence, and I acknowledge with thanks our Dean, Dr. Adrian Brady, who has been an enthusiastic support and examiner since commencement of the project. I would also wish to thank the Board for its support of this initiative, and hope that Irish trainees will see this facility as a useful educational assessment tool in their personal career development. By virtue of the high quality case material used, incorporation of a technically sophisticated web-based methodology, and the high calibre of examining personnel, it can be anticipated that the examination is of high reputational merit, good standard; thus far the pass rate is in the region of 75-80%.

In addition to provision of a facility to aid personal professional development, in the context of free migration throughout Europe the examination will provide an objective standard of knowledge and competence which it is hoped will significantly assist employing authorities and chairpersons in establishing candidates' suitability where the radiologic educational background may be unknown.

UEMS

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) is the oldest medical organisation in Europe and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. With a current membership of 34 countries it is the representative organisation of the National Association of Medical Specialists in the European Union. Its structure consists of a Council working through 39 specialist sections, together with an Executive comprising President, Secretary-General, Liaison Officer and Treasurer. It strives via these structures to improve quality of care provided by healthcare professionals by contributing to improve medical training through development of European standards in the different medical disciplines. We are fortunate in Radiology in that there have been good relations and agreement between personnel of the section of Radiology within UEMS, and the European Society of Radiology, most specifically in areas of education and standards. The European Training Charter and Curriculum published by the European Society of Radiology is an agreed document with the Radiology Section of UEMS. Furthermore, the European Diploma in Radiology is now endorsed by the Radiology Section of UEMS as the single capital European qualification of its type.

Since its creation in 1958 the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) has played a role in shaping the agenda of the European institutions in matters relating to the practice of the profession. This collaboration has culminated in the adoption of medical directives and its activities now encompass submissions to Brussels on issues such as patient mobility, e-Health, telemedicine, and working conditions for specialists and others. Promotion of these initiatives is supported by the conduct of specific subject meetings including information transfer medicine, legal issues and CME/CPD accreditation, restructuring of health systems in times of austerity, budgets etc. I am honoured to continue to represent the Faculty to UEMS.

Dr. Éamann Breatnach
Chairman Education Committee ESR
Chairman European Diploma in Radiology



Breast Radiology Subgroup

The Breast Subgroup of the Faculty held its annual meeting during the Faculty ASM. The meeting was well attended and a wide range of issues were discussed. The key performance indicators (KPIs) returned to the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), from the specialist symptomatic centres, was a considerable focus of discussion. As a result of representation to the NCCP, a review has taken place of the KPIs returned from the unit.

There was discussion on workload issues and staffing levels in the various units. There is a considerable challenge to meet the demands of the increasing referral patterns to the symptomatic breast clinics, which continued to increase. A proposal has been made to the National Cancer Screening Service to alter the national referral form, but there is little doubt that demands for breast imaging will continue to increase. The Breast subgroup has proven to be a valuable source of disseminating information to Breast Radiologists about a number of important issues. The membership list has been given to the Irish Medicines Board, particularly its medical devices section, to help with the speedy dissemination of information about important topics, most recently free silicone injections.

The Faculty nominated two members of the Breast Subgroup to assist HIQA in a HDA for patients with family history in this country. This process has made considerable progress; hopefully the report will be available in the autumn. The Faculty has also provided support from the Breast Subgroup to the NCCP to assist with writing of National Breast Tumour Guidelines; this has also made considerable progress and hopefully will report in early 2013.

The breast-specific training programme agreed by the Faculty for Specialist Registrars (SpRs) has proven to be very popular and successful. SpRs working in hospitals, which do not have a Symptomatic Breast Clinic have been facilitated in screening units. It is intended that this will continue.

The group has decided to hold an annual meeting at the time of the Faculty ASM in September, with the subgroup membership list being used to inform members of other relevant issues during the year.

Dr. Ann O'Doherty
Chair, Breast Radiology Subgroup

Nuclear Medicine Subgroup



The Nuclear Medicine Subgroup met at the Faculty ASM in September 2011. The main topic for discussion was indications for PET/CT imaging, particularly the role of insurers and hospitals in deciding which patients get imaging. There have been major changes in the indications used in PET/CT in imaging particularly in the last 2 years. Access to imaging is becoming more restricted, mainly for economic reasons. The subgroup had significant correspondence by email prior to the meeting. Clinical situations where PET/CT is regarded as essential for optimal management were differentiated from situations where imaging is of benefit, but not essential. Following the meeting, a PET/CT panel was requested to meet with the largest national medical insurance provider to discuss indications for PET/CT and thereby look at the major role played by the private sector in the provision of PET/CT services in this country. This meeting was held in December.

The group also discussed a training curriculum for Nuclear Medicine as part of the FFR RCSI qualification. The group's opinion is that each candidate should be rostered for 3 months out of the current 4 year programme in Nuclear Medicine. The candidate may be rostered in other areas simultaneously while rostered for Nuclear Medicine, but adequate time should be allowed to review the imaging process, pre-read specified cases and attend read-out sessions for cases reviewed. Additional specific specialist tests were outlined which should form part of the core knowledge of candidates for the FFR RCSI. The group will be looking at making a recommendation regarding PET/CT training for general radiology trainees this year.

Dr. Martin O'Connell
Chair, Nuclear Medicine Subgroup



Faculty IT Developments

This year has seen a number of developments of the faculty's IT structures as part of an ongoing process to improve the experience for members and fellows and the office staff.

Website and membership database

On the front end, Fellows and Members will have noticed that the website has been completely overhauled. The new website has been designed to be clearer and easier to navigate. This year we will link the website to our new membership database and open up a members section, which should allow Fellows and Members to pay Faculty subscriptions and update their contact information.

Electronic Examinations

The Faculty will start the process of converting the Part 1 & 2 Diagnostic Radiology examinations over to a digital format this year. We have purchased the equipment for this purpose and are awaiting the re-development of a dedicated room in RCSI for this purpose. The conversion of the examinations will likely be a gradual process, moving one segment at a time to the new system.

MedHub

Members and Fellows will now be very familiar with this system, which is used for PCS management. The system is also intended to manage training activities for our registrars. The system will be used for registrar scheduling, logbooks, assessment and training verification. These functions will be rolled out this year. We have taken feedback from a number of users of the PCS system and are working with the developers of MedHub to make things easier for next year.

Web-Conferencing

We hope to install a web-based conferencing system into the Faculty's boardroom, to facilitate committee members who are based outside Dublin and wish to participate in business meetings without travelling.

We would be happy to hear any comments or suggestions and thank the members of the Education, F&GP and QA Committees for their help with these projects.

Dr. Niall Sheehy
Ms. Jennifer O'Brien

National Clinical Radiology Programme

We are in the middle of a difficult period in the Irish health system. The government is embarking on an unprecedented reduction in health funding while at the same time the professional and regulatory requirements to maintain and improve services are increasing. Against this background, the HSE Clinical Programmes unit has been established to maintain or improve the quality access and cost of the patient experience. The National Radiology Programme, established within the National Clinical Programmes, HSE and Department of Health, is a forum of clinical expertise and health service stakeholders which was established to support delivery of quality radiological services to meet appropriate clinical demands. Dr Niall Sheehy, Consultant Radiologist, St James's Hospital and Dr Peter Kavanagh, Director of Radiology, Blanchardstown Hospital were appointed as Clinical Co-leads in January 2012, succeeding the first Clinical Lead, Prof. Risteárd Ó Laoide.

The Programme currently consists of a national steering group and 3 subgroups. Membership of groups has broad-based input including radiologists, radiographers, radiology nurses, physicists, clinicians and personnel from other programmes, public health, GPs, management and NIMIS.

Programme priorities for 2012 are:

- Establish performance measurement metrics and commence collation of data nationally in 2012
- Conduct national survey on resource and capacity of Radiology departments
- Establish current position of GP Direct Access in all acute hospitals (survey) and develop protocols for GP Direct Access
- Adopt National Referral Criteria
- Interact with other Clinical Programmes to agree a framework whereby protocols and clinical care pathways for patients that involve Radiology components can be safely and reliably delivered within a resource-limited environment
- Explore procurement efficiencies
- Support Radiology departments to deliver quality by providing service improvement tools and techniques to departments

The programme is keen to engage with Radiology departments and stakeholders, and site visits are underway. The programme would like to develop its expertise to support departments with challenges they face. Suggestions and feedback are always welcome - we hope that this will be a body that helps individual Radiology departments at this time. We are fortunate to have input from a number of Radiologists throughout the country and any additional help will be gratefully received.

Further details are available from:

Dr. Niall Sheehy
niallsheehy@gmail.com

Dr. Peter Kavanagh
peter.kavanagh@hse.ie

Ms. Ciara Norton, Programme Manager
ciara.norton@hse.ie

Validation Committee



The Validation Committee continues to assess applications for inclusion on the Specialist Register, which are referred by the Medical Council. We continue to use the agreed, standardised procedures in order to assess knowledge, skill and experience in order to compare the applicant with the standard expected from an Irish Radiology and Radiation Oncology trainee. I am very grateful to the members of the committee for the efficient way that the applications are now assessed. At time of writing the report we are up to date with these applications with a turnaround time, including double checking, of several weeks only.

I would like to welcome our new members of the Validation Committee, Dr Patricia Cunningham, Dr Eoin Kavanagh and Dr Declan Sheppard. I am very grateful to all members of the Committee for giving up their time for this important yet often under-appreciated task.

We continue our dialogue with the Medical Council regarding further updating of the process of application and assessment. We are fully engaging with this process cognisant of the fact that the high standard of Radiology and Radiation Oncology training expected of practitioners working in Ireland must be maintained.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to Jennifer O'Brien and her team at the Faculty office for their continuing hard work in this document-rich area.

Dr. P. K. Ellis,
Chair, Validation Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012

Faculty of Radiologists

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

Tel: 01-402 2139
email: radiology@rcsi.ie
Fax: 01-402 2466
website: www.radiology.ie

28th January 2012

IMRIM Meeting, Carton House Maynooth

1st to 5th March 2012

ECR, Vienna

7th & 8th March 2012

Part I Mock Exam

23rd to 24th March 2012

Combined Spring Meeting
Mount Juliet, Co. Kilkenny

26th & 27th March 2012

Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

21st & 22nd May 2012

Final FFR Radiotherapy

27th & 28th April 2012

Management Course

14th to 16th May 2012

Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

12th to 15th June 2012

ESGAR, Edinburgh

2nd July 2012

Postgraduate Conferring

3rd & 4th September 2012

Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

27th to 29th September 2012

Annual Scientific Meeting and Dinner
RCSI, Dublin

5th October 2012

National Cancer Control Programme
Annual Forum for Symptomatic
Breast Disease, Waterford

19th to 21st November 2012

Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

15th & 16th November 2012 TBC

Final FFR Radiotherapy

25th to 30th November 2012

RSNA

10th December 2012 TBC

Postgraduate Conferring

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

2011 / 2012

Radiation Oncology Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. C. Faul Prof. D Hollywood Dr. M. Pomeroy Dr. P. Thirion Dr. B. O'Neill Dr. C. McGibney Dr. J. Coffey Dr. D. Fitzpatrick	St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway National Training Coordinator St. Luke's Hospital Cork University Hospital, Cork St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. A. Brady Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Quality Assurance Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. M. Ryan Dr. M. Pomeroy Dr. P. K. Ellis Dr. D. Brennan Dr. J. Heneghan Dr. M. Staunton Dr. F. Flanagan Dr. O. McArdle Dr. N. Sheehy	Cork University Hospital University Hospital Galway Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Limerick Regional Hospital Waterford Regional Hospital Limerick Regional Hospital BreastCheck Mater Misericordiae University Hospital St. Luke's Hospital St. James's Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. A. Brady Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Education Committee

Chairperson:	Dr. A. Brady Dr. L. Duddy Dr. M.O'Driscoll Dr. C. Brenner Dr. R. Browne Dr. A. Ryan Dr. S. O'Keeffe Dr. C. Faul Dr. P. O'Sullivan Dr. M. Morrin Dr. M. Breen Dr. S. Ryan Dr. A. Quinn Dr. C. Cantwell Dr. J. Bruzzi	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Cork University Hospital, Cork Mercy University Hospital, Cork Our Lady's Hospital Adelaide / Meath Hospital, Tallaght Waterford Regional Hospital St. James's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Beaumont Hospital Trainee Representative Children's University Hospital, Temple St. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda St. Vincent's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway
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Dr. P. Thirion
 Dr. D. Duke
 Dr. T. Geoghegan
 Dr. C. McGibney
 Dr. J. Khalid
 Dr. O. Buckley
 Dr. M. Staunton
 Dr. N. Hambly
 Dr. M. Elliott

St. Luke's Hospital
 Beaumont Hospital
 Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
 Cork University Hospital
 St. Luke's Trainee Representative
 Adelaide / Meath Hospital, Tallaght
 Limerick Regional Hospital
 Beaumont Hospital
 Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast

Ex-Officio:

Dr. B. Kelly
 Prof. D. Malone

Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists
 Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Chairperson:

Prof. D. Malone
 Dr. D. Brophy
 Dr. L. Lawler
 Dr. N. Sheehy
 Dr. C. A. Daly

Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists
 St. Vincent's Hospital
 Mater Misericordiae Hospital
 St. James's Hospital
 Waterford Regional Hospital

Ex-Officio

Dr. A. Brady
 Dr. B. Kelly

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
 Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

International Affairs Committee

Chairperson

Dr. D. McInerney
 Dr. J. Masterson
 Dr. E. Kavanagh
 Dr. N. Murphy
 Dr. J. Kelleher
 Dr. É. Breatnach
 Dr. J. Stack

Charlemont Clinic
 St. Vincent's Hospital
 Mater Misericordiae Hospital
 Galway
 Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin
 Dublin
 Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Ex-Officio

Dr. A. Brady
 Dr. B. Kelly
 Prof. D. Malone

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
 Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists
 Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Radiation Protection Committee

Chairperson:

Dr. P. Cunningham
 Dr. D. Fitzpatrick
 Dr. S. Ryan
 Dr. P. Gilligan
 Dr. N. Sheehy
 Dr. N. O'Donovan

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
 St. Luke's Hospital
 Children's University Hospital, Temple St.
 Mater Private Hospital
 St. James's Hospital
 South Infirmary – Victoria University Hospital

Ex-Officio

Dr. A. Brady
 Dr. B. Kelly
 Prof. D. Malone

Dean, Faculty of Radiologists
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2006 – 2008	Prof. Peter McCarthy
2004 – 2006	Dr. Éamann Breatnach
2002 - 2004	Dr. David McInerney
2000 – 2002	Dr. Lynn Johnston
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