FACULTY OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY
40TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY
1974 - 2014

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE
Ms Mary Frances Crowley
Founder Dean of the
Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
1974 - 1979
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the assistance received from Board Members, Fellows of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, and staff members of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. We would like to acknowledge our administrator Lorraine Harte for her contribution to the work. We are also grateful to Meadhbh Murphy of RCSI Archives who has been unfailingly helpful.

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NOTES ON THE AUTHORS

John Adams

John is a nurse historian who serves on the committee of the Royal College of Nursing History of Nursing Society in the UK. He contributes nursing obituaries to the journal Nursing Standard, and his most recent publication, The nursing role in the use of insulin coma therapy for schizophrenia in Britain, 1936 – 1965, forms part of a study examining the recent history of mental health nursing practice. In 2013 he was made a Fellow ad eundem of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI.

Marie Carney

Marie is the current Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, having been appointed in March 2014. She is also Associate Professor of Nursing in RCSI and Co-Chair of the RCSI Surgical and Post Graduate Faculties Board. Between 1994 and 2008, she was a lecturer in nursing in UCD, serving as Head of the UCD School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2001-2005 and Head of the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems from 2005-2007. A fuller biography can be found later in this book.
Thomas Kearns

Thomas is the Executive Director of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, having been appointed in April 2014. He is responsible for the strategic and operational management of the Faculty and is accountable to the Faculty Board. Between September 2001 and April 2014 he worked in professional regulation in the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (formerly An Bord Altranais). He was accountable for setting standards, quality assuring, approving and monitoring Continuous Professional Development and Post Graduate Nursing Education nationally. He was responsible for the standard setting and audit of programmes leading to Registration as a Psychiatric Nurse, Public Health Nurse, Nurse Prescriber and Nurse Tutor. A fuller biography can be found later in this book.
Mr Declan J. Magee
President of RCSI
2014-
PREFACE

President of RCSI: Mr Declan J. Magee

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was founded in 1784 by Royal Charter and has been involved in health sciences education ever since. It was almost 200 years later before the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery in Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was established in 1974. This might suggest a failure by our College to appreciate the importance of nursing education but nothing could be further from the truth.

By the end of the 19th Century, there was a plethora of small, independent, nurse training schools and an initiative, which resulted in the establishment of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses, was actively supported and sponsored by RCSI. This School, founded in 1893, was reputed to be the first centralised nurse training school, providing formal education and a single examination to supplement the practical, clinical training at the separate hospital sites, and continued in existence until 1969.

The issue of importance in the early 20th Century centred on nurse registration and, in the absence of a State Register, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland proposed and assisted in the establishment of the Irish Nursing Board in 1917. This initiative may have prompted Government action because the Nurses’ Registration (Ireland) Act which became law in December 1919 resulted in the creation, in February 1920, of the General Nursing Council for Ireland, the precursor of An Bord Altranais.

In this publication we celebrate 40 years of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Founded in 1974, by its first Dean, Mary Frances Crowley, Matron of the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital, Dublin, the Faculty has been led and loyally served by twelve further Deans from a wide spectrum of Irish Nursing. The Faculty has been an important catalyst for change in this time of great evolution and development and has been a staunch proponent of further education and research and a champion for professionalism for nurses.

We are justifiably proud of the activities of the Faculty, wish it warm congratulations on its 40th Anniversary, and continued success for the future.
The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has a rich heritage in nursing and midwifery and has led in education and research for nurses and midwives since 1974, using technology, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit. The Faculty was founded in 1974 by Mary Frances Crowley, who was Matron of the Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin, and is one of the longest serving nursing schools in Ireland and the only Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. It was founded at a time when the professionalisation of nursing was commencing and which she contributed greatly to.

Miss Crowley was an inspired nurse who saw the benefits to patients, hospitals and to nurses of the further development of nursing education. The Faculty is celebrating its 40th year of existence this year with the publication of this history. Interviews that capture the “past, present and future” of the Faculty have also been recorded.

A total of 120 Foundation members were inaugurated in 1975 and a further 120 Foundation members in 1976. The Faculty is governed by the Board of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery which is composed of the Dean and 12 members, all of whom are elected from nurses and midwives who are Fellows of the Faculty. Since its inception in 1974, a total of 12 Deans have formed the governance structure along with the Board. Miss Catherine Flanagan was instrumental in the development of administrative structures, and Prof Cecily Begley in educational development in the 80’s and 90’s, as was Ms Kay Kinirons in later years.

Prof Seamus Cowman was instrumental in academic development alongside the Deans and Boards of the Faculty and dedicated academic and administrative staff up to 2013. Professor Zena Moore is the current Professor of Nursing and Head of the School of Nursing. A School of Nursing was formed under the aegis of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in 2006. Profiles of Faculty Deans, current Board members and academic staff are presented in this Commemorative History. Fellowships in Nursing and Midwifery form the key to the Faculty’s renowned and take different forms: Fellowships by Examination,
Past and Present Staff of Faculty and School of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI
Left to right: Professor Marie Carney, Ms Joyce Cousins, Professor Zena Moore, Mr James Hayes, Dr Georgina Gethin, Dr Gillian Paul, Ms Niamh Regan, Professor Seamus Cowman, Ms Deirdre Hyland, Ms Mary O’Neill, Ms Catherine Clune Mulvaney, Ms Chanel Watson
Honorary Fellowships and Fellowship Ad eundem. The first Fellowships by Examination were awarded in 1976 to 20 nurse and midwife graduates. Then the Fellowship was obtained following an arduous route that included six examinations, submission of an original piece of research, examination of a patient in the clinical area and a viva. Today, the Faculty when awarding Fellowships takes into account the prior learning, clinical and educational qualifications of nursing applicants as well as management and clinical experience and is based on a research thesis with portfolio and viva that are examined internally and by international experts in nursing.

Honorary Fellowships are awarded each year in recognition of recipient's outstanding contribution to society. The first Honorary Fellow appointed to the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery was Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in 1992. She was awarded the Fellowship at a ceremony in Rome which was attended by a delegation from the Faculty headed by Ms. Josephine Bartley, Dean. Also present were Ms. Brigid Walsh, former Dean; Ms. Una Murphy, Vice Dean; Ms. Eva Wall, Honorary Secretary; Ms. Catherine O’ Flanagan, Nursing Studies Course Coordinator and Mr. Grace, Chief Administrator and Academic Secretary, RCSI. Mother Theresa was followed by eminent nursing writers and educators including Patricia Benner and by social activists Alice Leahy, Sr Concilio Fitzgerald and Mary Davis. The former President of Ireland Mary McAleese was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in 1995. Fellowship Ad eundem are awarded each year to nurses and midwives in recognition of outstanding contribution to nursing education and clinical practice.

The Annual Research Conference of the Faculty is the longest running nursing and midwifery research conference held in Ireland. The conference is organised and run by the Faculty Board and the Faculty and School of Nursing academic and administrative staff, and is one of the highlights of the Faculty calendar. The first conference was held in 1981. A large number of research proposals are submitted by nurses and midwives of all disciplines of practice, from Ireland and abroad. The keynote speaker is always a well-known nurse or healthcare speaker and usually of international stature.

Students have the opportunity to display their posters based on their research at the conference. The Faculty dinner is held following the opening ceremony at the research conference and is legendary. Themed conference titles were introduced in 1991: some titles included: Strengthening Clinical Nursing through Knowledge; Practice Development: Meeting the Challenge; Advancing Nursing and Midwifery Practice and Performance in Modern Healthcare Systems;
Professor Zena Moore, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mr Thomas Kearns, Executive Director, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and Ms Catherine Clune Mulvaney, Board Member at the Annual Research Conference 2013
Integrating Care more Effectively: Unlocking the potential of Nursing and Midwifery and Nursing in Times of Austerity (2013). The first Nursing and Research conference in 1981 was organised by Prof Pearl Treacy alongside the Faculty Board. Key speakers were Baroness McFarlane who spoke on “Why Nursing Needs to Become Research Based” and Robert Dingwall spoke on the “Sociological Aspects of Nursing Research” on why nurse researchers’ should enter into partnerships with other disciplines.

In 1982, Prof. Kath Melia spoke on “Qualitative Research and Nursing,” advocating that qualitative research is as legitimate as quantitative research and that empirical work from many perspectives is needed to further knowledge. Prof Cowman extended this concept to triangulation research in a future conference. The Faculty in taking cognizance of this introduced research appreciation modules and the award of the First Janssen nursing research prize the following year.

Later the Milupa Research awards were presented annually between 1984 and 1994. The Irish Nursing Research Interest Group (INRIG) Research Bursaries were also awarded during the 1990’s. Other early keynote speakers were Prof Virginia Henderson and Prof Patricia Benner, USA and Prof Philip Darbyshire, University of Adelaide. An important contribution to scholarship was the foundation, in 1982, of the Faculty of Nursing Review that was edited for 10 years by Pearl Treacy. The founding committee was composed of Nuala Buggle, Amelda Burke, Patrick Cleary, Rosaleen Doyle, Annette Kennedy, Maura O’Hehir, Catherine Ryan and Kathleen Wilkin and by editorial advisors Brigid Walsh, Dean, Miss Bennett, Honorary Secretary, Rosanna Cunningham, Past Honorary Secretary and Ms Mattimoe, Vice-Dean. Material for the Nursing Review was drawn from research conference presentations.

An important historical committee resided in the Faculty of Nursing: The National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Ireland, formerly known as the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was inaugurated in Ireland on Feb 3 1995 and signed by the President of the Committee Brigid Walsh. Similar committees were formed in other countries in Europe since 1935 when first formed in London.

The main aims were to establish and maintain a permanent International memorial to Florence Nightingale in the form of an endowed Trust, to be devoted to educational purposes in connection with the nursing profession anywhere in the world, to stimulate the award of scholarships which would benefit nursing education and practice in all countries and to develop a section to house material relating to the life and work of Florence Nightingale.
in the library of the International Council of Nurses. The objective of the Irish committee was to advance the postgraduate education of nurses through the provision of scholarships to further their education. The first award presented by the committee was in 2007 to a BSc Nursing student obtaining the highest mark in the programme. Membership was composed of 15 registered nurses representative of the various specialities, members of the Red Cross Society and other members representing allied fields which could contribute to the advancement of nursing. This committee was dissolved in 2012.

Faculty Courses
Education modules for nurses were introduced in RCSI in 1971 before the inauguration of the Faculty and continued following Faculty inauguration. Academic modules were delivered in regional centres including Letterkenny, Sligo, Tralee, Monaghan and Athlone where nurses in these outreach areas could also avail of Faculty programmes. The centres were supported by Honorary Secretaries.

Modules taught included: Applied Physiology for Nurses, Pharmacology, Sociology, Philosophy, Research Practice, Legal and Ethical Aspects of Nursing, Counseling Theory for Nurses, Diploma in Practice Nursing and Gerontological Nursing. These modules were introduced as a result of changes mooted in nursing education and nursing research. Success in 6 modules was the first step toward the Fellowship in Nursing. Early diploma and degree programmes introduced in the Faculty were the Diploma in Nursing Administration, Bachelor of Nursing Studies (BNS) and the BSc Nursing Management (1994).

The Faculty supports students in developing research skills through several modules in research methods and advanced research methods at postgraduate, masters and PhD levels. A research unit was set up in 2009 to further develop nursing research. The Faculty focuses on ‘evidence-based’ practice in nursing which is promoted to students at all levels.

The Faculty continued to develop higher diplomas and graduate diplomas in clinical nursing, master’s programmes in nursing, advanced practice and leadership and many of our students have taken their PhD studies in the Faculty. The Faculty progressed to develop many innovative programmes in for example; Certificate in Nurse and Midwife Prescribing in 2007, the first in the country and now adopted by other universities; the Post Graduate Diploma (Clinical Research), in 2009, the first programme offering nurses’ clinical research methods applied to practice; Post Graduate Diplomas in Nursing (Wound Management & Tissue Viability in 2010, the Post Graduate Diplomas in Nursing
(Heart Failure), Haemodialysis, Breast Cancer, in 2013, the first graduate programmes developed for specific sub groups within heart, cancer and kidney in collaboration with Beaumont Hospital. The MSc Nursing Advanced Practice in neonatology and epilepsy were also a first in this country, commencing in 2011.

The 40th anniversary provides the Dean and Board of the Faculty with the opportunity to examine structures and governance for the future. In 2012, the Faculty Board appointed PwC to undertake a review to identify the governance that depicts best practice internationally from quality and governance perspectives, including developing the Faculty and School of Nursing in compliance with the National Framework of Qualifications. Mr. Thomas Kearns was appointed Executive Director of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, in 2014, to lead the Faculty forward under the direction of the Dean and Board.

**Conclusion**

I believe that nurses and midwives continue to undertake studies in the Faculty in large numbers because we offer them choice, progression and blended learning approaches to study that is based on evidence. The Faculty provides nurses and midwives, nurse managers and nurses engaged in the development of advanced clinical practice, with advanced knowledge that is relevant to enhancing nursing practice.

The Faculty fosters a questioning approach to knowledge development and to professional issues pertinent to leading patient care whilst focusing on an Irish setting but also on an international setting which many of our students today are. Academic staff are collaborating with European, American and Australian researchers so that they can bring international research to their students. The Faculty has always promoted collaborative health care research, knowledge and practice and continues to do this with our many clinical partners.

RCSI including the Faculty is embracing technology in support of student education, development and career development through distance, blended, interactive and web based methods of teaching and learning that are easy for students to access and to learn in at their own pace. The Faculty continues to promote excellence in clinical practice, knowledge and research through a questioning approach, that is evidence based, and that is deemed relevant to enhancing practice and delivering safe care to patients and the public. We develop students to masters/degree level nurse education and to advanced practice in the chosen clinical specialty, whilst ensuring professional nurses who are safe, caring, competent decision makers willing to accept personal and professional accountability for evidence based practice.
“The new Faculty would be one historic element in altering the status of the nursing profession”
INTRODUCTION

‘You now have a Faculty of Nursing’

The founding of the Faculty of Nursing of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was the successful conclusion of a protracted period of negotiation conducted by the leading nurse educationalist, Mary Frances Crowley, who was to become its first Dean.

The new Faculty was inaugurated in a colourful ceremony held in the examination hall of the College on the 30th October 1974, and a contemporary magazine provided an eyewitness account of the occasion: ‘Seventeen Founder-Members of the Faculty were inducted by the President of the College, their white and black gowns shining among the red and black of the College’s Council members and the greens of the Fellows of its several older and more medical Faculties. The red and white barber-surgeons’ poles and the great silver mace of the College were the decorative emblems of the tradition that was enriched by the admission of medicine’s sister profession.

For all its colour and all its significance, it was a simple ceremony. The Dean and Registrar of the College, Dr Harry O’Flanagan, introduced the nurses individually to the President, Mr J M McAuliffe Curtin. Miss Mary F Crowley, the first Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, read aloud the pledge to serve and uphold the professional ideals of her profession and of the Royal College of Surgeons. Her colleagues followed in unison, and all were then admitted founder members of the Faculty and congratulated by the President. ‘That’, said Dr O’Flanagan, ‘concludes the official ceremony. You now have a Faculty of Nursing.’

Mr McAuliffe Curtin welcomed the new members, noting that history was made on the day on which it occurred and that this was a most historic event. The new Faculty, he said, would be the largest in the College and would be one historic element in altering the status of the nursing profession. Nurses would be able to attend courses and symposia which they felt would be to their professional advantage. In the past, he commented, nurses had often undertaken studies which had not always advanced them in their careers. But that would now change.

He spoke of the massive technological advances which had been made in hospital care: the role of the hospital had changed.
dramatically from the time when most patients had been admitted with chronic illnesses or even just to die. Nurses now had profound responsibilities, he said, and must have the knowledge necessary to deal with the problems which faced them.

But, said Mr McAuliffe Curtin, it was important still to remember that the real role of the nurse was to deal with the person who was a patient, to provide comfort and bedside advice. The great tradition of nursing care in this country had been that the patient knew that he would always be treated personally by the nurse.

Miss Crowley acknowledged the debt of the nursing profession to the Royal College of Surgeons. Nurses, she said, now took their place as leaders and co-ordinators of the new society. In the not-too-distant future the College would produce professional leaders of quality and dedication whose responsibility would be to enhance the profession. They would play an active and useful role in community health and hygiene, in education and economy, in administration and in organisation and in health promotion and preventive medicine.

Miss Crowley concluded: ‘May this new chapter in the Royal College of Surgeons add to its lustre, cherish its traditions and spread its vocational spirit’. She and her colleagues then went in procession from the examination hall, followed by the barber-surgeons’ poles, the great mace and the surgeons, anaesthetists, radiologists, dentists and others whose solely medical sway over the College’s affairs must now meet a new perspective.’

While this impressive ceremony put the seal on the establishment of the new Faculty, Miss Crowley was well aware of the need to place it on a sound financial basis if it was going to survive. While some members of the nursing profession clearly felt that the State should provide the resources to support post-qualification nurse education in Ireland, voluntary self-help was at the core of Miss Crowley’s vision. As she wrote, it was ‘the only way forward to enhance professional nurse practice, independent and unhindered by State aid. Subservience to State control does not promote the health and wellbeing of society’.

As no potential outside benefactor willing to make an endowment had been identified, it was clear that nurses would have to rely upon their own modest resources to provide the necessary financial backing. Accordingly, the eighteen original Foundation Members were each required to pay a subscription of IR£100, and this Foundation Fund facilitated the establishment of the Faculty. Donations were also received from the Irish Nurses’ Organisation (IR£100), the Irish...
Matrons’ Association (IRE500) and the Ethicon Suture Company (IRE250). The Fund was kept open until December 1976, and after that date Fellows would only be admitted by examination. A total of 250 nurses joined the Faculty through contributing to the Fund, and this enabled a contribution of IRE25,000 to be made towards the construction of the new Link Building in York Street by the College.

Miss Crowley’s vision for the new Faculty had two further components. It was always her intention that it would embrace the entire island of Ireland, so great stress was laid on the fact that two of its founder members were from Northern Ireland. These were Miss M.E. Morrison, Registrar of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council of Northern Ireland, and Mr John Walsh, an Education Officer of the Council. Second, a vital issue to be faced by a body planning to provide post-registration education for nurses was the nature and scope of that education. Miss Crowley announced that she envisaged studies falling into ‘three possible’ areas of medicine: preventative, curative and rehabilitative. The use of the word ‘medicine’ was significant as she was always at pains to reassure her surgical colleagues that her aim was to ‘bring the scientific level of nursing practice into harmony with modern advances in medicine’, rather than to create an independent competitor discipline. However, the broad categories which she had identified provided no indication of what would actually be taught. The challenge was that in the 1970s there was still little in the way of consensus regarding the potential scope of nursing knowledge and hence the basis for an appropriate curriculum. In Europe at least, nursing research was in its infancy and there were still powerful voices within the profession who doubted its relevance to nursing practice. Extending the boundaries of nursing practice through the acquisition of advanced skills did not feature on the agendas of either medicine or nursing at this time. That left the familiar territory of the application of other disciplines, such as human biology, psychology, sociology and health policy, to the needs of nurses. So in this respect the curriculum developed by the Faculty was in line with the prevailing norms across European nursing, but in some of her writings, Miss Crowley also seemed to imply a belief that over time, an ‘autonomous nursing profession’ would come to develop an intellectual space of its own. Her frequent references to the ‘pessimism’ of many nurses, and to the ‘early and more difficult years of the development of the Faculty’, indicate that she had to battle to create her vision for the future direction of the nursing profession.

Forty years have passed since that inaugural College ceremony and this
“For us who nurse, our nursing is a thing, which, unless we are making progress every year, every month, every week, take my word for it, we are going back”

Florence Nightingale
forms an appropriate milestone to explore the history of what is now the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in the setting of the College, and in the wider context of the development of nurse and midwife education in Ireland. Change is a constant feature of all institutions, so the challenge is to preserve a record of the past for present and future generations of nurses, as institutional memories begin inevitably to fade. Three questions immediately come to mind when reflecting on the history of the Faculty. First, why did an institution of surgeons agree to establish a nursing faculty – a unique development in these islands? Second, how did the educational programmes change over time, and finally, who were the far-sighted nurses who made those plans a reality? This publication seeks to answer these questions by drawing on the extensive archival resources of the College.

References
7. Seventh Annual Report of the Faculty of Nursing, RCSI. 1981.
“This Faculty will produce professional leaders of quality and dedication who will enhance the profession”
The decision to create a Nursing Faculty as a constituent part of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1974 was not an unprecedented departure, but was in fact the culmination of eighty years of involvement in nurse education. The College had been a leading participant in the foundation of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses in 1893, reputed to have been the world’s first centralised nurse training school.¹

Miss Margaret Huxley, matron of Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital, was the moving spirit behind this body which provided nurse education and a uniform examination system to supplement the practical training provided by individual hospitals.² The early years of the twentieth century were dominated by the campaigns of supporters and opponents of nurse registration. In the absence of a State system of registration, Miss Huxley was also instrumental in the founding of the Irish Nursing Board in May 1917, which set up a nursing register and conducted examinations to determine admittance to it.³ The patronage of the College was made explicit in its first announcement:

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, being desirous of assisting the public to distinguish between competent and incompetent persons who act as Nurses, and of promoting the welfare of Nurses, propose the following scheme:-

That a Board, to be called “The Irish Nursing Board” (approved by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) be constituted. (Hereinafter called “The Board.”)

**Objects**

1. To promote the education of Irish Nurses.

2. To examine such persons as shall have received an education that the Board shall consider sufficient.

3. To grant certificates to such persons as shall have passed the prescribed examination of the Board.

4. To make and to maintain a Register of such persons as shall have received the certificate of the Board.
5. To remove from the Register, if thought fit, the name of any person who shall be convicted in England or Ireland of any felony or misdemeanour, or in Scotland of any crime or offence, or who shall be judged by the Board to have been guilty of grave misconduct in any professional respect.4

The Board consisted of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons and three other medical men, together with twenty-two nurse members who were to be elected by the profession.5 Its first task was to expand its membership as rapidly as possible, and it published recruitment appeals in characteristically strident terms:

**Eight reasons why trained Nurses should affiliate immediately with the Irish Nursing Board.**

1. Because this is an Irish Board, controlled and conceived in Ireland for the help of Irish Nurses and patients.

2. Because the Irish Nursing Board is controlled by Nurses in the interest of the Nursing Profession and of the Public.

3. Because the Board is an elected one, the Members of it being chosen by the general body of Nurses affiliated.

4. Because it is important for every Nurse now, and will be far more so in the future, to be a Member of an organized body, with power to make itself felt on Nursing as well as on Social questions.

5. Because Amateurs are out to capture, the control of our Profession, and subject the Professional woman to the ignorant rule of the aristocrat and the plutocrat.

6. Because the Irish Nursing Board ensures to every Nurse registered in the future a minimum of solid Nursing education, and to the Patient a minimum of sound knowledge in nursing, in return for his money.

7. Because United we stand, Divided we fall.

8. Because by registering before July, 1918, we register under a nominal fee of £11s.

There is nothing amateur about the Irish Nursing Board. It is elected by Nurses; governed by Nurses; controlled by the popular vote of Nurses; worked in the interests of the Nursing Profession, and of Humanity, which our Profession is proud to serve.6

This initiative in voluntary organisation of the nursing profession became redundant with the passing of the Nurses’ Registration (Ireland) Act, which
became law in December 1919. In the following February, the General Nursing Council for Ireland held its first meeting. The Chairman of the Irish Nursing Board, Sir Arthur Chance FRCSI, became one of the four medical members of the new Council, and of the nine nurse members, four, including Miss Huxley, came from the Board. With the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922, the General Nursing Council for Ireland maintained the nursing register for the 26 counties, while a Joint Nursing Council for Nurses and Midwives was set up by the Northern Ireland Government. The Nurses Act 1950 replaced the Council with a new body, An Bord Altranais.

The 1960s were a time of rapid change in the nursing profession and attention focussed on the need to provide appropriate preparation for nurse tutors. An Bord Altranais and University College Dublin collaborated in the establishment of the country’s first diploma course for nurse tutors, which was directed for the first fifteen years by Miss Rosanna Cunningham, who was subsequently to play a major role in the establishment of the Faculty. A Nurse Tutors’ Association was founded in 1960, and in 1962 it changed its name to the Nurse Tutors’ Academic Society. This new name was felt to better reflect its ambition to promote research which would advance nursing practice, and under the leadership of Miss Crowley, it was in the forefront of efforts to ground nurse education within the sphere of higher education.

This was the milieu of change and advance for the nursing profession into which the Faculty was born. The availability of nurse tutors who had received an educational preparation for their role encouraged individual hospitals to establish their own nurse training schools. This meant that the need for shared educational facilities decreased sharply, and so robbed of its role, the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses closed in 1969. The ending of the almost eighty years of association between the College and the nursing profession affected Miss Crowley deeply and she became determined to strive to continue it in another form in order to promote post-registration education. Her chosen vehicle was the Nurse Tutors’ Academic Society, and as its President, she convened a meeting on 24th October 1970, at An Bord Altranais, to which Professor Conroy from the College was invited. This meeting produced a consensus that ‘advanced education for nurses was now the nurses’ own responsibility’. Following this meeting, the Chairman of An Bord Altranais held a meeting of nursing unions and associations in order to canvas opinions on the concept of voluntary action and to form a steering committee to develop appropriate arrangements.
However, there proved to be little support for the idea of voluntary action, and most delegates favoured Government intervention to establish a national system of post-registration education. As a result, the steering committee was disbanded. Nothing daunted, Miss Crowley, on behalf of the Nurse Tutors’ Academic Society, continued direct negotiations with the College in order to maintain the long-established link. Her tenacity paid off and the negotiations with the College were successfully concluded. The first meeting of the Standing Committee of the then proposed Faculty of Nursing was held on 5th April 1974.

The Committee consisted of nurses selected to represent the different specialities in nursing, and representatives of nursing in Northern Ireland.

Members of the Standing Committee, who were later approved by the Council of the College as the first board of Faculty were:

Miss M.F. Crowley – Dean
Miss A. Kelly – Honorary Secretary
Miss R. Cunningham – Honorary Secretary
Miss W. Bennett – Ward Sister, National Children’s Hospital, Dublin
Miss K. Brennan – Matron, Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital, Dublin; President, National Council of Nurses of Ireland
Mr J. Casey – Chief Nursing Officer, St Senan’s Hospital, Enniscorthy

Sister de Lellis – Midwife Teacher, Bon Secours Hospital, Cork
Rev. Bro. Leo Clancy, OH – Provincial Superior of the Order of St John of God (representing the care of the mental handicapped)
Miss M.E. Morrison – Former Registrar of the Joint Nursing and Midwifery Council, Northern Ireland.
Miss E. Raybould – Principal Administrative Nursing Officer, Southern Group School of Nursing, Belfast
Miss D. O’Reilly – Superintendent Public Health Nurse, Western Health Board
Miss C.T. Taaffe – Matron, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Dublin
Miss B. Tierney – Senior Nurse Tutor, St James’s Hospital, Dublin
Miss B.C. Walsh – Assistant Matron and Nurse Tutor, Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin
Mr J. Walsh – Education Officer, Joint Nursing and Midwifery Council, Northern Ireland

The proclamation to establish a Faculty of Nursing was read by Miss Crowley at an event attended by 700 people at the Royal College of Physicians in Kildare Street. Present were the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr McAuliffe Curtin, Council Representatives, and the Minister for Health and Tánaiste, Mr Brendan Corish TD.

Miss Crowley spoke of the aims of the new Faculty:
‘While appreciating the wisdom and
generosity extended by the Council of this historic College to its Sister Profession in acknowledging the right of the nurse to higher education and a sharing with them of their knowledge and wisdom, nurses now take their place as leaders and co-ordinators in the ‘New Society’ complementing medical practice and becoming continual learners. It is envisaged that, in the not too distant future, this Faculty will produce professional leaders of quality and dedication, whose responsibility will be to enhance the profession. The nurse can enlighten public and official opinion, especially in contributing towards harmonisation in the community and playing an active and useful role through contributing to community health and hygiene, education and economy, administration and organisation, health promotion and preventive medicine.

May this new chapter in the history of the Royal College of Surgeons add to its lustre, cherish its traditions and spread its vocational spirit.9

The new Faculty demonstrated a wide-ranging concern to engage with, and promote, key aspects of nursing in Ireland. Its objectives were announced as:

1. Continuing education through Diploma Courses for nurses in practice in both medical and nursing science subjects in order to build up a body of knowledge for future reference – organisation, rehabilitation, and implementation in nursing care.

2. To establish dialogue between doctors and nurses for better co-operation in medical practice by improved professional standards in clinical practice, records and research.

3. To motivate nurses towards advanced education and study for a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing at the end of six years in continuous practice.

4. As very many Irish nurses work abroad, to prepare them through knowledge of human welfare, tropical diseases, anthropology and intercultural relations, and human development, to effectively contribute to society in their many fields of practice.

5. 5a. To study, in depth, the expansion of the art of nursing by special courses in clinical procedure and future development of professional standards in hospitals and at community level, with particular reference to terminology and procedure by administration study courses. 5b. To establish a philosophy of nursing through sharing with medical and nursing colleagues, a concept of caring and therapeutics. To demonstrate by
meticulous records of assessment, diagnosis, intervention and rehabilitation, taking into consideration the whole person’s needs/understanding/ambitions/social circumstances/family and individual needs, relationships and social status.

5c. That nurses show their dedication by being available, self-reliant, responsible, administrative co-ordinators and skilful practitioners and negotiators, by voluntary effort and generous dispensers of their time and talents for the common good.

5d. To prepare future professional leaders who will monitor, through supervision and consultation, nursing clinical standards of education and the results achieved, relating to public confidence in its members, in addition to the professional confidence of their colleagues in practice.

5e. To remove administration of nursing from Civil Servants, Unions and other statutory bodies to professional associations to deal with distribution of service-discipline.

6. To establish by voluntary effort, a Trust Fund to stabilise the economics of professional administration, which will finance higher education, organisation and administration of the whole profession, without recourse to government bodies, public finances and taxation. In this way to become a truly independent professional body and a national asset, rather than the burden on society which today indicates the destruction of our heritage in the field of caring.

7. All students of the Faculty of Nursing, RCSI, are State Registered Nurses in practice. They attend lectures in their own time (by arrangement with their Director of Nursing Services) so that the continuity of care is uninterrupted and the organisation of the bodies involved remains continuative. Each student pays his/her own fees, in this way they are independent and professional, their success a personal achievement, stimulating pride in professional practice through in-depth knowledge and clinical experience. They are prepared to take their place alongside medical colleagues, enhancing the quality of life, health promotion and wellbeing of society.

References


5. British Journal of Nursing September 1, 1917.


“Over its entire existence the Faculty has responded to the changing educational expectations of nurses and midwives”
THE FACULTY’S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The development of a national system of post-registration education for nurses was a key element in the programme envisaged for the new Faculty of Nursing from its earliest planning stage. The issue of how that educational programme was to be structured provided the first challenge. Rather than adopt a degree structure derived from the university sector, it was decided to follow the existing model for post-qualification medical education employed in the other Faculties of the College, with a Preliminary Fellowship course to be followed by a Final Fellowship examination.

The confidence of the founding members that post-qualification education would meet a real need was justified when 289 nurses registered for the first Primary Fellowship courses. Candidates for this award were required to successfully complete six courses, with three chosen from the list of ‘nursing-related’ and three from the ‘medical sciences’.

The minimum time that could be taken to complete the course was three years.

Nursing-related courses
(first year)
- Medical ethics and deontology
- Communications, teaching methods and evaluation
- Community health and contemporary society

(second year)
- Philosophy: principles of moral development
- Anthropology and counselling
- Community health and psycho-social nursing

(third year)
- Research methodology
- The philosophy of man (metaphysics)
- Medical ethics and deontology

Medical science courses
(first year)
- Applied physiology
- Human biology
- Behavioural science: introduction to psychology

(second year)
- Pharmacology
- Applied physiology
- Microbiology

(third year)
- Human biology
- Behavioural science: introduction to psychology
- Community health, preventive medicine: hygiene and sanitation.
In accordance with Miss Crowley’s philosophy for the new Faculty, this extensive educational programme was initially delivered by voluntary effort. However, it was soon apparent that the demands it made on the volunteers could not be sustained, and the situation was exacerbated when provincial centres asked to join the programme. So in 1978, Miss Catherine O’Flanagan was appointed to administer the programme. She had initially trained as a psychiatric nurse at All Saints Hospital in Birmingham, and before her appointment to RCSI, she was Assistant Chief Nursing Officer in Wexford. The decision to appoint her to a salaried position was vindicated by the continuing growth in student numbers. By 1979, the Faculty had 1,000 registered students. By 1982, the Faculty had additional centres in Wexford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Sligo, Donegal, Monaghan and Mullingar.

Over its entire existence, the Faculty has faced the constant challenge of ensuring that its educational programmes meet the changing expectations of nurses, and so there have been frequent modifications in the qualifications which it has offered. It soon became apparent that relatively few nurses wished to complete the whole educational programme leading to the award of the Final Fellowship, while large numbers sought a lower level qualification in a specific area of practice. In order to respond to this need, the Faculty grouped its courses together to form diplomas. The totals of students completing the diplomas (given in brackets) in 1982 provide a snapshot of nursing concerns at that time:

- Diploma in the art of nursing (1)
- Diploma in pathology (38)
- Diploma in human biology (35)
- Diploma in physics and chemistry (27)
- Diploma in research methodology (32)
- Diploma in psychology (80)
- Diploma in sociological aspects of nursing care (121)

By the next year, successful candidates for a further selection of diplomas received their awards:

- Diploma in applied physiology (26)
- Diploma in psychiatry (112)
- Diploma in teaching methods applied to nursing (38)
- Diploma in counselling (154)
- Diploma in health education (41)
- Diploma in pharmacology (51)

While in the following years diplomas continued to be awarded in specialist fields such as gerontology and tropical nursing, by 1991 it was decided to offer a generic Diploma in Nursing which was co-ordinated by Cecily Begley as Academic Tutor. The course extended over two years, with one study day per week and one annual study week. Topics covered in Year One were:

Physics and chemistry, anatomy, physiology, community health, psychology, and nursing – research
methods, communication skills, the development of nursing, nursing models, nutrition, care of people in special groups, and recent advances in specialist area.

Year Two:
Microbiology, pathology, sociology, pharmacology, nurse education, and nursing – counselling and interpersonal skills, leadership skills, ethical issues, legal aspects, health promotion, computer technology, recent advances in specialist areas.

Successful students were eligible to enter the Primary Fellowship examination of the Faculty of Nursing, while those who passed all the medical science subjects at ‘an acceptable level’ could be exempted from that requirement and allowed to proceed directly to sit for the Final Fellowship examination. The first Final Fellowship examination had been held in 1982. It consisted of three three-hour papers:

- Principles of nursing service administration
- Principles of education in nursing practice
- Principles of clinical practice in nursing

Each paper was followed by an oral examination and a clinical examination held at approved centres. In addition, candidates were required to submit a dissertation. External examiners were drawn from Queen’s University and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and Nottingham and Edinburgh Universities. It is an indication of the demanding nature of this qualification that out of 41 candidates, only 20 were successful.9 Alongside the maintenance of its Diploma and Fellowship programmes, the Faculty moved with the times to inaugurate a Bachelor of Nursing Studies degree in 1994. This part-time programme for qualified nurses ran over four years and was awarded by RCSI and the National University of Ireland.10 By 1999, the part-time programmes offered by the Faculty included:

- Access to Bachelor of Nursing Studies
- Bachelor of Nursing Studies
- BSc nursing management
- Diploma in practice nursing
- Diploma in primary healthcare for developing countries11

The key figure in this move to make the educational programme of the Faculty more closely aligned with the academic course structure found in the university sector was Seamus Cowman, who had been appointed as Senior Lecturer in Nursing in 1997, and was made Professor of Nursing in 1999.12 Before his appointment at RCSI, he had established the School of Nursing at Dublin City University in 1995. Under his leadership the portfolio of courses at RCSI was expanded to include a suite of specialist post-graduate qualifications in infection control,
nurse prescribing, sexual assault and clinical research, a Master’s degree pathway, a reorganised Fellowship examination, and supervision for the PhD degree.

The Annual Research Conference
The Annual Research Conference organised by the Faculty was first held in 1981, and it is believed to be the longest-established conference in the field in Europe. The programme for the first conference included:

Baroness Jean McFarlane, Professor of Nursing Studies, University of Manchester: ‘Why nursing must become research based’

Dr Lisbeth Hockey, Director of the Nursing Research Unit, University of Edinburgh: ‘Women in nursing’

Dr Sylvia Lelean, Principal Nursing Officer (Personnel), DHSS, London: ‘Communication in nursing practice’

Dr Charlotte Kratz, Nurse Advisor, Nursing Times: ‘Care of the long-term sick in the community’

Over the years the Conference invited many international nurse leaders to Dublin, including Virginia Henderson, Christine Hancock, and Maud Storey and Professors Jack Hayward, Patricia Benner, Roger Watson and Anne Marie Rafferty. Early conferences had an ‘Irish Forum’ in order to provide a platform for Irish nurse researchers. It was always intended that this would be a transitional arrangement, and as Irish research capacity increased it was phased out. The speakers at the first Forum were:

Brigid Tierney, Research Officer, An Bord Altranais: ‘The role of the nursing research officer’

Deidre Fitzsimons, Nursing Advisor, Department of Health, Dublin: ‘Accidents in the home’

Mary F. McGovern, Nurse Tutor, St James’s Hospital, Dublin: ‘Information given to glaucoma patients’

The first conference also hosted a series of round-table discussions on issues related to the promotion of research in Ireland. The themes which emerged from the questions posed were:

Research can be promoted in Ireland:

1. Through courses in Research Methodology in student nurse and post-registration programmes, this was a suggestion made by all groups.

2. Through discussion, formal and informal, of research projects and continually questioning research practices. A suggestion was made that nurses should join the Irish Nurses’ Research Interest Group.

3. By making opportunities available to attend research methods courses in the Faculty of Nursing.

4. Through the availability of continuing education for nurses.

5. Through dissemination of knowledge through a national nursing journal.

6. By the development of research units in Teaching Hospitals and Universities.

It was felt that the individual nurse can help:

1. By undertaking research herself.
2. By keeping up-to-date and attending courses.
3. Participating in the Irish Nurses’ Research Interest Group or forming such groups.

**The ward sister could promote research:**
1. By stimulating interest and reading.
2. Promoting discussion on research topics and findings.
3. Implementing appropriate research findings.
4. By giving support to staff undertaking research projects.
5. By implementing the nursing process.

**Tutors – in order to present research:**
1. Must keep up-to-date with current research.
2. Encourage students to undertake projects.
3. Introduce research into syllabus/teaching.
4. Provide good library facilities – good range of up-to-date books and especially journals.

**Groups felt that Matron could do much to make or break research:**
1. Making facilities available for study days.
2. Making library resources and access a priority.
3. Encouraging interested personnel.
4. Encouraging implementation of research findings.
5. Including research methodology and awareness of research in ‘in-service’ training.

The success of the policy in providing a platform for nursing research in Ireland can be judged from the 2014 Conference in which 48 of the 60 concurrent sessions were delivered by Irish nurse researchers.

**RCSI Bahrain**

The School of Nursing & Midwifery in RCSI Bahrain was formed in 2006 and since then many nurses have graduated from the university. The work of the school includes accreditation, teaching and examination, nursing research, community engagement, developing policies and procedures - all of which contribute to best practice.

All nursing education programmes are accredited by the National University of Ireland (NUI), the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Bahrain, and the Higher Education Council Bahrain. In 2012, following an external departmental review, the National Authority for Qualifications & Quality Assurance of Education and Training (NAQQAET) awarded full confidence to all nursing education programmes at RCSI Bahrain.

Like the wider university, the School of Nursing & Midwifery is truly international and multicultural. The academic staff includes a combination of senior and early career staff and a dynamic blend of expert local and international staff, who work in accordance with the University’s strategy to deliver high quality...
Nursing Review Magazines. Journal of the Faculty of Nursing RCSI. 1993
education, to conduct research and to engage with the local community. The School also aims to reflect a strong international strategic approach and to enshrine the mandate of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organisation (EMRO). In particular, the school recognises the importance of the mandate to promote strategies to strengthen the capacity of the nursing workforce, that are measured in approach, through action plans for the development of initiatives on scaling up transformative education and training in nursing. Notably the School of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI has been placed on the WHO EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organisation) Directory for Schools of Nursing and Midwifery.

Educational activity extends beyond Bahrain and currently RCSI provide a BSc Nursing Bridging Education Programme at Saudi Aramco.

The school has been a strong advocate for nursing and in promoting nursing as a career. Since the first undergraduate nursing programme in 2006 there has been a 150% increase in the number of young Bahraini people entering nursing. The School in recognizing its responsibility to contribute to national and international nursing discourse in Bahrain is working towards setting up a Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. The formation of the Rufaida Honor Nursing Society is a prelude towards achieving full chapter status.

References
3. Typescript: List of courses. RCSI Archive.
12. Conference programme, 1982. RCSI Archive
Ms Mary Frances Crowley (Former Dean), Ms Brigid C Walsh (Former Dean), Former President RCSI Mr Desmond Kneafsey, Ms Rosanna Cunningham, Ms Eva Wall (Former Dean) Ms Mary Appleby (Former Dean)

“Standing on the shoulders of Giants”

Isaac Newton
Miss Mary Frances Crowley
Born in Wexford in 1906, Mary Frances Crowley had a peripatetic childhood as the family moved to follow her father’s job.1 She undertook general nurse training between 1931 - 1935 in the English municipal hospital sector, first at St Catherine’s Hospital on the Wirral Peninsula and then at St James’ Hospital, Chester (later renamed Chester City Hospital). She then qualified as a midwife, training at Merseyside Maternity Hospital and Mile End Hospital, London. Posts as a Staff Nurse, Ward and Departmental Sister and Midwifery Tutor in England and Wales followed.

Returning to Ireland in 1941, Miss Crowley was appointed Administrative Sister at Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital, Dublin. In 1942, she was invited by Mother Mary Martin, founder of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, to establish an obstetrical training school for nurses at the Order’s Training Hospital in Drogheda.2 She returned to Sir Patrick Dun’s in 1943 as Administrative Sister and Nurse Tutor. The next year she was appointed Assistant Matron of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in Dublin, and established its nurse training school in 1944.

Her association with the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital would last for the rest of her nursing career, but in 1945 her life took an unexpected turn. The Irish Red Cross and the Irish Government acceded to a request from the post-War French Government to provide a hospital unit of one hundred beds for the town of Saint-Lô in Normandy, and Miss Crowley was appointed as Matron. Saint-Lô was selected as the location for the hospital because it was judged to be the town which had suffered the most extensive destruction from war-time bombing.3

The establishment of a fully-functioning hospital in such a location called for meticulous planning and logistical organisation. The Irish Red Cross Society advertised for a fluent French-speaker to act as interpreter and storekeeper for the hospital, and appointed Samuel Beckett, the future Nobel laureate, to the post. His fluency in the language and meticulous attention to detail proved to be invaluable in setting up and running L’Hôpital Irlandais.4

The patients in the 115 beds were cared for by 30 Irish nurses, led by Miss Crowley. When in the autumn of 1946, news of the planned withdrawal of the Irish staff reached the local population, a demonstration was
staged through the town with placards carrying the message, ‘Please don’t go: St-Lô still needs you.’, but the reorganisation of the hospital went ahead. By the time of its handover to the French Red Cross on the 31st December 1946, 1,427 inpatients had received treatment. For her remarkable role in Normandy, Miss Crowley was awarded the Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française, a medal created by the French Government to express appreciation of those who had cared for injured or disabled civilians.

On her return from France, Miss Crowley resumed her previous roles at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. In 1948, she launched the first post-graduate training course in ophthalmology for nurses in Ireland. A link was formed in 1950 with Moorfields Hospital in London, and the Ophthalmic Board of Great Britain and Ireland was established under an international expert committee to oversee the Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma and to maintain a register of successful candidates. Ten years later, Miss Crowley was instrumental in founding the Nurse Tutors’ Academic Society and was elected as its first president. This far-sighted initiative was designed to prepare nurses for their educational role through links with the higher education sector and to foster an interest in research. In 1964, a two-year full-time Nurse Tutors Course was established at University College, Dublin, as up to that time Irish nurses could only obtain such a qualification by travelling abroad to study. Following the founding of the Faculty of Nursing, RCSI, Miss Crowley was elected its first Dean and held that office from 1975 to 1979. Rather than reducing her commitment to nursing, her retirement from her hospital position in 1980 saw her devote considerable energy to further voluntary work supporting the new Faculty in a range of capacities and to leadership roles in a range of other organisations. She was a member of the National Florence Nightingale Committee of Ireland for 25 years, and served a term as Vice-President of the Irish Guild of Catholic Nurses. In her book, The Christian Nurse, she wrote: ‘Hopefully the Christian nurse in Ireland will rekindle the ‘Nightingale lamp’ as a result of the establishment of the Faculty and the beam of Christianity will extend to the four corners of the universe, contributing to a better society, a Christian and civilised society’.

In 1990, Miss Crowley was admitted to the Adelaide Hospital. During the early morning of Sunday 11th March, she said goodbye and thank you to the nurses caring for her, and died shortly afterwards.

Miss Rosanna Cunningham
After nurse training at Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital, Dublin, where she was
awarded the Margaret Huxley Gold Prize, Miss Cunningham trained as a midwife in the UK and studied for the Nurse Tutor Diploma of the Royal College of Nursing in Edinburgh. She was the first Education Officer appointed by An Bord Altranais and the first Director of the Nurse Tutor Course at University College, Dublin. A Foundation Member of the Faculty, she took on the role of its Honorary Secretary for its first five years. She died on the 7th October 1995.8

**Miss Annie Kelly**

Miss Kelly was born in Rock, Co. Tyrone, and trained as a nurse at St Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin, and stayed on the staff there until 1967. In that time she was responsible for the teaching of student nurses and acted as Home Sister and Night Matron. She was then appointed Matron of St Laurence’s Hospital, Dublin. She resigned from that post in 1976, and was appointed to the hospital’s Board of Governors by the Minister of Health.

She had long been active in the wider nursing profession. From 1950 to 1976, she was an elected member of An Bord Altranais, and for the last ten years chaired its Education Committee. In 1961, she was elected President of the National Council of Nurses of Ireland. In 1974, she became the first Honorary Treasurer of the Faculty and held that position for five years.8

**References**


5. Miss Crowley subsequently presented the medal to the RCSI.


THE DEAN’S MEDAL
AND FACULTY GOWN
both designed by Mary Frances Crowley

The College Badge mounted on a black background with eight stars to symbolize the essential qualities of leadership:
- Knowledge
- Responsibility

Conciliation
Availability
Wisdom
Co-Ordination
Co-Operatiion
Prudence

INTERDENOMINATIONAL FACULTY PRAYER

Let us pray, Almighty Father,
Strong is your justice and great is your mercy,
Protect us in the burdens and challenges of life,
Shield our minds from the distortions of pride and

Enfold our desire with the beauty of truth.
Help us to become more aware of Your loving design,
So that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all.
Amen

(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)
First Group of Fellows of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery by Examination, 1982 with Members of the Faculty Board.
Front row (l-r): Miss B. Murphy (Board); Rev Sr. Calsanctius Duffy (Board); Miss K. Keane (Board); Miss R. Cunningham (Board); Miss B. Walsh (Dean); Mr J. A. O’Connell, President RCSI; Miss E. Mattimoe (Board); Miss M.F. Crowley (F Dean); Rev. Sr. Mary C. de Lellis (Board); Miss K. Brennan (Board). Middle Row (l-r): Mrs H. Henry (Cork); Miss D. Fitzsimons (Dublin); Miss C. O’Flanagan (Dublin); Rev. Sr. John Mary Healy (Cork); Mrs M. O’Cinneide (Board); Miss E. Wall (Board); Miss M. Redmond (Wexford); Mr C. Darcy (Wexford); Mrs N. Cummins (Wexford); Miss M. Murphy (Dublin). Back row (l-r): Miss M. Sullivan (Cork); Mrs M. McGrath-Healy (Limerick); Rev. Sr. Mary. Gibbons (Cork); Miss A.M. Burke (Dublin); Mrs M. Appleby (Dublin); Miss N.C. Buggle (Dublin); Rev. Sr. Ann E. McHale (Dublin); Miss K.M.E. Kinirons (Tipperary); Rev. Sr. Colette Mullett (Dublin), Mrs C. Begley (Dublin), Mrs M. Carney (Dublin).
DEANS OF THE FACULTY

Former Deans

Ms Mary Frances Crowley
Founder Dean (1974-1979)

(This is taken from Obituary by Ms Brigid C Walsh)

Miss Crowley was an RGN, RM, RNT, OND, FFFNRCSI. Born in Wexford in 1906, she trained as a nurse and midwife in Wales and England. She returned to Ireland in 1941 to take up the position of Administrative Sister at Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital. In 1944, she was appointed Assistant Matron at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. She then took one year’s leave from there to work as a Matron during World War Two in Normandy France in the ‘Hospital Irlandais de Saint-Lô’.

Miss Crowley received the prestigious award of the “Medaille de La Reconnaissance Francaise” for her dedication and hard work during this time. She returned to Ireland in 1947 and continued to advance and develop nurse education and in 1947, she founded the first post-graduate training course in ophthalmology for nurses. She was elected President of the Academic Society of Nurse Tutors in 1960 and held office until her death.

She was associated with the Metropolitan School for Nurses attached to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and was a Member of the School Committee for over twenty years until its closure in 1969 when the Dublin hospitals set up independent training schools. Miss Crowley was concerned that the long link with the College had come to an end, she pressed for a continuation of the link in the form of a post-graduate programme of continuing education for nurses within the College. In the early 1970’s negotiations between the various nursing interests and the Council of the College began with a view to establishing a Faculty of Nursing. After many meetings and much deliberation, the Faculty of Nursing was founded in July 1974. Miss Crowley, Founder Member, was elected first Dean and held Office for five years from 1974 to 1979. Her dynamic approach and leadership qualities made her the ideal person to steer the newly founded Faculty.
Ms Brigid C Walsh
Former Dean (1979 – 1983)

Brigid Walsh was born in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo in 1922. She was educated in the Convent of Mercy Secondary School, Ballyhaunis and commenced her nurse training at The Charitable Infirmary Hospital, Jervis Street, Dublin in 1939.

She worked in Jervis Street Hospital for 48 years. She had a long and varied career there as Student Nurse, Staff Nurse, Ward Sister, Night Superintendent, Nurse Tutor, Assistant Matron and finally Matron. She remained there until her retirement in 1985, at the same time of the closure of the Charitable Infirmary in Jervis Street, which was removed to join with St. Laurence’s Hospital in the then newly built Beaumont Hospital.

Brigid had a passion for the improvement of the profession of nursing and the quality of care provided for patients in Ireland and overcame many obstacles with great tenacity. She was one of the founders of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at the Royal College.
of Surgeons in Ireland – the first third level institution to provide courses, diplomas and later degrees to nurses and midwives in Ireland. She was the second Dean following in the footsteps of Ms Mary Crowley. She served two terms of office supported by an excellent Board. She attended numerous conferences in Ireland and abroad in countries such as Japan, Austria and Jerusalem. She served on An Bord Altranais for many years where she worked tirelessly for the profession of nursing.

In 1955, Eva was appointed Home Sister at Stewart’s Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped (Intellectual Disability Services) and subsequently was appointed Ward Sister. Her outstanding qualities of leadership were recognised and in 1962 she was appointed Matron of Stewart’s Hospital. Inspired by her care, compassion and achievements, the hospital adopted the motto – Love, Care and Understanding. Eva was the very epitome of this motto. She was instrumental in making Stewart’s a training hospital for nurses for the mentally handicapped (intellectually disabled). Eva was actively involved in the Matron’s Association of which she was treasurer from some time and later became Vice-President.

She was loved, admired and respected for her compassion and humanity not only towards those in her care but also towards those who were privileged to work with her. Eva sadly passed away on June 20th 2010, aged 93.

Ms Eva Wall
Former Dean (1984 – 1987)

Eva who was originally from Ennistymon, Co. Clare was the third Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI. She undertook her general and midwifery training at Guy’s Hospital, London where she became a Theatre Sister and worked for twelve years. She also completed a course in hospital administration at the Royal College of Nursing in London.
Ms Mary Appleby
Former Dean (1987-1990)

Mary was the fourth Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. Her background was in teaching and she was Principal Tutor at the Coombe Hospital prior to her retirement.

Mary completed her General Nurse Training and became a staff nurse at the South Infirmary, Cork. She undertook Midwifery Training at the Coombe Hospital and worked there as a staff midwife and ward sister. She went to High Coombe, Kingston Hill, Surrey and studied for her Midwife Teacher’s Diploma.

On returning to Dublin, she was appointed Midwife Teacher, Coombe Lying-In Hospital, where she remained until she got married. When the new Coombe Lying-In Hospital opened in 1967, she returned to her teaching post in the School of Midwifery. She became a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in 1974. She was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in 1987. She remained in the post until 1990 when Ms Josephine Bartley was appointed.

During her time as Dean, Mary was instrumental in the re-appraisal of nursing programmes, in particular the ‘Art of Nursing’ course which through her efforts became a full Diploma in Nursing. She sadly passed away on the 21st August 2012.

Ms Josephine Bartley
Former Dean (1990-1995)

Josephine who is an RGN, RM and FFFNMRCSI, completed General Nursing Training Training at St. Vincent’s Hospital, St Stephens Green, Dublin in 1955 and her Midwifery Training at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast in 1957. Her further studies included a course in Clinical Teaching at the Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh in 1968 and a Higher Diploma Course in Hospital and Health Services Administration at the College of Commerce, Rathmines, from 1970 to 1973.

In the years following General and Midwifery training and a period of staff nurse experience in St. Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin and St Patrick’s
Hospital, Cork she joined Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) at ward sister level in 1959. She gained both general nursing and midwifery experience in military hospitals in England and Germany during her years in the QARANC. On completion of a three-year contract with the British Army she spent a year at Queen Charlotte’s Maternity Hospital, London and in 1964 went for a year to Zambia, Central Africa to work as ward sister at the Central Hospital, Kitwe – a government hospital dealing with all specialties-general, maternity and children.

She returned to St. Vincent’s Hospital in January 1967 and was appointed Assistant Matron in September 1968. During the early years of her appointment she was actively involved in the transfer of services from the old St Vincent’s in St. Stephen’s Green to the new hospital, at Elm Park, which opened on the 1st November 1970. She took up an appointment as Matron at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin on the 1st September 1977 and almost immediately became involved in the planning for the building and commissioning of the new hospital at Beaumont. She became Director of Nursing at Beaumont Hospital on its opening in November 1987 from where she retired in August 1998. During her years there, she worked tirelessly to maintain and develop post registration education for nurses at Beaumont Hospital and was responsible for initiating several post registration courses in partnership with the Faculty of Nursing RCSI which continue to this day.

Josephine is a founder member of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and was admitted as an Honorary Fellow on July 1st 1983. She was elected to the Board of the Faculty in 1985 and appointed Dean in March 1990, an office she held until March 1995. Another position she held on the Board of the Faculty for three years from 1998 was that of Honorary Secretary. Many changes and developments took place during her years as Dean and Board Member.

A highlight for her was the occasion of the conferring of the first Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing on Mother Teresa of Calcutta on the 12th August 1992. This ceremony took place in Rome in the presence of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the late Mr. Dermot O’Flynn.

Since her retirement from Beaumont Hospital, Josephine has served on the Board of the Children’s Hospital, Crumlin for ten years and is presently a member of the Ethics (Medical Research) Committee there. She has maintained membership with the Catholic Nurses Guild of Ireland since 1970, taking leadership positions at different times. She represented CICIAMS-the
Ms Gretta Redmond
Former Dean (1995-1997)

Gretta is an RPN and was awarded a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery by examination in 1982. Before her retirement, Gretta held the position of Assistant Director of Nursing, St. Senan’s Hospital, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Gretta is a previous Board Member, Honorary Secretary and Vice Dean of the Faculty. She served as Dean from 1995-1997. She is a former examiner of the Final Fellowship in Psychiatry, RCSI. She also lectured on the Nursing Diploma Course at the Faculty of Nursing Centre, St. Senan’s Hospital. Gretta is currently retired and residing in Co. Wexford.

International Committee of Catholic Nurses at World Health Organisation meetings in Geneva for a number of years from 1987 and is presently on the Organising Committee for the forthcoming CICIAMS XIX World Congress, which is being held here in Dublin from 23rd to 26th September 2014.

Ms Augusta Fitzsimons
Former Dean (1998-2001)

Augusta was born in Monaghan in 1933. She was educated locally at the St. Louis Convent in Monaghan. She commenced her general nurse training at the Mater Infirmorium in Belfast in 1953. She then worked as a staff nurse on the Neuropsychiatric Ward and in 1962 was appointed ward sister there. In 1963, she was seconded to the Purdysburn Hospital in Belfast where she undertook her psychiatric nurse training. Her skills as an innovator shone through when she returned to the Mater Infirmorium. She was instrumental in establishing the first daycare unit for psychiatric patients in that hospital and helped to remove the stigma of mental illness.

In 1973, Augusta moved to Dublin and took up a post as a staff nurse at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. In May 1982, she was appointed matron there and later progressed to Director of Nursing until she retired in 1998. She helped to save the hospital from closure in the 1980s and saw it flourish in the 1990s. She was the first Matron to be appointed to the council of the hospital.
A member of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery since 1976, she was Vice-Dean from 1995 – 1998 and became Dean in 1998. She was a member of the faculty board and having served the maximum term of 15 years on the board, attended her last meeting in November 2006. Augusta (fondly known as Gussie) sadly passed away on the 9th March 2007. She was 73 years of age.

Augusta (fondly known as Gussie) sadly passed away on the 9th March 2007. She was 73 years of age.

Ms Nora Julia Cummins
Former Dean (2001 -2004)

Nora is an RPHN, RGN, RPN, RM and her academic qualifications are B.A (1991) MA (Healthcare Management 1998), Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery (by examination).

Nora is retired since March 2009. She commenced Nurse Training in St. Laurence’s Hospital in September 1966. She attended the Dublin Metropolitan School of Nursing based at the RCSI for lectures. Nora worked continuously for 43 years up until retirement. She is experienced in General, Midwifery, Psychiatry and Public Health Nursing in the public, voluntary and private sector. She has had roles as staff nurse, senior Public Health Nurse and Director of Public Health Nursing up to 1998 when appointed as General Manager of Community Services in The Eastern Health Board Area. From 1982, Nora was an occasional Lecturer at UCD in Public Health Nursing with responsibility for mentorship of PHN students.

Nora was conferred with the Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI in 1982 (first group conferred). She was elected to the Board of Faculty in March 1991. She served as Honorary Secretary 1995 to 1998 and Vice Dean 1998 to 2001. Nora served as Dean from 2001 to 2004 and retired from the Board in March 2010.

Nora led the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to the RCSI Overseas Meeting in Hong Kong in 2002 and to Dubai in 2004. She served on many HSE committees representing the role of nurses. She also represented the CEOs of the HSE Health Boards on the National Advisory Committee which published its guidelines on the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis in Ireland, 2010.

Nora is a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI, Institute of Community Health Nursing (President 1995-1998) and a Member of The Institute of Public Administration.
Ms Eileen Maher  
Former Dean (2004 – 2007)

Eileen Maher is originally from Newbliss, Co. Monaghan. She underwent general nurse training in the Royal City of Dublin, Baggot Street and midwifery training in the Coombe Hospital. Following that she took up a position as theatre staff nurse in the Coombe. She continued her post graduate education by completing nine diploma courses in the Faculty of Nursing, RCSI.

On the opening of the Blackrock Clinic in 1986 she took up post as staff nurse in the cardiac theatres and undertook her primary Fellowship in 1988. She was appointed sister in Orthopaedics in the Blackrock Clinic in 1988 and was conferred with her Final Fellowship in 1991. In 1992, Eileen was appointed theatre superintendent in Blackrock Clinic and was then appointed examiner for the clinical area in the Orthopaedic Diploma.

Eileen served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery from 2001 – 2004. She was appointed Dean in 2004. She is currently working as Director of Nursing in St. Luke’s Hospital Dublin since 1995.

Eileen undertook the additional role of National Lead Nurse in Radiation Oncology from February 2010. Eileen currently serves on the National Radiation Oncology Planning and Implementation Committee and was appointed to the further additional role of Site Manager, St. Luke’s Hospital in 2012.

Eileen has served on numerous Boards and Committees throughout her career most notably the Development of Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland, 2003. Eileen has also served on the Medical Committee of the Irish Cancer Society, the All Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium Nurses Group and is currently a member of the Board of St. Luke’s Cancer Institute and is a Member of the Council of the Friends of St. Luke’s.
Ms Maeve Dwyer
Former Dean (2007 - 2010) and Board Member

Maeve began her nursing studies in the Hospital of St. John & Elizabeth, London in 1963. After graduation she worked as staff nurse and midwife in various hospitals in Ireland, the U.K. and Switzerland. She was appointed Assistant Matron of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street in 1975 where she remained until 1979. Following this, she was appointed Matron in the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital, Dublin.

During this appointment she co-founded both the Irish Association for Nurses in Oncology and QANA (the Quality Assurance in Nursing Association) with the aim of improving standards of patient care. She lectured nationally and internationally at meetings on cancer and dermatology and contributed to many academic journals on these areas.

From 1992 -2005, Maeve returned to the National Maternity Hospital where she was appointed Matron. Here, she developed innovative educational and clinical initiatives for midwives and mothers and ensured that the quality of service was consistent with International standards of excellence. This was the first Irish hospital to be awarded the World Health Organization’s Certificate of Commitment as a Baby Friendly Hospital in 1999.

Maeve was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI in 2007 and remained as Dean until 2010. Maeve has been an active member of numerous organizations including An Bord Altranais and the EU Advisory Committee on the training of midwives to which she was nominated by the Minister for Health from 1997-2001. She was an active member of the Irish Matrons Association where she was Vice-President and President (1984-1988).

As a member of the Medical Committee of Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, Maeve guided and supported the ongoing clinical education of nurses and midwives. This involved the provision of programmes in Bethlehem and in Dublin. Working with the Irish Association of the Order of Malta in Ireland, Bethlehem University and University College Dublin, she was responsible for the funding and evaluation of the first Direct Entry Midwifery Education Programme in Palestine.
Professor Edna Woolhead
Immediate Past Dean (2012-2014) and Board Member
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Edna is an RN, RM, RNP, RANP, FFNMRCISI, BSc and MSc. Edna is a Registered Advanced Nurse.

She is at present serving her second and final term as a member of the Faculty Board.

During her career, Aine has served as a non-executive member of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board (NI), a non-executive member of the National Board for Nursing and Midwifery (NI) and a member of the RCN (UK) Steering Committee. She was Chair of the RCN, Research Society (NI) and Chair of the National Board for Nursing and Midwifery (NI), Research Committee.

Her research activities have focused on the learning strategies and cognitive development of student nurses and she has presented many papers at national and international conferences on this subject.
Practitioner (Neonatology) at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin since 2005. She was recently appointed Honorary Clinical Associate Professor RCSI. Her nursing career commenced with General Nursing at St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin and Midwifery at the Rotunda Hospital.

She has a long affiliation with the RCSI having successfully completing five diploma courses, the Nurse Prescribing Pilot Project 2003 and the accredited Nurse Prescribing Programme 2008. She was awarded The Mary Frances Crowley Medal for academic excellence on completion of her MSc in 2005 and became a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery by examination later that year. Edna joined the Board of the Faculty in 2007 and was Vice Dean from 2010-2012 and recently completed her two-year term as Dean in March 2014. Edna was a part-time Clinical Skills Tutor for the Medical Student Junior Cycle RCSI from 2005-2007.

Edna's areas of research, audit and project work include infection prevention and medication safety in the neonatal population. She has presented widely both nationally and internationally on her efforts to reduce the incident of Healthcare Associated Infections and Central Line infections to zero. Her most recent publication was in 2013 (Rotunda Hospital Reduces Healthcare Associated Infections to Zero Neonatal Network 32(1), 55-67). Edna is a member of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland’s Working Group on Advanced Practice and recently joined the Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Working group, Nurse Prescriber Representative HSE/HPSC.
CURRENT FACULTY BOARD

Professor Marie Carney
Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Marie is the current Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, having been appointed in 2014. She was elected to the Board in 2012 and sat on the Faculty Board previously from 1994-1999. She was Chair of the Education Committee of the Faculty from 1993 to 1997. She was appointed Associate Professor of Nursing in RCSI in 2008. She is currently Co-Chair of the RCSI Surgical and Post Graduate Faculties Board.

She entered UCD as lecturer in nursing in 1994 and remained until 2008 where she played a large part in the transformational changes taking place in UCD and in nursing education in UCD and nationally, including the development of the new School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems within the College of Health Sciences. She was Head of the UCD School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2001-2005 and Head of the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems from 2005-2007, following college re-structuring. She was appointed Senior Lecturer in 2007.

Marie was awarded a PhD in Strategic Management from the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School in 2003, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from UCD in 1992 and the Diploma in Nurse Teaching from UCD in 1982. Marie’s professional qualifications are Registered General Nurse (Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital where she was awarded the Margaret Huxley Gold Medal), Registered Midwife (Scotland) and Registered Nurse Tutor (Ireland). She was awarded a Fellowship in Nursing from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI in 1982. She has worked in the Richmond and Beaumont Hospitals as a nurse tutor. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Community Health Nursing in Ireland.

As a lecturer in UCD, she developed curricula for bachelors and master’s degree programmes in the areas of organisational behaviour, general, financial and strategic management and leadership and lectured in these subject areas. She chaired the UCD Nursing School and Programme Boards and was a member of...
numerous committees including undergraduate and postgraduate programme boards, the Postgraduate Research Committee, Schools College Board, Postgraduate Teaching and Learning College Boards and the President’s Schools Board.

Marie entered RCSI in 2008 as Associate Professor of Nursing. In RCSI, Marie’s academic and research focus was on curriculum design, undergraduate nursing, international nursing development including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, strategic management and advanced nursing practice. In 2009, in collaboration with European colleges, she developed and introduced a new MSc Nursing (advanced practice) programme, the first of its kind in Ireland to incorporate the Certificate in Nurse and Midwife Prescribing and Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) for nurses. In 2011 she was responsible for developing two national programmes in advanced practice in Epilepsy and Neonatology.

Marie’s professional affiliations include: Visiting Senior Lecturer and Professor to universities in Italy, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and USA, External Examiner for the BSc Nursing (undergraduate) programmes in DCU and the Institute of Technology, Letterkenny, and PhD Viva Examiner in UCC, the University of Bristol and the University of Ulster. She is editorial reviewer for several international peer reviewed journals including the Journal of Nursing Management, Journal of Clinical Nursing (2009-2012), International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance, Nordic Nursing Research Review as well as being European Editor to the Journal of Nursing Management.

She has held Board membership of committees including the Education and Training Committee of An Bord Altranais (now NMBI) and Council for Deans, Professors and Heads of Nursing in Universities in Ireland and the National Implementation Group for Midwifery and Children’s Education.

She has held membership of multiple national and international professional organisations which include AONE (American Organisation of Nurse Executives, FINE (Federation of International Nursing in Europe) and Thematic European Nursing Network for Advanced Practice in Nursing (TENN) across educational institutions in Europe. Marie has published her research in 55 Peer reviewed journal articles, one book on management in the health services, 3 book chapters, 35 other publications, and during 60 invited international presentations. She remains an active researcher.
Ms Mary Jacob
Vice Dean and Faculty Board Member
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Mary is an Advanced Midwife Practitioner Women’s Health and a Registered Nurse Prescriber at the National Maternity Hospital Dublin since 2007. This post is the first one in Ireland to be established at the National Maternity Hospital. Her academic qualifications are BSc. and MSc, and her professional qualifications are FFNMRCISI, RGN, RCN, RM, and RNP.

Mary provides expert urodynamic studies for women who attend the National Maternity Hospital to achieve patient centred outcomes by diagnosing, planning and initiating care and treatment modalities for the diagnosis of lower urinary tract symptoms or urinary incontinence. In addition, Mary sees and follows up patients with voiding difficulties who attend for Flow Studies constituting an important part of the urodynamics clinic and patients with postpartum and postoperative urinary retention demonstrating advanced clinical decision-making skills to manage her own patient caseload. Mary’s understanding of urinary continence and incontinence, combined with more than thirty years’ experience has enabled her to impact significantly on nursing and midwifery practice both nationally and internationally. She established guidelines for urinary retention, introduced portable bladder ultrasound scanning and introduced the link nurse/midwife programme to the National Maternity Hospital.

Mary was a Clinical Midwife Specialist in urodynamic studies prior to her appointment as an Advanced Midwife Practitioner in Women’s Health. She completed the Four Year Integrated Children’s and General Nurse Training between Temple Street and St. Vincent’s Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin and graduated with honours. She received her midwifery training in the National Maternity Hospital. She completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Management (Hons) in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and was awarded the Degree of Master of Science in Midwifery at University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin and Fellowship from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Other educational achievements include a Diploma in Counselling from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Mary has been a Board Member of
the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI since 2010. She has actively participated in all of the research conferences and is on the committee for the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Faculty. Mary was elected Vice Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in March 2014. She has represented the National Maternity Hospital with presentations on urodynamics and urinary retention on numerous occasions both nationally and internationally, including Canada, United States and New Zealand.

Her international publications include, International Continence Society and International Urogynaecological Association 2010 Scientific Programme Abstract Number 1065 “Postpartum Urinary Retention” published in the Book of Abstracts and on the International Continence Society website. She has presented posters at several international conferences on Urogynecological, Urology and Midwife Prescribing for Continence Promotion. Mary holds membership of several professional organisations including International Continence Society, International Urogynaecology Association, Continence Foundation of Ireland, Association of Continence Advisors United Kingdom and Irish Association of Advanced Nurse-Midwife Practitioners.

Mr Thomas Kearns
Executive Director and Former Board Member
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Thomas is an RPN, RGN, RNT and FFNMRCSI. His academic qualifications are Certificate in Counselling, BSc Nursing; Master’s Degree in Education (Research), MA (Taught). His current role is Executive Director of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI.

His past professional/academic roles include Education Officer and Chief Education Officer at the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (September 2001-April 2014), Course Coordinator/Lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery UCD (September 2000-September 2001) and Nurse Tutor, St Vincent’s University Teaching Hospital (1995-2000) and Mercy University Hospital (1993-1995). His involvement with the Faculty was within the regulatory sphere and he was involved in the external quality assurance of Faculty programmes from 2004-2014. He was appointed to the Faculty Board as the Regulatory Body representative in March 2013 and was involved as a key
stakeholder in the development of the Strategic Plan for the Faculty. He was appointed as the First Executive Director of the Faculty and took up the position on the 28th April 2014. His key professional achievements include (abridged): being part of an EU patient safety research project team (2012-2014); conducting research into the Governance experience of the last Board members constituted under the Nurses Act, 1985 (2012); developing and conducting evaluative research on the national on-line CPD directory for Nursing and Midwifery programmes (2009-2011).

He was the project manager and researcher that developed the national regulatory standards and requirements for the approval and monitoring of all accredited post graduate nursing and midwifery education programmes in Ireland (2010) and a member of the national review of the vision for Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (2010-2013). He is a Member of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honour Society for Nursing. His contribution to nursing and midwifery can be summarised in terms of developing responsive regulatory standards and requirements for assuring the development of high quality education and training programmes for nurses and midwives; and approving and monitoring these programmes nationally and internationally to ensure competent professionals who are fit for purpose, providing quality safe patient care.

Ms Catherine Clune Mulvaney
Honorary Secretary and Board Member
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Catherine works as a lecturer in the School of Nursing & Midwifery at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She is currently director for the Masters in Nursing programmes in the areas of Advanced Leadership, Advanced Practice, Epilepsy and Neonatology. Catherine is a qualified Registered General Nurse and Nurse Tutor and has completed an MSc (Nursing), PG Dip (CHSE), BSc (Nursing) and HDip (ICU). Catherine has worked in the RCSI since January 2006. Prior to that, she worked for two years as a Clinical Nurse Manager II, in Our Lady’s Hospital, Navan, Co. Meath. Prior to this management role, she worked in the General Intensive Care Unit in Beaumont Hospital, where she completed a Higher Diploma in
ICU Nursing. Following this, she continued as a student of the Faculty, during which time she completed a BSc and an MSc in Nursing. Catherine was awarded the Fellowship of the Faculty in 2006. She was elected onto the Board of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery in March 2010 and is currently the Honorary Secretary.

Catherine believes that her role as an educator and research supervisor positively influences student learning and engagement with the programmes, and ultimately contributes to the enhancement of quality patient care.

Selected publications:

Dr Theresa Frawley
Honorary Treasurer and Board Member
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Theresa was elected to the Board of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in 2013, and was subsequently elected to the role of Honorary Treasurer in 2014.

Theresa has been involved in nursing in different guises since 1979, qualifying as a nurse from the North Down Group School of Nursing in 1982, and subsequently, working in the Plastics and Maxillofacial unit at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, before training as a midwife in the Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine. Between 1985 and 1986, she worked for British Airways as cabin crew, whilst continuing as an agency midwife in London.

She commenced working in Tullamore General Hospital in 1986 as a staff nurse and following the inception of the ENT service (1990) within the hospital she worked there for five years and in 1995 she was instrumental in developing the first ENT Clinical Nurse Specialist role in

Dr Theresa Frawley
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Ms Mary Mac Mahon
Board Member

Mary’s professional qualifications include RGN, RM, RNT, Cert Oncology and FFNMRCISI. Her academic qualifications are Doctoral student, MBA (Hons) and Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Health Sciences Education.

Her current role is as Leadership and Innovation Advisor with the National Leadership and Innovation Centre for Nursing and Midwifery (NLIC), Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD), HSE, where she is the lead for the National Leadership Programmes for Directors and Assistant Directors of Nursing and Midwifery. Prior to her current position, she was involved with the nurse and midwifery medicinal product prescribing project in Ireland. For many years, Mary was a Nurse Tutor in St. Luke’s Hospital where she co-designed and was course leader for the MSc in Cancer Care run jointly between St Luke’s Hospital and The University of Dublin, Trinity College. She has previously held positions abroad in Kenya and Saudi Arabia. For the last four years she has been a

Theresa commenced her postgraduate nurse education within the Faculty, where she undertook a Diploma in Nursing (1992-1994), and a Fellowship in Nursing (1994-1995). Subsequently, she obtained her BSc; MSc; and latterly a Ph.D.

Theresa has co-authored three papers on the nursing management of carotid artery rupture with Professor Cecily Begley, Chair of Nursing and Midwifery TCD, and has co-authored five scientific poster presentations at the 1st, 2nd, and 4th International Symposium on Bone Conduction Hearing – Craniofacial Osseo-integration. At the 4th International Symposium in June 2013, she presented an oral paper on “The Role of the Bone Anchored Hearing Nurse” (BAHA). More recently, she co-presented three posters at the European Society Paediatric Otolaryngology’s conference in Dublin 2014.
Ms Jacinta Kelly  
Board Member

Jacinta is a Registered Nurse and holds the following qualifications; MSc, H. Dip, FFNMRCISI. Jacinta is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK with leadership contributions in post-registration, post-graduate and pre-registration teaching and assessing. Having earned her degree of Master of Nursing at University College Cork, Jacinta held a position at the School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin as lecturer and course co-ordinator of undergraduate BSc (Hons) programmes (Stage 3) across several disciplines, including children’s nursing. Jacinta has held clinical leadership roles in acute care, medical nursing and critical care nursing.

She is a Fellow and Board Member of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and a member of Sigma Theta Tau’s Phi Chapter.

She is a researcher in a number of fields of inquiry including the history of nursing, acute and critical care nursing, nurse education, curriculum policy and in the wellbeing of older people. Jacinta has taught acute care nursing, research methods and supervised research projects at third and fourth level. Jacinta has published research papers and commentaries widely in a number of national and international journals and has contributed a book chapter on pre-registration clinical skills learning.
Ms Helen Walsh  
Board Member

Helen Walsh is an ANP, RNP, RGN and FFNMRCrSI. Her academic qualifications are MSc and BSc. She is currently working as Advanced Nurse Practitioner (Neonatology) in the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street.

Following her RGN training, Helen completed the Neonatal Intensive Care of the Newborn training at the Royal London Hospital. She undertook advanced neonatal and research modules with City University in London which included Teaching & Assessing in Clinical Practice, Clinical Supervision and Introduction to Understanding & Application of Research & the Relationship between Professional Practice & Knowledge.

She has been awarded a BSc (Neonatal Studies) with the University of Southampton and an MSc in Clinical Nursing with University College Dublin. She was accredited as an ANP (Neonatology) and obtained a certificate in Nurse Prescribing and was awarded the Fellowship from the RCSI, Nursing & Midwifery Faculty. She received the Nurse of the Year award in the National Maternity Hospital for contribution to education. She currently works as an ANP (Neonatology).

The purpose of her current role is to provide clinical leadership within the neonatal unit by using advanced knowledge and skills to demonstrate, support and encourage excellence in clinical practice. She provides lectures on the Specialist Programmes ANP (Neonatology) and the Higher Diploma in Neonatal studies for which she acts as the link person between the RCSI, CME and the National Maternity Hospital.

She also provides in-house lectures to midwifery/nursing staff as well as providing clinical support and training to neonatal medical staff. Previously she held posts from staff nurse, junior and senior sister's posts in tertiary neonatal referral centers in the UK. Her involvement with the Faculty of Nursing began in 2010 when she was invited onto the Board. Integral to the role is promoting a climate of learning and innovation in nursing and midwifery. She has presented and submitted posters at national conferences in regard to central line management, ANNP role, palliative and pain management and developmental care. She contributed to HSE guidelines on gestational diabetes with regard to the neonate published in 2010.
Ms Noreen Keane  
Former Board Member  
Former Honorary Secretary  
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Noreen, a native of Listowel, Co. Kerry, commenced her career with general and intensive care nurse training in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital followed by midwifery and paediatric training and staffing in both the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital and Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin.

Then, Noreen returned to the Mater Hospital and held a number of positions such as Night Sister, Assistant Director of Nursing, Operations Manager contributing significantly to the hospital’s strategic and quality service developments, while implementing various strategies enhancing patient flow processes. She currently pursues an active role in the hospital as a strategic project manager and capacity planner.

Noreen’s association with the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI, dates back to 1980, where she completed ten diplomas and in 1996 was conferred with a Fellowship in Nursing & Midwifery. Subsequently, Noreen acted as a Board Member, Honorary Secretary, as well as an Examiner of the Fellowship in Nursing & Midwifery. With Noreen’s ongoing interest in education she continues as a sessional lecturer in the RCSI.

In 2004, Noreen completed a Master of Science degree in health policy and health services management, in Trinity College, Dublin. Over the years Noreen has presented at national and international conferences. In addition, she is a member of various professional / academic committees including the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery Scientific Conference Committee and Preliminary Proceedings Committee with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Noreen’s key areas of interest include service planning and delivery striving for a better health service both within the organisation and beyond, while at the same time believing that continuing education is vital in order to journey with more effective and advanced thinking.
“In recognition of outstanding contribution beyond one’s duties”
HONORARY FELLOWS

1992 – Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was chosen by the late Miss Mary Frances Crowley, Founder Dean of the Faculty, to become the first Honorary Fellow of the Faculty, and was later conferred on Wednesday the 12th of August 1992. This historic ceremony took place in the Courtyard outside the Baroque Church of St. Gregory in the heart of Rome.

The Honorary conferring was performed by the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the time, Miss Josephine Bartley, in the presence of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. J. Dermot O’Flynn. The citation for Mother Teresa which had been prepared by Miss Mary Frances Crowley, was read by Miss Eva Wall, a former Dean of the Faculty. Mother Teresa responded by giving a very beautiful homily.

The Faculty of Nursing considers it an honour to have as a Fellow one who will forever inspire and motivate its students in their special vocation. ‘Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam’

1992 – Mother Teresa of Calcutta 1995 Ms Anne F. McGuiness
1999 Ms Patricia Ashworth
1999 Ms Alice Leahy
1999 Her Excellency Mary McAleese
2000 Sr. Concilio Fitzgerald
2002 Ms Justice Mella Carroll
2003 Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Burke
2004 Sr. Catherine Mulligan
2005 Ms Mary Davis
2005 Professor Kevin O’ Malley
2006 Ms Mary McCarthy
2006 Ms Anne Carrigy
2007 Dr Theresa C Meehan
2008 Ms Patricia Benner
2008 Ms Mary Donohoe
2011 Ms Marie Keane
2012 Ms Elizabeth Adams
2013 Professor Rowaida Al-Ma’Aitah
2014 Ms Christina Noble
“Dedicated to developing the practice, educational and research capabilities of Nurses and Midwives”
CURRENT SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY ACADEMIC STAFF

Professor Zena Moore  
Professor and Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Faculty Board Member  
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Zena is a Registered General Nurse and holds the academic qualifications of PhD, MSc (Leadership in Health Professionals Education), MSc (Wound Healing & Tissue Repair), PG Dip, Dip First Line Management and she is also a FFNMRCSI. Zena is currently Professor of Nursing and Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery in RCSI. Her past roles include those of Staff Nurse, St James’s Hospital & Meath Hospital; Tissue Viability Clinical Nurse Specialist, The Adelaide & Meath Hospital Dublin and Lecturer & Associate Professor Director of Nursing Research, RCSI.

Zena is involved in research and her current projects include; National Pressure Ulcer Collaborative Project, Wound Cleansing for Leg Ulcers, a Cochrane Systematic Review; and Peer Observation of Teaching, A BEME review. She has completed a number of major projects since 2007 including: A European survey of the provision of wound management education to undergraduate nurses (2009).

She is a member of multiple professional organisations including the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and the Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance. Zena has contributed immensely to leadership in nursing internationally in roles such as President of the European Wound Management Association, the largest wound care organisation in the world representing forty organisations across thirty seven countries.

As part of her role as Chair of the European Wound Management Association Education Committee, Zena conducted a survey on the provision of undergraduate wound management education across 37 European countries. The results of this survey have contributed to the development of a minimum educational standard in wound care with respect to the European
Tom is an RGN, RNT and his academic qualifications are Dip Nurs, BNS, PG Dip Ed, MSc Advanced Nursing, EdD. His current role is Deputy Head and Director of Academic Affairs in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Tom is a graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland holding a Bachelors in Nursing Studies (1999). He also holds a Higher Diploma in Education (2000) and a Master’s of Science in Advanced Nursing from the University of Ulster (2002).

In 2012, Tom completed an Education Doctorate in the University of Keele having written his thesis on the gendered identities of male nurses in Ireland. In his professional background, he registered as a general nurse having completed a registration diploma programme in general nursing in the Netherlands (1996) and he has clinical experience in the Netherlands, Australia and...
Ireland. In nursing education, Tom has held roles as a Nurse Tutor in St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire and as a lecturer in UCD.

In May 2009, Tom was awarded a UCD Fellowship in Teaching and Academic Development. He has also held the position of Head of Teaching & Learning/ Director of Undergraduate Programmes in the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems from 2008-2010 and the Director of Continuing Professional Development and Lifelong Learning. He has obtained research funding and published in a variety of areas including clinical education, preceptorship and critical thinking, gendered identities and leadership in nursing.

Selected Publications:

Ms Mary O’Neill
Programme Director and Lecturer
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Mary is an RGN, RM, PHN, FFNMRCI. Her academic qualifications are BSc Nursing, MSc Primary Health Care.

Mary is currently Lecturer & Programme Director of the Post Graduate Diploma Programmes. Previously, she was Programme Director for the BSc Nursing & BSc Nursing Management Programmes.

She joined the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery in 2005 from the Department of Health & Children where she was a Policy Advisor for Community Nursing. Since joining the Faculty, Mary has been actively involved in the teaching, learning and assessment of students undertaking a variety of post graduate programmes at bachelors and masters levels of learning. Her role also includes the preparation, design and development of curricula to support nursing education to meet the health care needs of patients, clients and families in busy clinical environments. The curricula development process includes the
preparation of material for internal and external accreditation. The recent development of the NUI Certificates, level 8 in Nursing and Nurse Management are examples of Mary’s commitment to remodel the curricula to create educational opportunities for nurses to meet service needs.

Mary is Project Manager for a new eLearning initiative, in partnership with Aurion Learning, which customised a programme of learning for nurses. The project on Leadership & Management was funded by the Faculty to support the development of blended learning which combines both face-to-face and online learning. The project was completed this summer and the e-learning tools are available to students on the college’s virtual learning environment. Mary is currently working on her Doctorate in Education in the School of Education, Queen’s University, Belfast.

Selected Publications:

Ms Chanel Watson
Programme Director and Lecturer

Chanel is an RGN and FFNMRCSI. Her academic qualifications are Cert GCP and MSc. She is currently working as a lecturer and Programme Director in RCSI. In her past career Chanel worked as a Staff Nurse and Clinical Research Co-ordinator. Chanel has been involved in teaching across all programmes in the School of Nursing and Midwifery since December 2006. She has been actively involved as Chair and Judge at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Conference since 2007 and is very involved with the supervision of MSc students.

Chanel is a past member of the Resource and Implementation Group (Prescribing) and she is currently an active member of the National Steering Committee (Graduate Nurse and Midwife Programme). Chanel is the Programme Director for the Nurse Prescribing programme which has been instrumental in developing nursing and midwifery practice in Ireland. In her capacity as Programme Director for the Graduate Staff Nurse/Staff Midwife education
programme delivered nationally, Chanel has been instrumental in preparing new graduates for their role in clinical practice. Her role as supervisor for MSc students has helped develop research potential within clinical practice and contributes to advancing clinical practice. She is a member of a number of research ethics committees ensuring that nursing research is carried out to the highest ethical standards. Internationally she has helped develop clinical teaching skills during a workshop delivered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2013.

**Selected Publications:**

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Dr Declan Patton
Senior Lecturer and Director of Nursing & Midwifery Research
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Declan is an RPN, RNT and his academic qualifications are BNS (Hons), MSc, PGDip Ed, PGCRM, PhD. In the past he has held the positions of Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (SNMHS), Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning in the UCD College of Life Sciences and Head of Psychiatric Nursing in UCD. Declan is a recently appointed staff member to the School of Nursing and Midwifery and has been working here since June 2014.

Declan project managed the integration of Children’s Nursing and Midwifery education into University College Dublin. In his capacity as Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning in the UCD College of Life Sciences, Declan oversaw the teaching & learning activities in the Colleges’ nine constituent schools covering the areas of health, science, veterinary medicine and agricultural
science. He worked closely with Deans and other Vice Principals to ensure students were exposed to a quality teaching environment achieving best learning outcomes.

As Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, UCD, Declan was responsible for leading and developing teaching and learning and international educational initiatives. He led the development of the UCD Nursing Summer School and Tailored Semester abroad, both of which were new initiatives for North American Nursing students. In relation to teaching and learning he led the organisation of two symposia showcasing the teaching and learning activities within the UCD SNMHS. As Head of Psychiatric Nursing in UCD Declan developed close links between UCD and clinical partners. Furthermore, he was responsible for developing a taught post graduate programme for psychiatric nurses and others working in mental healthcare. He also generated new pathways of psychiatric nursing studies for North American nursing students.

Declan is currently responsible for building on the existing excellent research reputation of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI. He has been involved in research teams in the areas of older people, nursing leadership, mental healthcare and international nurse education.

Selected Publications:


Dr Gillian Paul
Lecturer in Nursing
40th Anniversary Committee Member

Gillian is an RGN, RM, RPHN and her academic qualifications are PhD, MSc. in Community Health, Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning, Diploma in Statistics, Higher Diploma in Nursing (Public Health) and Diploma in Midwifery.
Gillian has worked clinically as a nurse, midwife and public health nurse in Ireland and the UK. She has been employed in the third level education sector for over ten years.

She has a well-established research profile and has worked on numerous studies as a researcher and project manager. Her research to date has focused on a range of health issues including smoking, diabetes, and loneliness in older people, community interventions and the use of peer support in healthcare provision. She has published widely in international peer reviewed journals.

In 2005 she was awarded the Jacqueline Horgan Registrar’s Prize (Bronze Medal) from the Section of Epidemiology and Public Health in the Royal Academy of Medicine of Ireland for a study on the effect of the workplace smoking ban on the health of barworkers.

Selected Publications:


Ms Deirdre Hyland
Senior Clinical Research Nurse and Director of Research Nurse Education, RCSI

Deirdre is an RGN, RM and her academic qualifications are Higher Diploma ENT Nursing and MSc Nursing Practice. She is currently based in the RCSI Clinical Research Centre in Beaumont Hospital. Before moving to a career in Clinical Research in 2004, she held a post as Clinical Nurse Manager 2 in a Gynae-Oncology and Head and Neck Oncology Unit in St James’s Hospital, Dublin.

Deirdre has been responsible for the coordination and delivery of the Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research) since its commencement in 2009. This is the only programme available in Ireland
to teach modules on all aspects of the clinical research nurses role, and study coordination. Modules have also been completed by not-nursing students, including scientists, data managers and members of research ethics committees. Deirdre also serves as a chairperson and judge at the Annual Research Conference, and participates in other Faculty activities as required.

Deirdre has presented nationally and internationally on aspects of head and neck cancer care, and more recently on topics related to the clinical research nurse role. In 2012, she co-presented a seminar on Clinical Research Nursing in Ireland at the annual conference of the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses in Houston, Texas. She has contributed to the development and project management of a number of clinical studies, and is acknowledged or named as a co-author on papers on colorectal cancer biomarkers, the use of an acoustic monitoring device in asthma and the Irish Surgical Outcomes Study. Presently, Deirdre is involved in the local coordination of an international study that is looking at the utility of thrombectomy in acute stroke.

Deirdre is a member of the committee of the Irish Research Nurses Network (IRNN), and is a Member of the Education Work-stream of the UK Clinical Research Facilities (UKCRF) Network

In her current role, Deirdre is available as a point of contact to advise research nurses about aspects of the role and educational opportunities. As a member of an IRNN subgroup she assisted in the development of a Research Nurse Orientation Pack for use by research nurses throughout Ireland, and plays an active role in the organisation of the annual IRNN conference.
Professor Seamus Cowman
Head and Professor of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Bahrain

Professor Seamus Cowman PhD, MSc, PGCEA, RNT, DipN, RGN, RPN, FFNMRCISI, FAAN. Seamus was the first Professor of Nursing at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Head of Department at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery for fourteen years. In October 2013, he took up the post of Professor and Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Bahrain. He studied at the Royal College of Nursing London and London University, undertook an MSc at the University of Surrey and a PhD at Dublin City University and became the first nurse in Ireland to obtain a PhD from an Irish University in 1994. As a registered Psychiatric and General Nurse and Nurse Tutor, Seamus has practiced clinically across the health services in Ireland and the UK.

He has 160 publications journal and books and has obtained over €3.5 million in research funding. His research supervision experience includes MSc, MD and PhD students. His research work relates to Clinical Nursing Interventions in many areas of health service clinical activity.

As a Principal Investigator he has undertaken research into Mental Health, Day Surgery and the Role of the Nurse. Significantly he has RCT research work on chronic wounds, prevention of pressure ulcers and has contributed to the Cochrane collaboration.

Research activity includes multidisciplinary research collaborating with industrialists, surgeons, pharmacists and microbiologists in Ireland. He has presented multiple papers at national and international conferences.

He has been a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Advanced Nursing, Journal of Clinical Nursing and the Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. In 2014, he took a position as Associate Editor for a new open access journal - Nursing Open.
In April 2014 he was appointed to the prestigious Lancet Commission in England along with twelve other international commissioners, to review the future of nursing education in England.

He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI, and in Nov 2010, Seamus became the first nurse from Ireland to be inaugurated into the prestigious American Academy of Nursing (AAN). Eligibility for Fellowship requires specific evidence of outstanding contributions to the improvement of nursing at national and international level. Seamus has been appointed to many External Examining positions in Ireland and Europe for undergraduate, post graduate and PhD viva’s.

As Head of the Department at RCSI, Seamus provided the necessary leadership for the development of the first suite of clinical nursing specialist post graduate programmes in Ireland incorporating a core curriculum and devised the first national programmes in many specialist areas, most notable Infection Control, Wound Management and Neonatal Intensive Care nursing. He also developed and provided the first Nurse and Midwife Prescribing programme in Ireland. Additionally, he developed the first Sexual Assault - Forensic Nurse Examiners education programme in Ireland in 2007. Seamus is currently engaged in the process of developing the first specialist nursing programmes in Bahrain.

Dr Catherine S O’Neill
Programme Director MSc
RCSI Bahrain

Dr Catherine S O’Neill is an RGN. Her academic qualifications are BA, (Hons.) MA, Pg.Dip SSR, M.Soc.Sc, PhD

Catherine is the current Director of the Masters in Nursing Programme and Convener of the Research Ethics Committee in RCSI Bahrain. She is also President of the Rufaida Honor Nursing Society, Bahrain. Catherine was instrumental in the development of this society for professional nurses working in different health care facilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Society is a prelude to the formation of a chapter of the International Organization, Sigma Theta Tau.

Previous to this she worked in RCSI, Dublin for 12 years. Her academic qualifications are in the disciplines
of Philosophy and Sociology and her first professional qualification was nursing. Her PhD was an ethnographic study of treatment decision making in the care of older patients in hospitals in Ireland. Her role with the Faculty of Nursing included Lecturer & Researcher in Health Care Ethics. Catherine was director of MSc (Nursing) programme (years 1 & 2) and Coordinator of the Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing) programme in partnership with The National Maternity Hospital, The Rotunda Hospital, The Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and the Mid-Western Regional Maternity Hospital, Limerick.

Her current scholarly and research interests are Empirical Approaches to Ethics; Nursing and Medical Philosophy; Healthcare Education; and Qualitative Research Methodologies.

**Selected Publications:**

“The Faculty has established partnerships for the development and delivery of clinically focused programmes”
CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Research Supervision
The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery at RCSI offers a range of programmes at a variety of levels, closely aligned with clinical practice. We provide programmes across the spectrum of nursing and midwifery specialties and we aim to accommodate both students who wish to follow short learning courses and those wishing to pursue study to formal award levels. Taking into account the needs of busy healthcare professionals, all of our programmes are delivered using a blended learning approach. This involves a mix of traditional classroom based teachings with online computer-mediated learning thereby increasing accessibility and allowing students to control the pace of learning themselves.

Research Supervision:
• PhD
• MSc by Research

Established in 2007, a Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research and provided a resource for the co-ordination and strategic development of research by nurses and midwives at RCSI. The first 5-year strategy was developed in 2010 and had set a range of goals and objectives which were closely aligned with the RCSI Research Strategy and which guided research in six thematic areas: Cancer Care; Chronic Illness; Professional Development and Education; Wound Management and Tissue Repair; Infection Control and Research Methodologies.

MSc Programmes:
MSc Nursing
The purpose of the MSc Nursing is to provide nurses and managers with an advanced level of theoretical knowledge deemed relevant to enhancing practice. The programme is designed to foster in students a questioning approach to knowledge development and professional issues pertinent to leading contemporary patient care. Students will also be facilitated in developing their research skills through undertaking a research dissertation under supervision if required. An increasing focus on ‘evidence-based’ practice in nursing has created an environment in which research awareness is essential.

MSc Nursing/Midwifery (Advanced Leadership)
The programme aims to provide students with an advanced level of theoretical leadership knowledge deemed relevant to enhancing practice. The programme is designed to foster in students a questioning approach to knowledge development and professional issues pertinent to leading contemporary patient care. The programme aims
facilitate the development of the nurse in the field of leadership at advanced level thus allowing critical evaluation and synthesis using appropriate research findings.

Advanced Practice Programmes: MSc Nursing/Midwifery (Advanced Practice)
The MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) programme was granted approval and accreditation by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (formerly An Bord Altranais) and the National University of Ireland (NUI) in 2009. This programme aims to prepare the registered nurse/midwife for practice as an advanced practitioner and to facilitate the development of core competencies for advanced nurse/midwife practice in order to enhance the care delivered to patients/clients.

MSc Nursing/Midwifery (Advanced Practice) Epilepsy
The MSc in Nursing (Advanced Practice) (Epilepsy) was the first programme of its type in Ireland. The programme received accreditation and validation from An Bord Altranais, the National University of Ireland (NUI) and from the RCSI Degree Awarding Body.

This programme provides students with the knowledge and skills required to develop advanced knowledge and clinical competency in the area of epilepsy, which are consistent with the aims of the HSE's National Epilepsy Care Programme, Whose aim is to improve access and delivery of expert care to patients. Students work closely with their Medical Mentors and will deliver epilepsy services to the public as Advanced Nurse Practitioners in the future.

MSc Nursing/Midwifery (Advanced Practice) Neonatology
The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI established a programme in the specialist area of Neonatology, the first programme of its type in Ireland. This programme aims to provide students with advanced knowledge and enhanced clinical skills which will ultimately improve the clinical outcomes, standards and quality of care for neonates in Ireland.

All of these programmes are delivered through a blended learning approach whereby half of the programme is delivered on line and the remainder through class contact, providing enhanced flexibility for student learning.

School of Nursing Post Graduate Diploma Programmes
Building on the heritage of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, the School provides post graduate education to nurses and midwives across a wide variety of diverse clinical specialities. We work closely with our key stakeholders to ensure that the programmes we deliver are responsive to the ever changing
health care arena, such that upon completion of our programmes, our students are empowered to actively embrace the clinical and leadership demands faced in everyday clinical practice. RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery provide Post Graduate Programmes across the spectrum of nursing and midwifery specialities and we aim to accommodate both students who wish to follow short learning courses and those wishing to pursue study to formal award levels. We have long established partnerships with a number of large hospitals and health service agencies for the development and delivery of clinically focused education. Taking into account the needs of busy healthcare professionals, all of our programmes are delivered using a blended learning approach. This involves a mix of traditional classroom based teaching with online computer-mediated learning thereby increasing accessibility and allowing students to control the pace of learning themselves. We also collaborate with other departments of the college for multidisciplinary education and research purposes. Our active funded research agenda, in range of clinically focused areas, is translated into our education programmes ensuring a solid evidence based approach.

RCSI based programmes:
- Wound Management & Tissue Viability
- Infection Prevention & Control Nursing
- Respiratory Care in Nursing Practice

In partnership with Beaumont Hospital:
- Intensive Care Nursing
- Neuroscience Nursing
- Coronary Care Nursing
- Emergency Nursing
- Operating Department Nursing
- Oncology Nursing
- Gerontological Nursing
- Renal Nursing

In partnership with Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital:
- Ear & Throat Nursing
- Ophthalmic Nursing

In partnership with Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital:
- Orthopaedic Nursing

In partnership with Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin
- Peri-operative Children’s Nursing

In partnership with The National Maternity Hospital, The Rotunda Hospital, The Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and the Mid-Western Regional Maternity Hospital, Limerick:
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- MSc Nursing (Specialist Practice) Programmes:
- The opportunity exists to progress to MSc following completion of Post Graduate Diploma Programmes.
• Post Graduate Certificate Programmes (Level 9):
• Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research)
• BSc Bridging Programmes (Hons) (Level 8)
• BSc Nursin
• BSc Nursing Management
• Certificate & Diploma Programmes (Level 8)
• Professional Certificate in Nursing
• Professional Certificate in Nursing Management
• Certificate in Nursing (Nurse/Midwife Prescribing)
• Professional Certificate in Nursing (Care of the Older Person in a residential/Nursing Home Setting)

In association with Beaumont Hospital

Professional Certificate in Nursing in:
• Breast Care
• Haemodialysis
• Heart Failure

Stand Alone Modules:
• A wide variety of Stand Alone Modules are also available to students.
EPILOGUE

The purpose of this epilogue is to hint at the potential for the next 40 years for the Faculty. I want to begin by paraphrasing that most famous expression of Sir Isaac Newton; if we can see further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. This publication has provided us with an insight into those professional giants that have allowed us to see further than ever before. Modern nursing and midwifery practice, research and education owes a considerable debt to the professional visionaries, risk takers, innovators, leaders and thinkers discussed in this publication—our collegial giants.

In ancient Rome, Janus was the two faced God that looked to the future and the past and is associated with beginnings and transitions. The primary focus of this publication has been on exploring the past, the historical development and transitions of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery since 1974. This epilogue will set these developments as the foundation for the next 40 years.

In 2013 the Faculty Board with the support of the Senior Management Team within RCSI commenced a process to develop a new strategic plan. This research based plan is the foundation for the transitions of the Faculty and it was approved by the Faculty Board and the College Management in Quarter 2 of 2014. It provides the Faculty with a revised vision; revised governance, a set of strategic and operational aims and objectives and a new executive. The strategy is influenced by key developments in health service policy, health service reform and changes within the professional regulatory environment. The strategic plan will guide the Faculty to support the continued development of competent professionals who can provide quality, safe, person-centred care within constantly evolving interdisciplinary care environments.

Thomas Kearns
Executive Director
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
RCSI.