

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

Dámh na Raideolaithe

Annual Faculty Newsletter
2012/2013



RCSI



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



Dean's Introduction

Testing Times

I would imagine that for each Dean there is an almost immediate realisation that anything that is achievable results in no small way from the industry of one's predecessors. It certainly helps when one inherits the organisation that is functioning perfectly and has the books balanced. To this end, I owe a debt of great thanks to the tireless efforts of my predecessor, Dr Adrian Brady. Adrian has completed his second term as board member. It has been my privilege to have served as his Honorary Secretary and a testament to his endurance that our friendship has remained firm. Adrian's contribution to Faculty and Irish Radiology has been immense. Also leaving the board is Dr Eoin Kavanagh. Eoin mastered the Validation Committee brief with commendable speed, and attained a mastery of the subject. My great thanks and good wishes to him. He will, I feel sure, return for another term.

Standing Orders of the Faculty of Radiologists begin by stating that, 'The objectives of this Faculty are to advance the science, art and practice of Radiology and its allied sciences and to promote education, study and research in Radiology'. Within the pages of this newsletter, you will discover how Faculty is addressing so many facets of these matters. It almost goes without saying, but does bear repetition, that what my colleagues in committees and Board have described hardly begins to reflect the industry and effort each has made with their specific portfolio. Such philanthropic work is, all too often, unrecognised.

That said, it is becoming increasingly apparent to acknowledge that although there is a certain amount of time management and responsibility that goes with the territory, say for example, committee and board membership, there should be an expectation that time commitment beyond this, for example, the Dean, Officers, National Training Coordinator and the Chief Examiners needs to be addressed. It is only fair that base hospitals should not be inconvenienced by such Faculty activities and that those involved should be able to perform them. Consequently, the concept of Clinical Support now exists. Professor Dermot Malone, the Honorary Secretary has continued to detail and codify a process instigated by Dr Brady. Its underlying concept is to ensure the continued smooth running of the Faculty, but more importantly, hard-pressed radiology departments throughout Ireland. Dermot has devoted considerable time to this project and deserves great thanks for producing a characteristically fair, considered and transparent document.

Scientific Meetings

One of Faculty's prime activities is to facilitate the acquisition of continuing professional development credits. The architect of its increasing success is its chairman, Dr. Declan Sheppard. I'm delighted to record that after a very successful Annual Scientific Meeting last year, both the IMRIM and Combined Spring Meetings in 2013 were sold out. Naturally, I would be pleased to think that the latter's great success was due to the exotic remoteness of Belfast and the Titanic Experience's magnetic pull, but in fact CPD was at play. The Scientific Committee had decided, presciently as it turned out, to expand the meeting's duration, making it a CPD-rich event.

Of course, in these days where everything is scrutinised and measured, someone has to stay and mind the shop. Consequently, Faculty will probably move to an additional day registration rate option for delegates in an effort to further facilitate the busy radiologist who must budget time and leave carefully.

The acquisition of CPD is something that is required of all of us. Such effort is tricky enough when one is in full time employment but becomes even more arduous for those whose practice has changed. To facilitate this, Faculty has decided to incorporate sessions that might be of particular interest to this important group of our Fellows. To begin with, sessions on the plain radiograph were added to the Combined Spring Meeting. I'd be pleased to hear of other ideas that Fellows may have, particularly those not addressed elsewhere.

Another innovation at the Combined Spring Meeting was the inclusion of a dedicated SpR viva practice module. This proved hugely popular. The fact that this module was free was probably a further inducement. The vivas were performed, at great personal expense, by twenty two examiners from both jurisdictions. The examiners were paired off and I'm pleased to say that there was no requirement for interpreters, lawyers, priests or pastors. Borderless radiology indeed. Hopefully, this will become a regular feature of the Spring Meeting. If you would like to become involved, please do contact me.

Selection

In radiology, we are fortunate to receive annually, applications for training SpR posts from the best and brightest doctors. The intellectual standard of our trainees is so high that I was reminded of a comment made by William Osler to his colleague, William H Welch when he was appointed as a professor to Johns Hopkins hospital, "We were lucky to get in as professors for I am sure that neither you or I could ever get in as students¹." We have continued a process begun by Dr Brady, to make the process as fair as we can. One historical measure employed was the standard of medical degree awarded to applicants. However, it was recognised that there was national variation in the awarding of honours medical degrees by various medical schools. Consequently it was determined to consider not this but the centile of the graduate within each applicant's medical school. It remains to be seen how important this is in the choosing of a radiologist (or any other specialist) and so, we are currently considering how we might assess other additional competencies in our trainee selection. Such 'competency-based' metrics are now internationally acknowledged, and have been demonstrated to be robust.

Naturally not all candidates can be successful, so in 2013 it was decided that Faculty should offer constructive criticism and advice to those who were unsuccessful. While most emphatically not an appeals process, it seemed that such a process could assist young doctors in future applications, wherever that might be. Consequently, a feedback process was instigated, in conjunction with Mr Gary Brady from RCSI Human Resources, in April 2013, for both Diagnostic and Radiation Oncology applicants. We believe this to be novel. Feedback was given to those who wished it, both in person and by teleconference to venues such disparate as Ireland, Iraq, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Our colleagues in Radiation Oncology have successfully navigated the difficult straits in their transition from training based at Saint Luke's Hospital to a National Training Programme. For the smooth transition they, under the expertise of their Chairman, Dr Jerome Coffey, should be given great praise. The Radiation Oncology curriculum is also undergoing radical and fundamental overhaul, confirming it to be fit for purpose in 2013.

Information Technology

Dr Niall Sheehy has overseen the challenging transition from a film-based to electronic examination, with only the Part 2 viva examination remaining film-based. This is as complex as it sounds, and its completion reflects Niall's dedication and tenacity.

Professional Competency Scheme and Quality Assurance

Dr Anthony Ryan and Ms Sarah Drumm have worked hard to streamline the PCS process set up by Dr Max Ryan. Currently 344 registrants are on our database, an increase of 32 since last year (allowing for withdrawals).

A preferred QA vendor has been identified from whom software can be purchased. This will facilitate a number of Quality Assurance processes, with contracts signed hopefully by time of going to press.

1 Welch WH. Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1889-1914. Johns Hopkins Hospital Bull 1914; 25: 363-6.

External Relations

Our membership of the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies has been vital in maintaining a uniform approach to postgraduate medical education, training and policy. One example has been the Forum's participation in the application and assessment of validation requests from the Medical Council. In this context, we have been very ably represented by the chairman of our Validation Committee, Dr Eoin Kavanagh.

The Faculty continues to enjoy a constructive and cordial professional relationship with the MET Unit of the HSE, and I would hope that this collaboration will lead to an expansion in training, and an acknowledgement of Faculty's processes as an exemplar of good governance.

Our relationship with RCSI also continues to function well, and the Management Advisory Committee serves as a conduit for our professional relationship with the College. Particular thanks are due here to Mr Gary Brady and Mr Eugene Kent, representing Human Resources and Finances at RCSI respectively.

International Activities

The Faculty, thanks to Drs McInerney and Masterson, has been invited to renew its training programme in Kuwait and the contract has been signed. Four higher training (International Medical Graduate) posts have been approved by the MET Unit, and Faculty was complimented on its strict selection process. Our academic programme in the Gulf is also set to expand further with our association with Medical Validation Ireland, based in RCSI.

In Europe, Dr Eamann Breatnach completes his term as the first Scientific Director of the European Board of Radiology. Dr Breatnach's appointment is not only testament to his own abilities but is a measure of the esteem in which Irish radiology is held in Europe. Timing of the European Diploma examination, currently at the end of training, remains problematic for Irish trainees but Dr Breatnach has proposed a novel solution to square this academic circle.

It remains essential that world-wide external training opportunities for our own trainees are maximised, and dialogue is currently underway between Faculty, the Royal College of Radiologists and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists in this regard, to supplement our links with North American centres.

The Executive Officer, Ms Jennifer O'Brien, assisted by Ms Karen Milling, Ms Sarah Drumm and Ms Lorraine Coughlan constitute the permanent staff of the Faculty. Almost everyone who is reading this will have had cause to contact the office, and cannot have failed to notice the professionalism, politeness and efficiency that is their standard. To them, I give my heartfelt thanks.

Many Irish radiologists will know that I have described my position in Faculty as that of the Portugese ambassador at the Spanish court (I can speak the language but you can tell I'm not a native). So, at this, the half way point, my question to you all is: how's my Spanish?

Dr. Barry Kelly
Dean
Faculty of Radiologists



Radiation Oncology

New Committee Members

Ms Lorraine Coughlan has joined the team in the Faculty office with specific responsibility for Radiation Oncology. This is particularly welcome and timely as the national training programme in Radiation Oncology gathers pace across five hospital sites and we undertake an internal review prior to accreditation by the Irish Medical Council.

Dr. Charles Gillham (Part II examiner), Dr. Sinead Brennan (Hospital Training Co-ordinator, St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network), Dr. Joe Martin (incoming Chief Part II examiner), Dr. Fred Vernimmen (CUH) and Dr. Daniel Cagney (SpR representative) have joined the Committee during the year. Dr. Patricia Daly (SpR representative) has departed for a Fellowship in the Peter Macallum Institute in Melbourne and Dr. Brian O'Neill, outgoing Hospital Training Co-ordinator in the St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network, has stepped down.

National Plan for Radiation Oncology

The National Cancer Control Programme has secured capital funding from the Department of Health and Children to design, construct and commission new radiotherapy facilities in Cork University Hospital and Galway University Hospital. This will significantly expand treatment capacity and introduce new treatment planning and treatment delivery technology to both sites by 2017. It is envisaged that the CUH, GUH and St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network centres will function as a national clinical network within the NCCP.

During the year both CUH and St. Luke's Hospital opened prostate brachytherapy programmes for men with low risk, early stage disease. Professor Frank Sullivan gave generously of his time and expertise to train and mentor a number of Consultant Radiation Oncologists and will continue in a lead role, building a prospective dataset and utilising a QA programme developed by the UK and Ireland Prostate Brachytherapy Group.

In May Minister James Reilly officially launched the national intracranial stereotactic radiotherapy service in the St. Luke's centre at Beaumont Hospital. This involved a major equipment upgrade, funded by the Friends of St. Luke's, incorporating advanced intra-fractional imaging and frameless immobilisation.

Specialist Registrar Programme

The department in CUH has been accredited by the Faculty as a training centre for Specialist Registrars in Radiation Oncology. This welcome development followed submission of a strong and detailed application by Dr. Carol McGibney and her colleagues and a site visit by the Dean and Radiation Oncology Committee. The first SpRs will join the department in CUH in July. An in-house "retreat" was held in February to review all

aspects of the training programme, including examinations and examiners, the curriculum and preparations for accreditation by the IMC in 2014-15. For the first time in many years we saw SpRs embark on PhD programmes, Dr. Ciara Lyons departed for Queens University, Belfast and Dr. Fran Duane has moved to the University of Oxford. The Committee wishes them well and hopes that they won't stay too long.

FFR RCSI Examinations

Drs. Aisling Barry and Naomi Lavan were awarded the FFR RCSI in July 2013. A relatively large number of SpRs commenced out of programme experiences. In addition to Drs. Daly, Lyons and Duane above, Dr. Olex Boychak commenced a Fellowship at the Cross Cancer Centre in Edmonton and Dr. Jamsari Khalid completed a NCCP-funded Fellowship in prostate brachytherapy in University College Galway.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2012 and Spring Update Meeting 2013

Professor Mary Gospodarowicz was the recipient of an Honorary Fellowship in Radiation Oncology in 2012. As the former Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto, Chief of the Radiation Medicine Programme at the Princess Margaret Hospital and current President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) she was a feared and respected boss for many Irish Fellows in Toronto. At the ASM she delivered the Astellas keynote address titled "Radiation Medicine - Quo Vadis?". Other meeting highlights included a debate between Dr. Charles Gillham (SLRON) and Dr. Deirdre O'Mahony (Medical Oncology, SJH) on single versus combined modality therapy for Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma and sessions on thyroid cancer and prostate cancer. The Spring Update Meeting, organised by Dr. Gillham and kindly sponsored by Ipsen Pharmaceuticals, was held in Ballymascanlon House in April. This year's winner of the Ipsen Travelling Fellowship was Dr. Fran Duane (vide supra).

In closing I regret to inform the Radiology and Radiation Oncology community that former Chairman of this Committee and Faculty Board member Professor Donal Hollywood passed away in St. Luke's Hospital on May 10th 2013. He made an immense and unique contribution to the development of academic and clinical Radiation Oncology in Ireland and, through many years in the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology, at an international level. As his colleagues, trainees and friends, our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Dr Jerome Coffey
Chair, Radiation Oncology Committee



Professional Competence Scheme / Quality Assurance Committee

As a recent appointee I must acknowledge the immense work done to date by my predecessor Dr. Max Ryan and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) Ms Sarah Drumm, who are due considerable credit for the excellent design of the scheme to the Medical Council's specifications and its successful launch, its current good state of health and ongoing momentum.

Professional Competence Scheme

All Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists practicing in Ireland (including from remote locations) are required by law to be registered on the PCS of the Faculty, as the Postgraduate Training body designated by the Medical Council. Sarah Drumm administers the PCS on the Faculty's behalf and works tirelessly to ensure that the scheme enables our Fellows to meet the legal requirements in line with Medical Council standards and to ensure that all questions and requests for help are met with grace and proficiency. Many of you will have met Sarah when she visited departments around the country to help registrants become familiar with the scheme and MedHub.

Sarah performs a huge amount of work behind the scenes to ensure the Faculty's PCS meets the stringent requirements of the Medical Council including the preparation of detailed Operational Plans, Quantitative and Qualitative annual reports. The reports for 2011-2012 were received positively and with praise by the Council. The 2012-13 reports were submitted to the Medical Council at the end of May 2013.

There are 344 current registrants: 32 new since last year and 7 withdrawals due to retirement and emigration. The Faculty has increased the number of meetings approved for credits since last year. As a result of ongoing feedback, several improvements to MedHub have been made over the last year to ensure ease of use for registrants. This year targeted emails were sent out by MedHub to alert registrants to those categories to which they needed to add credits before the deadline to satisfy the Council's requirements.

The Faculty carried out a verification process on 5% of registrants, in line with the Council requirements auditing not only the credits in each section but also the documentary evidence submitted. This was a random stratified process as we had to ensure we covered the general and specialist register and the diagnostic and radiation oncology specialties.

The Medical Council also carried out an audit of registrants, separate to that of the Faculty's, which required the registrants to submit their statements of participation.

Quality Assurance

During the last year, funding was approved by HSE CMOD for the purchase of software to facilitate a number of key QA processes and a procurement process was set in motion. The latter has been a prolonged and involved affair, which is only now reaching completion. A preferred vendor has been identified and it is hoped that contracts will shortly be signed to permit consultation and design workshops with Radiologists around the country towards the end of 2013. Roll-out and implementation of the software will then commence and it is anticipated that the entire project will potentially take up to two years to roll-out and embed in all the departments currently signed up.

The key software components will facilitate processes in place in those hospitals already participating in the QA programme e.g. recording discrepancies and organising discrepancy meetings, prospective and retrospective peer review, and alerts. The software will permit replacement of the current cumbersome paper-based systems and it is hoped it will allow these processes to occur seamlessly with reporting duties so that the latter are not hindered or replaced by additional QA duties.

The resultant data will ultimately be uploaded to a national QA database (National Quality Assurance Information System - NQAIS), which will in turn feed back to departments as to how they are performing relative to the national median. It appears self-evident that any deficiencies identified will provide evidence to support the correction of departmental resource deficiencies.

The Faculty website is updated on a regular basis to reflect any new information on the PCS: <http://www.radiology.ie/professional-competence-scheme/>

If you have any queries in relation to the professional competence scheme, please contact Sarah Drumm on 01 4022139 or pcs@radiology.ie

I wish to thank all the members of the PCS/QA Committee for their ongoing hard work but must single out Sarah Drumm for particular attention due to her unstinting efforts on our behalf.

Dr. Anthony Ryan
Chair, PCS / QA Committee



Education Committee

Transition might be the watchword for this year: changes in key personnel, fewer resources, less time, more scrutiny and tighter deadlines too. As I have written in my introductory column, much of this 'pro bono' work is done unobtrusively, and so well, that each practitioner's art has been to conceal the effort.

Dr Paul O'Sullivan steps down as the National Training Coordinator. Paul performed this role with great diligence and has been succeeded by Dr Leo Lawler. Leo has hit the ground running, with enthusiasm, logic and considered judgement. Likewise Dr Pierre Thirion remains as a very able National Training Coordinator in Radiation Oncology. Dr Stephen Skehan has been succeeded by Professor William Torreggiani as chief examiner. Stephen presided over an examination in transition. The conversion from 'analogue' to an electronic form, both in Dublin and Kuwait has been labour intensive. His quiet diplomacy has been vital to its continued smooth running so I offer him my profound thanks and my best wishes to his worthy successor.

Examinations

I would like to thank all of our examiners, including our external examiners:

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. Penny Shaw (External)
Dr. Martina Morrin
Prof. William Torreggiani
Prof. Peter McCarthy
Prof. Mary Keogan

Part II FRR RCSI

(Radiation Oncology):

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

Kuwait

A new 3-year agreement is now in place with KIMS. Its successful choreography is due largely to the diplomacy of the International Affairs committee chairman, Dr David McInerney and the coordinator, Dr James Masterson. Kuwaiti affairs also extend to Education, and the examination, its format, delivery, standard-setting and outcome must, and does, mirror those of the Dublin set.

This year, we hope to accommodate four, fifth year, Kuwaiti trainees in three training centres. Each candidate was interviewed with all other fifth year aspirant applicants, and the same rigor applied. Faculty has been supported in this by Professor Eilis McGovern of the Medical Education and Training unit of the Health Service Executive. Approval for such trainees, now termed 'International Medical Graduates' is much more codified and formal. MET has commended us on the transparency, fairness and robustness of our selection procedure, and I would hope that this educational initiative will prove beneficial to all.

Junior Representatives

The presence of the junior representatives at the Education committee is vital. Not only do those involved gain management experience and an improved knowledge of Faculty, but it provides an essential bilateral communication portal. Radiation Oncology and Diagnostic Radiology are now represented by

Diagnostic Radiology:

Dr John Donnellan
Dr Michael O'Keeffe

Radiation Oncology:

Dr Daniel Cagney

Replacing

Dr Micheal Breen, Dr Aoife Kilcoyne, Dr Jamsari Khalid.

I am grateful for the input of those moving on, and wish to welcome the new team.

Training the trainers

The Fellowship awarded by the Faculty of Radiologists remains at the core of our activities and is recognised internationally as an exemplar of excellence. To ensure that it remains fit for purpose and an international currency, a new subcommittee, the Examination Committee, has been created with its first Chairman, Dr Jim Clarke, tasked with examining every aspect of the Fellowship in both Radiodiagnosis and Radiation Oncology. Terms such as 'blueprinting', standard setting, and 'the minimal passing candidate' may be unfamiliar, and the consideration of the 'single best answer' rather than the current multiple choice format, daunting. It remains essential, I believe, to demonstrate that the Irish Fellowship examination ranks at the highest international level. Dr Clarke's report is below.

Running almost in parallel is the preparation and education of all of our examiners and trainers. Again, concepts such as 'Miller's pyramid', 'formative' and 'summative' assessment may be unfamiliar to some, but they are here to stay. In October 2012, Faculty had its first 'Training The Trainers' meeting. This meeting was designed to specifically address the new educational environment in which we find ourselves. The event was very successful and will be repeated, and expanded, in 2013. It is hoped that all who participate in these activities will attend.

Examination Results

The following candidates were successful in the 2012/2013 Examinations:

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - September 2012

Dr John Donnellan
Dr Liam Kavanagh
Dr Salman Rahimi

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Dublin - May 2013

Dr Niamh Adams
Dr Emily Aherne
Dr Alexis Cahalane
Dr Conal Corbally
Dr Matthew Crockett
Dr Jeeban Das
Dr James McGarry
Dr Kate Harrington
Dr Nuala Healy
Dr Peter Hughes
Dr Barry Hutchinson
Dr Karl James
Dr Jennifer Murphy
Dr Emma Phelan
Dr Yvonne Purcell
Dr Patrick Nicholson

Primary Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis, Kuwait - May 2013

Dr Abdullah A.H.A.H. A Sarraf
Dr Fahad Alabdulghani
Dr Khaledah Abdulrahman Alasouse
Dr Abdulrahman Almohaisen
Dr Ali Ashkanani
Dr Mohammad Zamen Foroughi
Dr Shafiya Mehraj

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRCSI), Dublin - November 2012

Dr Micheál Breen
Dr Fergus Cafferty
Dr Gabrielle Colleran
Dr Albert Lee Crush
Dr Colette English
Dr Paul Foran
Dr Siobhan Hoare
Dr Aoife Kilcoyne
Dr Eoghan McCarthy
Dr Colin McCarthy
Dr Mark McCusker
Dr Sinead McEvoy
Dr Doireann McWeeney
Dr Brian Daragh Murphy
Dr Kevin Murphy
Dr Dearbhail O'Driscoll
Dr Niamh O'Mahony
Dr John Ward

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRCSI), Kuwait - November 2012

Dr Buthaina Mohamed Ahmed Al Kandari
Dr Nourah Hamad Yousef Al Mubarak
Dr Said Mohammad Said Atyani

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiodiagnosis (FFRCSI), Dublin - April 2013

Dr Ciaran Healy
Dr Karen Lyons

Final Fellowship Examination in Radiotherapy (FFRCSI), Dublin - May 2013

Dr Aisling Barry
Dr Naomi Lavan

Dr. Barry Kelly Chair, Education Committee

Examination Committee Report

A new sub committee of the Education Committee was created this year because the Medical Council now requires the Faculty to document its examination procedures and ensure that they will stand up to external scrutiny. This committee met for the first time in February 2013. Presentations were made on the Part I FFR examination by Dr Max Ryan, on the Final FFR by Drs Stephen Skehan (Diagnosis) and Joe Martin (Radiation Oncology). An extensive discussion ensued on the structure and performance of the examinations and on the changes needed. It was agreed that a template should be created so that similar documents could be created for all three examinations.

Postgraduate Conferring - December 2012



Practice Based Learning Presentations 2013



Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI Practice-Based Learning Course 2012/2013: SpR Presentations

Front Row:

Dr. Davinia Ryan, Dr Siobhan O'Neill, Dr David Murphy, Dr John Donnellan, Dr Annamarie O'Connell, Dr. Eve O'Toole, (NCCP), Dr Fiachra Moloney, Dr Karen Billington, Dr Elizabeth Ryan, Dr Anne Carroll

Back Row: Dr John Kavanagh, Dr Liam Kavanagh, Dr. Michael O'Keefe, Dr. Hong Kuan Kok, Dr. Rory O'Donoghoe, Dr. Kevin Cronin, Prof. Dermot Malone (Honorary Secretary), Dr. Gerard O'Sullivan (winner), Dr. Barry Kelly (Dean), Dr. Anthony Ryan, Dr Colin Cantwell, Ms Mary Morrissey (HSE), Dr. Jonathan Dodd, Dr. Marie Staunton (MUH) - Convenor, Dr Anne Walsh



International Affairs Committee

The overseas teaching programme in Kuwait underwent serious expansion in 2013 with approval of four higher training posts for Kuwaiti Fellowship trainees who will now come to teaching hospitals in Ireland to complete their 5th year. This is the result of a great deal of hard work and negotiation by the Dean and senior Faculty Officers.

Following negotiation, the Faculty has been invited to continue to conduct the radiology training programme in Kuwait for several further years and a contract has been signed.

The Coordinator, Dr James Masterson, has put together full Part I and Part II programmes for 2013 and the programme for 2014 is being drawn up. This enlarged teaching programme has required a larger teaching Faculty and we are happy to report that many newly appointed Irish Radiologists have expressed an interest.

Interviews in Kuwait for Part I candidates took place in May 2013 and six candidates were selected. Dr Masterson and Dr McInerney attended for these interviews.

The Part I Fellowship Examinations took place in Kuwait on 13th May. 19 candidates sat and 7 passed the exam. Part II Fellowship examinations were conducted in Kuwait in November 2012. 12 candidates sat and 3 passed the exam.

The Faculty is grateful to the members of the International Affairs Committee for their work throughout the year. In Kuwait, the programme is supported by 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, Prof. Mehraj Sheikh.

The Faculty hopes to extend its academic programme in the Arabian Gulf in coming years in association with the other medical colleges in Dublin which have formed the Medical Validation Ireland organisation, based in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The academic representation of the Faculty is enhanced by the existence of an international training programme which has developed steadily over the years. Radiologists in Ireland who are interested in participating in these programmes are cordially invited to communicate with Faculty Officers.

Dr. David McInerney
Chair, International Affairs Committee



Radiation Protection Committee

There are a number of ongoing activities in the area of Radiation Protection involving the Faculty of Radiologists, the National Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC), the Radiation Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) and the National Clinical Radiology Programme.

The National Radiation Safety Committee carried out its third survey in relation to population dose addressing both General X-ray imaging and Nuclear Medicine Scans. The survey commenced in 2011. All X-ray and Nuclear Medicine holders, both public and private, on the HSE register of ionising radiation installations were surveyed. A 100% response rate was achieved for Nuclear Medicine holders, while the response rate amongst holders of X-ray installations was 64%. The collective dose (total dose to the population) from General X-ray was found to be of 0.05 millisieverts (mSv) per annum per head of population and the collective dose from Nuclear Medicine scans was found to 0.02mSv per annum per head of population. The doses are comparable with other European countries recently surveyed. Full details are available on the HSE website.

The National Radiology Programme and the Faculty of Radiologists had a number of discussions on the requirement for referral criteria in Ireland and the proposal to adopt the most recent RCR UK Referral Criteria (iRefer) as national criteria has been accepted. The Radiology Programme aims to make the referral criteria widely available to relevant users to facilitate their implementation and use. It is hoped to launch the Criteria in the coming months in partnership with the Radiology Programme and the National Radiation Safety Committee.

There are impending changes to the legislation relating to responsibility for the regulation of patient protection from ionising radiation in Ireland. European regulations require standards, protocols and processes to be in place for the justification and optimisation of medical ionising radiation procedures. The regulations also require standards for equipment testing and maintenance and for risk management and accidental exposures. These regulations are in effect in Ireland in Statutory Instrument 478 (2002) and its amendments. In most European countries, including Ireland, the implementation of the directives has been the responsibility of more than one competent authority and regulator. It has been recognised at European level that this has led to considerable overlap. The proposed revision of the Basic Safety Standards (BSS), which covers staff and public safety, will

now incorporate the Medical Exposure Directive. The process will now involve the drawing up of standards in relation to patient radiation protection following consultation with all the relevant stakeholders with subsequent implementation and enforcement of these standards by an independent body, possibly the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). It is due to be ratified in 2013 and will likely be transposed into Irish legislation in 2015.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on this committee and in the other organisations for their invaluable advice, help and support during the year.

Documents relating to Radiation Protection are available on the Faculty website: www.radiology.ie/practice/radiation-protection/

Dr. Patricia Cunningham
Chair, Radiation Protection Committee



The **Annual Scientific Meeting** was held from the 27th – 29th of September 2012. In addition to the scientific sessions on the Thursday morning and afternoon we had an excellent session on GI vascular emergencies.

On the Friday morning there was a change in format with several short talks on head and neck topics followed by a session on the management of thyroid nodules which included a very useful question and answer session between the audience and the speakers.

The afternoon had a great update on stroke by our Neuroradiology colleagues in Beaumont including some wonderful videos by patients who had undergone successful stroke therapy.

The Honorary fellows, Professors Robert Hermans and Jonathan Kruskal delivered the Houghton and Honorary Fellow lectures.

In a new departure, the faculty undergraduate and postgraduate prizes were awarded prior to the conferring of honorary fellowship ceremony and the dinner.

On the Saturday, there was a session on Radiology performance improvement, PCS and QA followed by presentations by SpRs on practice based learning.

The **Irish MRI Meeting (IMRIM)** was held on Saturday February 2nd 2013 at Carton House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. The theme of the meeting was “Musculoskeletal MRI”. The meeting was completely full. Parallel sessions were again successfully run in the morning. In addition to clinical, physics and radiology talks on metal on metal imaging and hip implants, there were great talks on hip, sports and arthrographic imaging and an insider’s view of the London 2012 Olympics.

The theme of next years meeting will be Cardiovascular MRI and will be held at the same venue on Saturday January 25th 2014.

The **Combined Spring Meeting** took place in Belfast on April 19th – 20th. Again the meeting was completely full. The meeting was expanded to a full day and a half offering including 18 talks on a wide variety of topics, an additional audit session and a total of 9.5 hours of CME. On the evening there was an opportunity to tour the Titanic exhibit, followed by dinner and ample opportunities for photographs on the “Titanic staircase”. On the Saturday afternoon there was a new feature with mock vivas and rapid reporting sessions for the SpRs (North and South) at the Royal Victoria Hospital with positive feedback from the SpRs for the venture.

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 attendance at meetings and for reviewing the scientific paper and poster abstracts for the meetings.

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

Dr. Declan Sheppard
Chair, Scientific Committee

Honorary Conferring 2012



Left to right:
Professor Dermot Malone (Honorary Treasurer 2010-2012);
Professor Mary Gospodarowicz (Honorary Fellow);
Dr Adrian Brady (Dean 2010-2012);
Professor Jonathan Kruskal (Honorary Fellow);
Dr Barry Kelly (Dean-Elect 2011-2012);
Professor Robert Hermans (Honorary Fellow);
Dr Maeve Pomeroy (Board Member)



Validation Committee

I would like to thank my predecessor Dr PK Ellis for all his work and commitment to this committee over the recent years. The Validation Committee continues to assess a large volume of applications for the Specialist Division Register (SDR), referred to us by the Medical Council. I am extremely grateful to the members of the committee for their tireless work and enthusiasm in assessing these applications. At present we are up to date with applications for the SDR in both Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology.

We, together with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, have been in recent discussion with the Medical Council regarding the updating of the processes of both application and assessment. At the time of writing we are re-designing the application packs for both Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology. These discussions are ongoing and will lead to a more streamlined and efficient system in the near future.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jennifer O'Brien and her team for their hard work in this vital area of Faculty activity.

Dr. Eoin Kavanagh
Chair, Validation Committee.



ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES 2012/2013

Finance and General Purpose Committee

The Faculty accounts for the year ended 30th September 2012 were prepared with the assistance of Mr. Eugene Kent, Finance Department, RCSI and audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

This was the second year in which the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) has been in place. Membership of this committee includes: current and former deans, Hon. Sec., Hon. Treas., Vice Dean, Radiation Oncologist, Faculty Executive Officer, RCSI Finance and Human Resources representatives. This committee manages the business affairs of the Faculty.

The MAC reports through the Finance and General Purpose Committee (F&GP) 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 2013.

The Faculty relationship with the Medical Education and Training (MET) division of the HSE remains cordial and productive. MET provide the necessary funding to support the day-to-day running of the Faculty, provide a rent allowance for the Faculty Offices and fund 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 purchased are being used to enhance the basic interventional Radiology skills course and allow the development of a 'competence-based' module in the technical aspects of diagnostic ultrasound scanning. The purchased iMAC Computers are also being used to digitize and store cases for the Faculty (FFR RCSI) examinations.

Negotiations with MET for funding for the 2013-2014 academic year are currently underway. The Dean has ably represented the Faculty at the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies.

Radiation Oncology training in Ireland is now being managed through the Faculty offices rather than through St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin. This year Ms. Lorraine Coughlan was appointed to provide administrative support for Radiation Oncology. There is transparent split accounting for Radiology and Radiation Oncology.

Ms. Jennifer O'Brien, Executive Officer continues her excellent representation of the Faculty at meetings with RCSI, ESR, sponsors and outside agencies. Ms. Karen Milling continues to ably work as the Operations Assistant with a major role in day-to-day Faculty activities and Ms. Sarah Drumm continues to efficiently manage our 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.

The committee have considered the issue of increasing Faculty space requirements. Additional space is required to facilitate the Faculty administrative, meeting rooms and examination facilities. There are plans in draft form within the existing Faculty location, RCSI House. The additional space will increase Faculty rental payments to RCSI. However, RCSI Estate Office accept that our rental payments are not in line with other colleges and Faculties. Negotiations are on-going to reduce our rental payments accordingly. Faculty rent and space are entirely separate and independent issues.

My sincere thanks to the Dean, Honorary Secretary and the F&GP & MAC 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.

Dr Max F Ryan
Honorary Treasurer
Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee



Honorary Secretary's Report

Changes to the Faculty Board

At the Board meeting in October 2012, Dr Brady handed over proceedings to the incoming Dean, Dr Barry Kelly. Those leaving the Board (Dr Clare Faul, Dr Peter Ellis and Dr Peter Kavanagh) were thanked for their work. The Dean welcomed Dr Jerome Coffey, Dr James Clarke and Dr Anthony Ryan to the Board.

Since the last AGM in September 2012, there have so far been 4 Board meetings. Another 2 are scheduled to take place before the next AGM.

The Board of the Faculty for the year 2012/2013 was constituted as follows:

Dean	Barry Kelly/ RVH Belfast 2008-2013
Hon Secretary	Dermot Malone/ SVUH Dublin 2009-2014
Hon Treasurer	Max Ryan/ CUH Cork 2009-2014
Vice Dean	Niall Sheehy/ SJH Dublin 2010-2015
Previous Dean	Adrian Brady/ MUH Cork 2007-2013
Chair Education	Barry Kelly/ RVH Belfast 2008-2013
Chair Science	Declan Sheppard/ Portiuncula 2011-2016
Chair CME/QA	Anthony Ryan/ Waterford 2012-2017
Chair Radiation Oncology	Jerome Coffey/ St. Luke's Network 2012-2017
Radiation Oncology QA	Maeve Pomeroy/ UCH Galway 2009-2014
Chair Radiation Protection	Patricia Cunningham/ Drogheda & N.E. 2011-2016
Chair Validation	Eoin Kavanagh/ MMUH Dublin 2011-2016
Research Committee (New)	Mark Elliott/ RVH Belfast 2012-2017
Examinations Committee (New)	James Clarke/ RVH Belfast 2012-2017
Chair International Affairs	David McNerney

Dr McNerney also kindly agreed to take on the role of Archivist for the Faculty.

Honorary Fellows 2012/ 2013

The Dean is to be congratulated on proposing and successfully inviting Seamus Heaney (Nobel Prize-Winning Poet) to be an Emeritus Honorary Fellow. The fact that his father was a boyhood acquaintance of the bard and is mentioned in one of his poems undoubtedly did no harm! On a more conventional note the internationally recognised Thoracic Radiologist Prof. T McLoud of Massachusetts General Hospital has accepted an Honorary Fellowship in Radiodiagnosis and Prof. P. Devlin of the Division of Brachytherapy, Dana Farber/Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, is the Honorary Fellow in Radiation Oncology. The presence of a non-Radiologist Emeritus Fellow has allowed the Scientific Committee to open up one strand of sessions throughout the ASM as 'The Gathering' – Faculty Fellows and Members from all over the world who qualified in Ireland in the 80's, 90's and 'naughties' are coming home to share their expertise and experience with us at the 2013 ASM.

Faculty interaction with other organisations

Over recent years the functions of the Faculty have gradually expanded from supervision of a largely educational organisation to include the additional task of extended liaison with local, national and international authorities on behalf of its Fellows and Members. Locally, liaison with the Surgery & Postgraduate Faculties Board, RCSI, ensures policies are synergistic with those of other RCSI Faculties. Nationally, relevant bodies now include the National Radiology Programme, the Medical Education and Training Department of the HSE (MET), the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the Medical Council (which has delegated an increasing and important role to the Faculty in the mandatory Professional Competence Scheme, Specialist Register Validation, Quality Assurance programme and new Accreditation mechanisms). Internationally, they include the Clinical Radiology Specialty Training Board, Royal College of Radiologists, UK; the European Society of Radiology (Education Committee, National Societies Committee, Professional Organisation Committee and Research Committee) as well as the ESR Leadership Meetings; the American College of Radiology and the RSNA. As more of our trainees emigrate with currently poor short-term prospects for return and an increasingly restrictive U.S. educational establishment the Dean is instigating discussions with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology about recognition of the FFRRCSI within their jurisdiction.

The Faculty has also absorbed the National Radiation Oncology training programme (which has evolved from the St. Luke's Hospital training programme) into its MET-funded structures. All of this activity has occurred on a background of increasingly rigid contractual commitments and service workload monitoring for Consultants. The Board is currently examining options for re-structuring its Executive positions to enhance the opportunities for participation in its affairs by Radiologists from all Irish hospitals.

The Faculty and the European Society of Radiology (ESR)

Dr. E. Breatnach has concluded his term as a member of the Executive Committee of ESR and Chairman of its Education Committee. This committee published the Revised European Training Curriculum in Radiology in February 2013. He is currently the Chief Examiner of the Examiners Board of the European Diploma in Radiology. Dr. A. Brady and Dr. B. Kelly examine in this examination and are keeping the Board up to date with its development. It will undoubtedly grow in importance as a pan-European standard examination. Dr. B. Kelly represents the Faculty on the ESR Education, Professional Organisation and National Society Committees during 2012-2013. Prof. D. Malone represented the Faculty at the Research Committee briefing during ECR 2013. Dr. A. Ryan (Chair, PCS/QA Committee) sits on the 'Self-Assessment' subcommittee of the ESR Educational Committee as the CIRSE representative.

Faculty Administrative Staff

The Faculty now employs three full-time and one part-time staff members. The Executive Officer is Ms. Jennifer O'Brien. She supervises and co-ordinates the work of Ms. Karen Milling (Operations Officer, Diagnostic Radiology), Ms. Lorraine Coughlan (Operations Officer, Radiation Oncology) and Ms. Sarah Drumm (Operations Officer, PCS). The Dean, Board, Fellows and Members of the Faculty remain indebted to this excellent team for their good-humoured, willing, expert and comprehensive assistance with all aspects of our increasingly complex affairs. We also extend our thanks to Mr. Eugene Kent (RCSI Finance) and Mr. Gary Brady (RCSI HR) for their advice and support over the past year.

Board Photo – May 2013



Back Row (L-R):

Dr. Mark Elliott, Dr. Anthony Ryan, Dr. Max Ryan, Dr. Adrian Brady, Dr. Declan Sheppard, Dr. James Clarke

Front Row (L-R):

Dr. Jerome Coffey, Dr. Niall Sheehy, Dr. Barry Kelly (Dean), Professor Dermot Malone, Dr. Patricia Cunningham

Meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Radiologists

Since the last AGM, in September 2012, there have been six Board Meetings, in October, November 2012, February, April, May and June 2013.

The Board of the Faculty for the year 2012/2013 was constituted as follows:

DEAN	TERM OF OFFICE	MEETINGS ATTENDED
BARRY KELLY	2008 – 2013 (Elected Dean 2012-2014)	6
VICE-DEAN		
NIALL SHEEHY	2010 – 2015	5
HONORARY SECRETARY		
DERMOT MALONE	2009 – 2014	6
HONORARY TREASURER		
MAX RYAN	2009 – 2014	4
BOARD MEMBERS		
MAEVE POMEROY	2009 – 2014	2
PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM	2011 – 2016	6
MARK ELLIOTT	2011 – 2016	5
EOIN KAVANAGH	2011 – 2016	2
DECLAN SHEPPARD	2011 – 2016	4
ANTHONY RYAN	2012 – 2017	5
JEROME COFFEY	2012 – 2017	5
JAMES CLARKE	2012 – 2017	4
ADRIAN BRADY	2007-2012 (Dean 2010 – 2012)	5

Prof Dermot Malone
Honorary Secretary



EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

As Faculty members will know there are three major bodies representing radiologists' interests on an European level. These are the ESR (European Society of Radiology), UEMS (Union of European Medical Specialties), and the most recent addition being the EBR (European Board of Radiology). The European Board of Radiology was created in response to the acknowledged necessity for a separate, independent, and unique authority to oversee standards of radiologic practice on a European level. Though the shareholders of this body and its initial financial support has come from the European Society of Radiology the governance structures are stand alone, and consist of a scientific board with various committees reporting to that board which is chaired by the scientific director. I have had the privilege of serving as the first scientific director of this body and my term of office ends in 2013. The main initiative of the European Board of Radiology has been the development, and expansion of the European Diploma in Radiology. Since its inauguration at ECR in 2011 the examination has gone from strength to strength, and is now held three times per annum. The examination consists of three components. There is a multiple choice section of 60 MRQs, a web based image interrogation section and an oral component. The examination is web based, with state of the art technology. Examination material is submitted through representatives of the subspecialty societies, and examiners and material is based on the curriculum requirements in the 12 major subspecialties of radiology as laid out in the European curriculum for general radiology. To date the pass rate has averaged 85%, and the difficulty level is on a par with FFRRCSI Part II. Basic sciences including physics are also included in the examination, but not as a separate Part I entity.

The oral component of the examination is carried out by two examiners of international repute as educators, and based on 2 x 20 minute sessions per candidate. This component is also web based, simulating a full PACS radiology system.

Each year an examination takes place coinciding with ECR in Vienna, followed by other examination sessions coinciding with major national radiology meetings, to date Spain and France. At these sessions the written component remains in English, but the oral component is available to candidates in their native language. The rotating examination sessions are planned to be expanded, and this year alone will include examinations coinciding with SFR (Paris), ESGAR (Barcelona), Turkey (Antalya).

Though the examination does not have a regulatory credential at present it has been accepted that it is a national qualification in Poland, and planned to be in Spain. It is envisaged that through such national recognition the aim of an overall regulatory European Board of Radiology is a realistic prospect in the medium term.

A time difficulty for Irish graduates taking this examination has been a problem. Reflecting the European Training Charter recommendation of a five year training period in general radiology eligibility criteria for the examination have to date included the requirement of candidates to be within their final year of training. For Irish candidates, who generally take Part II FFRRCSI at an earlier time during training, enthusiasm among Irish graduates in taking EDiR has suffered. In an attempt to solve this situation in future the examination may be taken in the last year of training, but that the awarding of the full diploma would not take place until the end of training, which would also require signing off by the Faculty of Radiologists of the full 5 year training period for the Radiologist concerned. A solution is the proposal that the examination could be taken before the end of training, and that the awarding of the diploma would require signing off by the Faculty of a five year training period by the radiologist concerned.

There has been a close cooperation between the Faculty and the European Board of Radiology, and I am delighted that both our present Dean, Dr Barry Kelly, and Past Dean, Dr Adrian Brady are now part of the examining team for EDiR. I believe it is important for the Faculty and Irish Radiology that Faculty representation at the highest level in European Radiology should continue.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage younger radiologists to take an interest in European Radiology, through active participation in the many committees and fora available on that platform.

At the end of my tenure I am pleased to say that a completely new initiative in radiology education at a European level has been initiated, consolidated, and the EDiR ship is well launched and underway.

I believe that as an initiative it will in the medium to long term have a major effect on structures and quality of patient care in European radiology resulting in a standardised qualification which vouches a good standard of knowledge for radiologists coming from different and distinct training backgrounds. The potential for EDiR to have a similar regulatory status as the equivalent American Boards in USA is a real prospect in the medium to long term.

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



Breast Radiology Sub-Group Annual Report 2012/2013

The Breast Sub Group of the Faculty met as usual during the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Radiologists.

Once again there was a discussion on the key performance indicators collected from the 8 Breast Cancer Centres for the National Cancer Control Program. The key performance indicators are being met by all the units.

The members of the sub group who assisted HIQA in the HTA for family history reported back to the sub group. This HTA is now complete and the recommendations are being considered by the National Cancer Control Program. There will be implications for Breast Radiologists resulting from this HTA and it appears there will be a considerable workload involved in providing imaging for patients with intermediate and high genetic risk.

The registrars from the hospital that do not have a symptomatic breast service, have been rotating through the cancer centres and have been facilitated in gaining experience in Breast Imaging prior to their final fellowship examination.

It was decided at the meeting to perform an Audit of the 8 cancer centres to determine the number of patients who are diagnosed with breast cancer by Radiologists. Data was obtained from 7 of the 8 units and of the 1,816 Breast Cancers diagnosed in the 7 units only 13 cancers were not diagnosed by imaged guided biopsy.

This indicates a very significant change in practice from 5 years ago, indicating now that most breast cancers are diagnosed on imaging and very few breast cancers are not identified and diagnosed during the routine imaging performed in the units.

There was also a discussion on workload issues and once again the workload is increasing. The referral numbers to symptomatic breast cancers have again increased and year on year there has been over a five fold increase in the number of patients requiring imaging over the last decade. It appears that consultant's posts have reached a steady state in breast imaging and it is not anticipated that there will be any new consultant vacancies in the next year.

Dr. Ann O'Doherty
Chair, Breast Radiology Subgroup



Nuclear Medicine Subgroup Report 2012

The Nuclear Medicine Sub Group met once again at the Faculty Annual Scientific Meeting in September 2012. The meeting was well attended by a broad range of consultants, radiographers and medical physicists.

The first presentation was from Prof. Valerie Lewington from King's College Hospital, London. Valerie presented research findings regarding Alpharadin Therapy for metastatic prostate carcinoma. This treatment is an intravenously administered Alpha emitter used for treatment of bone metastases in prostate carcinoma. This treatment has been shown to prolong survival. The presentation looked at the feasibility of providing this service in Ireland and of the efficacy of treatment. This was followed by a discussion regarding the practicality of treatment and potential side effects.

The second presentation was from Laurence Foulsham of PETNET Solutions. This presentation looked at new biomarkers available in PET CT imaging. The presentation and discussion consisted of a practical look at how to introduce tracers other than F18 FDG into PET CT imaging practice in Ireland north and south. There exists considerable technical difficulty with the transfer of short acting radiopharmaceuticals including F18 labelled radiopharmaceuticals from the UK to Ireland, mainly based on the long transport times and difficulties with clearing Customs. A number of the more advanced tracers could not be produced economically in Ireland due to the small size of the market. A potential exception to this would be Gallium 68 DOTATOC Imaging for metastatic neuroendocrine tumours. There is a potential to have this produced locally by generator, provided enough PET/CT centres agree to use this radiopharmaceutical on a routine basis. The difficulty in transporting more costly radiotracers including the new amyloid plaque imaging agents does not have an obvious solution at this point in time. A potential solution might be transferred to an alternative airport location within the Dublin city area.

During the year, a detailed summary letter outlining a discussion previously held by the Nuclear Medicine Sub Group regarding PET/CT training for specialist registrars in Ireland was submitted to the Education Committee of the Faculty of Radiologists. This outlines a plan for training for First Year Registrars and for the final FFR RCSI examination. It is noted that most training centres have a natural referral base for PET/CT and that there are Radiologists or Nuclear Medicine Physicians trained in PET/CT interpretation at each site.

Dr. Martin O'Connell
Chair, Nuclear Medicine Subgroup



Faculty IT Developments

This has been a year of consolidation for the Faculty's IT systems. The electronic exam has now been held for the Part I and Part II fellowship candidates both in Dublin and Kuwait. The Part I is now delivered entirely electronically. The Part II Vivas are the only segments of the exam that still use film. The system has functioned reliably and been well received by candidates and examiners.

There has been extension of the functionality of MedHub, which is now used for trainee assessments and logbooks. There have also been some additions to the CPD functionality, which will continue to be modified based on user feedback.

The faculty website has been redesigned and the final part of this project will be to introduce full electronic payment facilities for member subscriptions, CPD and events. This has been a more complex project than originally thought but should be finished soon.

I acknowledge the great assistance of the chief examiners, Jennifer, Sarah and Karen in helping to design, test and use the systems. Feedback from Faculty members on all of the IT systems that affect them is very important and I encourage any member with comments or suggestions to contact me directly - nsheehy@stjames.ie

Dr. Niall Sheehy

National Clinical Radiology Programme

iRefer

The HSE, under advice from the national radiology programme and the Faculty of Radiologists has licensed the current edition of the Royal College of Radiology's 'Making the best use of Clinical Radiology', now also known as iRefer for use by Irish radiology departments, public and private. Many of you will be familiar with the old booklet but the current version is also available on-line and as an app for iPhone and Android. iRefer constitutes a series of evidence based assessments of imaging tests in various clinical scenarios. For each clinical scenario imaging tests are rated against appropriateness, cost and radiation dose. iRefer is not intended to be used as a rigid protocol prescribing exact tests that must be performed in given clinical scenarios but rather as a basis from which such protocols can be developed, if needed. It is not intended to replace existing clinical referral pathways. We hope that it will have a positive effect on the appropriateness of referrals for diagnostic imaging tests in every radiology department. We encourage every radiology department to encourage its use among their referring doctors. Local audits have shown that the proportion of appropriate referrals improves when referral criteria are clearly discussed and communicated with referrers.

The website will become available from the first of July and Ciara Norton (Ciara.norton@hse.ie) is co-ordinating the mechanism for each hospital to be given access. Access for GPs is being discussed with the ICGP. Please contact Ciara if your hospital or group is unable to access these guidelines.

Dr Niall Sheehy

Dr Peter Kavanagh

Cardiac Imaging Subgroup

2012 continued to see the steady development of Cardiac Imaging throughout the country in cardiac CT and MRI. All our tertiary referral centres now provide cardiac CT and MRI services, a reflection of the level of interest amongst radiologists in providing this imaging sub-specialty. We are also seeing increasing reports of direct GP referrals for cardiac CT, something to be encouraged as we move forward.

Education

We continue to increasingly incorporate cardiac CT and MRI into the educational curriculum, with an ongoing series of cardiac CT and MRI-specific lectures for both the Part I and Part II Faculty lecture series for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Registrars. We aim to broaden the curriculum to include lectures on previously non-emphasized topics such as echocardiography, and to increase the cardiac component of much of the exam. 5th year Registrars now have an option to apply in several centres for one-year 5th Year Interventional Radiology-Cardiac Imaging training, a recent modification to what has been traditionally IR-only. Looking beyond the Fellowship exam to North American fellowships, the recent change in ACGME requirements for accredited fellowships

has meant we have had to work harder at maintaining our links with our US colleagues regarding fellowship opportunities in cardiac imaging in the US. The subgroup is committed to doing this going forward, with positive responses from enquiries with centres such as Massachusetts General Hospital and Chicago Memorial Hospital. Regarding educational courses, an increased number of cardiac imaging courses are evident in Radiology (Belfast Cardiac CT course 2013, RCR have a large cardiac imaging component at this year's CRASM course). It is our hope that the Cardiac Imaging Group of the Faculty will have a strong presence at the next Siemens National Educational Meeting. It is pertinent to note that the theme of the next Irish MRI Users Group Meeting will be cardiovascular, and we hope to have several speakers from the Cardiac subgroup at that meeting. Thus, cardiac imaging continues to play an increasing role within the educational curriculum of the Faculty.

Europe

The reduced membership fee for members of the Cardiac Imaging Group negotiated in 2011 with the European Society of Cardiac Radiology (ESCR) continues to attract increasing membership, and we encourage all radiologists with an interest in cardiac CT and/or cardiac MRI to join the society. Its annual scientific meeting continues to enjoy an expanding attendance and of course, is recognized as one of the Faculty accredited European Courses for CPD.

Dr Jonathan Dodd

Chair, Cardiac Imaging Subgroup

Faculty of Radiologists

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

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



RCSI

2nd February 2013

IMRIM Meeting, Carton House Maynooth

25th February 2013

Part I Mock Exam, TR5

28th February 2013

SPFB meeting

7th to 11th March 2013

ECR, Vienna

8th & 9th April 2013

Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

19th & 20th April 2013

Combined Spring Meeting, Belfast

25th April 2013

SPFB meeting

2nd & 3rd May 2013

Final FFR Radiotherapy

10th & 11th May 2013

Management Course

13th & 14th May 2013

Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

4th to 7th June 2013

ESGAR, Barcelona, Spain

27th June 2013

SPFB meeting

1st July 2013

Postgraduate Conferring

2nd & 3rd September 2013

Primary FFR Radiodiagnosis

26th to 28th September 2013

Annual Scientific Meeting and Dinner (Venue: RCSI, Dublin)

14th & 15th November 2013

Final FFR Radiotherapy

18th & 19th November 2013

Final FFR Radiodiagnosis

1st to 6th December 2013

RSNA

9th December 2013

Postgraduate Conferring

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2012 / 2013

Radiation Oncology Committee

Chairperson	Dr. J. Coffey Dr. C. Faul Dr. M. Pomeroy Dr. P. Thirion Dr. C. McGibney Dr. J. Martin Dr. D. Fitzpatrick Dr. C. Gillham Dr. S. Brennan Dr. D. Cagney	St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway National Training Co-Ordinator Cork University Hospital, Cork University College Hospital, Galway St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Trainee Representative
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr. M. Ryan	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Professional Competence and Quality Assurance Committee

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

Education Committee

Chairperson	Dr. B. Kelly Dr. L. Duddy Dr. M. Staunton Dr. C. Brenner Dr. J. Feeney Dr. A. Ryan Dr. S. O'Keeffe Dr. L. Lawler Dr. M. O'Keeffe Dr. E. Laffan Dr. C. Cantwell Dr. J. Bruzzi Dr. P. Thirion Dr. T. Geoghegan Dr. C. McGibney Dr. D Cagney Dr. N. Hambly Dr. M. Elliott Dr. J. Donnellan Dr. J. Clarke	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 Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Trainee Representative Children's University Hospital, Temple St. St. Vincent's Hospital University College Hospital, Galway St. Luke's Hospital Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Cork University Hospital St. Luke's Trainee Representative Beaumont Hospital Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast Trainee Representative Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Ex-Officio	Prof. D. Malone Dr. M. Ryan	Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2012 / 2013

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Chairperson	Dr. M. Ryan Dr. D. Brophy Dr. L. Lawler Dr. N. Sheehy Dr. C. A. Daly Dr. J. Coffey Dr. S. Ryan	Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists St. Vincent's Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital St. James's Hospital Waterford Regional Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Children's University Hospital, Temple Street
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists

International Affairs Committee

Chairperson	Dr. D. McNerney Dr. J. Masterson Dr. E. Kavanagh Dr. N. Murphy Dr. J. Kelleher Dr. É. Breatnach Dr. J. Stack	Charlemont Clinic Dublin Mater Misericordiae Hospital Galway Dublin Dublin Dublin
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr M. Ryan	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. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr M. Ryan	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Scientific Committee

Chairperson	Dr. D. Sheppard Prof. W. Torreggiani Dr. P.K. Ellis Dr. C. Collins Dr. J. Heneghan Dr. L. Lawler Dr. M Elliott Dr. P. Cunningham	Galway Roscommon University Hospitals Adelaide & Meath Hospital Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast St. Vincent's University Hospital Waterford Regional Hospital Mater Misericordiae Hospital Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr. M. Ryan	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2012 / 2013

Validation Committee

Chairperson	Dr. E. Kavanagh Prof. W. Torreggiani Dr. J. Coffey Dr. D. Sheppard Dr. P.K. Ellis Dr. P. Cunningham	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Adelaide & Meath National Children's Hospital St. Luke's Hospital Galway Roscommon University Hospitals Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof. D. Malone Dr. M. Ryan	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

Nuclear Medicine Committee

Chairperson	Dr. M. O'Connell Dr. J. Clarke Dr. B. Hogan Dr. N. Sheehy Dr. R. McDermott Dr. L. Wilson Dr. J. Feeney Dr. S. Skehan Dr. C. Collins Dr. R. Killeen	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght St. James's Hospital St. James's Hospital Blackrock Clinic Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght St. Vincent's University Hospital St. Vincent's University Hospital St. Vincent's University Hospital
Ex-Officio	Dr. B. Kelly Prof D.Malone Dr M. Ryan	Dean, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Secretary, Faculty of Radiologists Honorary Treasurer, Faculty of Radiologists

DEANS OF THE FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

2012 – 2014	Dr. Barry Kelly
2010 – 2012	Dr. Adrian Brady
2008 – 2010	Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide
2006 – 2008	Professor Peter McCarthy
2004 – 2006	Dr. Éamann Breatnach
2002 - 2004	Dr. David McInerney
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
1981 - 1983	Dr. Patrick McCann
1979 - 1981	Professor 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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