The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is a Registered Charity for the promotion of the practice of surgery, anaesthesia, dentistry, nursing and radiology, and the provision of education, training and research in medicine and allied health sciences. Registered Charity number CHY 1277.
Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

**INTRODUCTION**

The principles firmly established by our founders during the earlier years of our College are just as relevant today as they were at that particular time. The early members of Council bequeathed to us the noble tenets of institutional independence, academic freedom, tolerance of difference and a commitment to *humanitarian concerns*. These tenets are continuously upheld by our College and its staff.
Our College was born through idealism at a time of great political turbulence and deprivation in Ireland and beyond. In 1784 the founding surgeons sought and obtained from King George the Third, a Charter to enable them to establish in Ireland, a College to promote the highest standards of training and practice of surgery and the allied medical disciplines. This would be accomplished through undergraduate education, postgraduate training, research and collegiate support.

At that time, travel and communication of knowledge to the other cities in Ireland was either by foot or by horse and took several days. Medical practices were primitive and empirical; understanding disease processes was rudimentary and observational; and medical discovery was constrained until developments in the molecular, microscopic and communication sciences. In contrast, today we can visit any city in the world in the same time-scale and communication to the remotest regions of the globe can be instantaneous and in a real-time multimedia format. Through the inseparable forces of scientific advancement and globalism, it is now possible and indeed sometimes practical to convey over great distances, programmes of medical education, medical consultation, technologically assisted guidance of surgical instruments and to exchange research knowledge through major international networks.

Our founders bequeathed to us the noble tenets of institutional independence, academic freedom, tolerance of difference and a commitment to humanitarian concerns. In addition to seminal contributions to medicine and surgery, the professional legacy of these individuals include advocacy and compassionate dedication to patient care, practice to the highest ethical principles, lifelong learning and study, commitment to training the next generation of doctors, application of scientific methods to solve diseases, and active participation in the continued development of professional colleges and hospitals. These institutional and professional values are our bedrock, provide a continuous force for modernisation and are just as relevant today as they were two hundred and twenty three years ago. Our altruistic sensibilities are continuously challenged by the total absence of healthcare and educational facilities in much of the developing world, by the ambiguity towards resourcing and modernising of health services in developed countries and by the obvious consequences of underservice to major segments of our society. Thus there is a continued necessity for independent institutions and individual commitment to provide the appropriate structures and leadership to resolve and effect the necessary changes whether scientific or societal in nature.

Since its foundation, RCSI has enjoyed a great international reputation for high quality undergraduate and postgraduate training in medicine and surgery, for collegiate activities and for the standard of its qualifications. Developing and sustaining this great tradition in the highly competitive international arena is a testament to the commitment of successive generations of council and staff members to high standards at all levels including planning, management, teaching, examinations, research and to the high level performance and ambassadorial role of our Graduates and Fellows in a great many countries. Our College today attracts students from more than sixty countries, records Fellows and Graduates in almost all countries in the world and is the predominant source of medical training for many disadvantaged regions. Our medical schools in Penang and Bahrain are
now operating to full capacity and are an important hub for medical education and allied sciences in those regions. The international programmes in Health Sciences and Management are now fully booked, both in Dublin and Dubai. The award of a Graduate Entry Programme in medicine to RCSI by the Higher Education Authority now makes the College the largest medical school in the State and is a tribute to the professionalism of our educators and management. We are unique as a College of Surgeons in that we have, in our organisation, schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Nursing and allied Health Sciences. We treasure the special relationship we have with Radiology, Sports and Exercise Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing through the Faculties within this College. We value the continued collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians through the Joint Board, the Forum of Medical Colleges and our combined faculties and international programmes.

It is axiomatic that a high standard of surgical training and assessment provides the best guarantee of good surgical practice. There is continued concern that overall, training and skill development could be compromised by a reduced clinical exposure consequent to reductions in working times. There is also the imperative that training and skill acquisition cannot be developed at the expense of patient safety. All surgical residents in Ireland are on an educational programme and their clinical development is supported by supervised instruction on the essential elements of surgical practice, which include core knowledge, surgical skills and human factors. Online learning through BEST and SCHOOL for Surgeons facilitates focused instruction and continuous assessment without need for travel. The value of virtual simulation and bench models in skill instruction and development is now established and the College is investing and developing world class facilities and programmes. The National Surgical Training Centre is now well advanced and the mobile skills laboratory regularly visits each region. They provide repeated instruction and skills learning opportunities in an extra-clinical setting, thus ensuring a more rapid and complete development of the clinical surgical skills repertoire. The need for training on human factors has been addressed: initiatives to forestall clinical errors and work related stress have been implemented. In collaboration with our colleagues in the Royal Colleges and specialist associations in the UK, we have a comprehensive intercollegiate surgical curriculum. Hence we now have a balanced training programme which guarantees a knowledge base, manual skills and personal attributes for surgical practice. We are steadfast in the belief that wisdom, and the ability to perform in high stress situations and under emergency conditions, requires clinical experience and service in busy, high standard and supervised institutions.

The relationship between the training programmes in Ireland and the UK has changed through the introduction of the Postgraduate Medicine Educational and Training Board by the British government. We continue to participate in the intercollegiate bodies and the quality assurance of our training programmes and surgical examinations will continue to be underpinned externally, and for the foreseeable future, by the Joint Committee of Surgical Training. At least one year of exchange between both the Irish and UK programmes will continue to be recognised. This is important to facilitate training in the smaller specialties such as neurosurgery, paediatric surgery, maxillofacial surgery and specialised areas within the other surgical disciplines. It will, however, be more difficult in the future to arrange placement for trainees in British programmes for periods in excess of one year.

Continued professional development is an essential component of our professional lives to meet the imperatives of practice change, regulatory agencies and public assurance. Increasingly, the advice of the College is sought by the Medical Council and health agencies on matters relating to clinical competency, including policy development and assurance. To inform the debate, the complexities of these issues are currently being explored through the competence advisory committee with the Medical Council, the practice and CPD committees in the College and in a combined manpower dialogue forum with the Health Service Executive.

While today we function in an environment which is increasingly globalised, informed and market driven, our professional obligations are of paramount importance. Each day we witness the appalling human cost in the developing world through famine, poverty, disease and lack of educational opportunity. We continuously seek ways to furtherly seek humanitarianism in the developed world. We support and salute the heroic efforts of many of our staff and Fellows who volunteer their time and skills on a continued basis and are engaged in multiple programmes to improve the public health and basic education within several regions in Africa and Asia. To develop and sustain the impact of local healthcare programmes, RCSI is increasingly involved with local organisations and colleges in the education and training of skilled personnel at all levels. Recently we signed a memorandum of understanding with the College of Surgeons of East Central Southern Africa (COSCSA) to develop an inter-institutional structure for surgical training and assessment in the ten countries of that region. Already a pilot scheme is operational in two major African centres which involves delivery of the basic surgical training curriculum, training trainers, the electronic delivery of instruction and case conferences. The ultimate objective is to support the development of training and assessment programmes across the region which are compatible with norms of the developed world.

To provide a continued witness to our humanitarian obligations, we increasingly honour worthy individuals with eponymous lectures or Honorary Fellowships. In May and June of this year, RCSI took great pride in bestowing our highest honour, the Honorary Fellowship, on two great humanitarians, Bob Geldof and President James Earl Carter, 39th President of the United States. Both are icons of humanitarianism who have made enduring contributions to relief of third world debt, famine, disease, homelessness and to the provision of education.

A significant contribution of our founders was towards the evolution of scientific thought and its application to medical discovery. Our history is replete with accomplishments including the seminal discoveries in medical science, particularly those in the nineteenth century which are recalled through eponyms which recognise the contributions of Colles, Smith, Houston, Jacob, Wilde and others. The research climate in Ireland has been further enhanced by the recent availability of major funding support through Science Foundation Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, the Health Research Board and voluntary agencies. RCSI has successfully attracted major funding from these agencies, thus perpetuating the tradition of scientific investigation and medical advancement. We are fortunate that most of the consultant surgeons in our hospitals have, during their training, investigated and published at the highest levels and are a major national academic resource. The development of a national surgical research network will facilitate continuity of investigation in surgery at a pace and depth not heretofore possible and will provide collaborative opportunities for surgeons to contribute to advances in their specialty.

Institutional evolution accommodates change not only by adaptation but also by innovation and leadership. Our College is sustained as an independent international institution of great repute by its rich heritage, by its entrepreneurial spirit and by its noble purpose. The challenge will be as medical education and postgraduate training and support body, on a continuing basis, to meet the demands posed by the rapidly changing knowledge base and by the uncertainties within the socio-political environment whether domestic or international. With patient care as a priority, with a commitment to excellence, an altruistic concern and an international perspective, we should, with confidence, meet the demands and challenges of the foreseeable future. It is a great privilege to be President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
I would like to thank the Vice President Professor Frank Keane and the members of Council for their support and wisdom and for their unselfish loyalty and dedication to the College. Their commitment, given the demands of modern practice, is admirable. The exceptional achievements of Mr. Michael Horgan and the Executive ensures the continued progress of the College as a major international organisation in health science education, research and professional development. I congratulate them for their diplomacy and skilful management.

The College is noted for its excellent academic programmes and I thank the Deans, the academic leaders and staff in teaching and research for their professionalism and dedication. Management, administration and implementation are the essential components of organisational harmony and also provide the public face and perceptions. I thank all involved for their great commitment and sense of responsibility to RCSI.

Professor Gerald C O’Sullivan President.

Each day we witness the appalling human cost in the developing world through famine, poverty, disease and lack of educational opportunity. We continuously seek ways to further our humanitarian goals throughout the world. We support and salute the heroic efforts of many of our staff and Fellows who volunteer their time and skills on a continued basis and are engaged in multiple programmes to improve the public health and basic education within several regions in Africa and Asia.
As Chief Executive, I feel incredibly privileged to lead an academic institution which has such a rich tradition and history and yet continues to lead the charge in terms of new initiatives and identifying opportunities that go towards creating our future. It is this appetite to innovate and adapt that underpins the character of RCSI.

For those of you not too familiar with the College, we are a not-for-profit academic institution receiving some State funding, but mostly self sufficient. Our challenge always is to maintain and increase our revenue by actively seeking new projects and initiatives both in Ireland and internationally.

The past year has been an exceptionally successful and exciting one, though not without its challenges. The achievements of the College over the past twelve months, and there have been many, are due exclusively to the dedication, energy and loyalty of the individuals who comprise the Council and staff of RCSI. We are always aware that the focus for all of us, in everything we do, is the patient. Our successes in securing research funding, or our ongoing initiatives for the improvement in the delivery of medical education, or our innovative approach to surgical training through the deployment of new technologies, have all improved and made safer, treatments for patients, wherever they may be. It is the patients, along with clinicians and hospital staff within our teaching hospitals, who will always have our deepest appreciation.

Following an extensive tendering process, RCSI’s Graduate Entry Programme (GEP) was approved by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in April 2007, based on the recommendations of an international group of experts in medical education. RCSI along with the University of Limerick were the only two institutions in Ireland to be awarded graduate entry places. This represents a major achievement for the College and will ensure that RCSI remains at the forefront in the provision of innovative world-class medical education.

Under the programme for Research in Third-level Institutions – Cycle 4 (PRTLI4), RCSI received a total of €13,342,000. This was made up of €5,573,000 in capital funding and €7,699,000 in recurrent funding. The funding is allocated between the sub-activities of the National Biophotonics & Imaging Platform (NBIP) and Biomedical Science (Graduate Training Programme) and establishment of Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI). This enormous success came about by the efforts of the Director of Research, Professor Brian Harvey and his staff.

This year RCSI was awarded two of the four HRB-funded PhD Scholars Programmes, to the value of €5m each. These structured PhD programmes will have phased intakes of postgraduates over the next four years. The Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease Programme brings together the complementary skills of researchers from RCSI, Beaumont Hospital and Dublin City University providing an excellent training programme in biomedical and translational research, areas underpinning RCSI’s research strategy. The programme will train scholars in core research skills focusing on delivering diagnostics and therapeutics for human disease. The Health Services Research PhD Programme is a multidisciplinary, collaborative inter-institutional Programme linking complementary skills in RCSI, TCD and UCC. It is the first non-biomedical Scholars Programme to be funded by HRB and is an equally shared Programme across the three participating institutions. The Programme will provide a critical mass of PhD scholars excelling in health services research, policy evaluation and translation of evidence into practice. Jointly the two Programmes will produce over 50 PhD scholars in the next seven years.

In the past year, we have improved our traditional role as a premier medical and surgical training institution in Dublin; we have expanded our humanitarian activities within our own community and we have made extraordinary progress creating and building partnerships with the developing world to increase access to quality healthcare.
In keeping with RCSI's educational and humanitarian commitments, we are committed to providing greater hope and opportunity to our local community in Dublin's South Inner City. RCSI is about to embark on the REACH Programme, a new initiative, kindly funded by Allied Irish Banks. The Programme aims to increase third level participation and enhance life chances for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and has two strategic objectives: (1) to make access to RCSI feasible for economically disadvantaged students through providing significantly enhanced financial and pastoral supports and (2) to stimulate access to further and higher education, together with improving retention and attainment at second level, through a new and exciting programme of educational outreach.

Increasing the quality and availability of medical and surgical training and education to traditionally underserved parts of the world is central to RCSI’s commitment to our Noble Purpose. Over the years, RCSI has steadily built up successful partnerships in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Vietnam, and the United Arab Emirates. While time and space prohibit me from fully describing all of our activities around the globe, I would like to simply highlight a few of the achievements attained last year.

As our President mentioned in his introduction, in June 2007, RCSI formed a partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to improve the standards of surgery throughout that region. Our agreement with COSECSA commits RCSI to provide assistance with surgical training in Africa through staff and curriculum development, provision of skills technology and training, the conduct of examinations, and the development of web based educational programmes.

In keeping with our Noble Purpose, RCSI can play a positive role in addressing some of Africa’s overwhelming need for high quality healthcare professionals including surgeons.

In Bahrain, the new US$65million university building is currently under construction and due for completion in summer 2008. The RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has been operating since 2004 at a temporary facility. The King Hamad University Hospital, under construction and owned by the Government of Bahrain, is due for completion in 2009. This 300 bed public hospital will be the teaching hospital for the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain. It is hoped that RCSI will manage and operate the Hospital on behalf of the Ministry of Health with contract negotiations hoped to commence shortly.

The RCSI Bahrain Health Oasis will represent a truly unique medical education and healthcare campus within a world class, mixed use waterfront development – an international healthcare centre of excellence and enterprise for the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Middle East. When completed, it will integrate world-class healthcare, state-of-the-art medical education & research and health sector enterprises in an unprecedented environment designed to foster novel approaches to healthcare and healthcare delivery. It will be unlike any existing or proposed health or wellness centre in the region, as it will combine an extensive and comprehensive provision of international standard, RCSI led medical and healthcare excellence, with state-of-the-art medical enterprises in a high amenity leisure waterfront environment. Detailed planning will commence in early 2008 and construction should be underway by late 2008 / early 2009.

In the past year, we have improved our traditional role as a premier medical and surgical training institution in Dublin; we have expanded our humanitarian activities within our own community and we have made extraordinary progress creating and building partnerships with the developing world to increase access to quality healthcare.

When I look at RCSI’s major achievements this year, I cannot help but think that any one of them would have been sufficient to call the year a success! The fact that we have been able to achieve so much is a testament to the imagination, determination, and hard work of all the Faculty and staff at RCSI. It is my pleasure and obligation to thank them publicly for their dedication and loyalty.

I have been very fortunate in following in the footsteps of remarkable registrars/CEOs: Harry O’Flanagan, Bill McGowan and Kevin O’Malley. The success of RCSI today is built on the foresight, endeavour and energy of these three individuals. My challenge, and that of the senior management and Faculty, is to build further on this heritage, for the good of RCSI, its students and Fellows, but especially for the benefit of patients worldwide.

Mr. Michael Horgan
Chief Executive
Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

Increasing the quality and availability of medical and surgical training and education to traditionally underserved parts of the world is central to RCSI’s commitment to our Noble Purpose. Over the years, RCSI has steadily built up successful partnerships in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates.
The interest in skills acquisition continues to grow amongst the surgical and medical community and to date, approximately 1100 surgeons have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in the development or delivery of surgical education at RCSI.

Postgraduate Surgical Education continues to be a source of great pride to RCSI. One of our milestone achievements this year has been the completion of the initial design phase of the new Skills Centre which will go live in 2009.

The new facility builds on our experiences in our existing training centre and incorporates a wide range of features from the world’s leading skills centres. This state of the art facility will occupy 2600m² across three floors and has been designed by a team of surgeons, trainees, engineers and architects. On the ground floor there is an auditorium, a multipurpose training facility, a tutorial room and changing rooms for participants attending the skills centre on the floor below. The Skills Centre has been designed to support a full range of dry and wet training models. Ceiling mounted pendants will supply the necessary surgical equipment, lights and services to each of the 17 workstations. Each workstation has been designed to simulate a modern operating theatre and in its design, we have attempted to anticipate future technology and techniques. The AV system enables video from single or multiple sources (overview, light or endoscopic camera) at each or multiple stations to be transmitted throughout the centre or to other locations across the world. We envision that this new facility will be an international centre for advanced skills acquisition in Surgery, for doctors and paramedics.

Ten years ago, the National Surgical Training Centre was founded based on evidence that a structured training program could augment the traditional apprenticeship training model of Surgery and in turn, increase the standards of surgical education, training and care. Since 1997, our trainee base has grown significantly and this year we have almost 300 trainees in structured basic surgical, residency and general surgery higher surgical training programmes. We expect this base to continue to grow in line with the curriculum development that is currently being carried out by the other surgical specialties. Initiatives like our structured training programs, the mobile skills unit, and SCHOOL for Surgeons (our online education tool) have earned RCSI a well deserved reputation for surgical education innovation internationally.

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Postgraduate Surgery also contributes to a diversity of international surgical education challenges. In Africa, RCSI has entered a partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central, & Southern Africa (COSECSA), enabling them to use RCSI’s education, training and examinations to increase the standards of surgical education and care in this neglected region. In Bahrain for the third year running, RCSI has been successfully managing the surgical residency program in Salmaniya Medical Complex and Hospital.

This summer, with Ethicon’s support, we launched a research project in the area of surgical skills acquisition using virtual reality training. This international project, lead by RCSI, will be carried out in 19 leading clinical sites in the US and in the Meath and Adelaide Hospital incorporating the National Children’s Hospital (M.A.N.C.H.), Dublin in Ireland. With the HSE’s support we are also running two national research projects in skills acquisition.

Professor W. Arthur Tanner
Director of Surgical Affairs
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences

School of Medicine In September 2007, 30 State funded EU students and 30 Non EU students commence their studies at RCSI Reservoir House, as part of a new four year Graduate Entry Programme in Medicine. The programme results from a successful submission and presentation to the Higher Education Authority and a group of international experts. This Programme was preceded by the Modular Medical Programme (MMP) which accepted its first cohort of 62 students in September 2006.

These Programmes are led by Professor Alan Johnson, former Dean of the Faculty.

In 2007, the students participating in MMP will proceed to their second year which will take place on a new site at RCSI Academic Centre, Connolly Hospital. The 2006/2007 school year was also a time of much change in all areas of curriculum design, teaching and assessment. In the last year, curricular and assessment changes continued to develop with the introduction of Podcasting, case uploads and increased online assessment. This year also saw the introduction of Grand Rounds for the Junior Cycles in both the Modular Medical and five year programmes. This innovation, which started in the MMP, proved so successful, that it was then implemented in the second semester of the five year programme. In previous years, such teaching would only have been experienced by students in the senior cycle.

The College has also continued to invest in its Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Moodle, which was launched in October 2005. It is an open source e-learning platform with a software package designed to help educators create online courses. Moodle allows RCSI to deliver materials in a structured fashion, mirroring the semi-structured curriculum. It has proven itself to be an excellent learning tool for the student and clearly outlines the learning outcomes for each component of the course, together with the means of achieving them. The Moodle IT Platform has also been implemented at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain (MUB) and gives the flexibility of delivering one curriculum on multiple sites. In addition to MUB, the Penang Medical School, in Malaysia, has also adopted Moodle as its VLE with RCSI staff from Dublin providing on-site training and tuition. Undoubtedly, Moodle will form the basic structure behind the delivery of teaching and learning programmes over the coming decade at the College.

The coming academic year will provide new challenges and will also provide us with a platform to further develop many of the new innovations put in place over the last year as we strive to make the RCSI School of Medicine the premier centre of medical learning in Europe.

School of Pharmacy In November 2006, the first 49 undergraduate students graduated from the Pharmacy Program, having been admitted in 2002. In addition, 14 students graduated with Masters Degrees. Demand for postgraduate teaching continues to be strong with approximately 60 students currently enrolled. The School is also developing an increased range of postgraduate teaching activities with planned programmes in Management and in Clinical Pharmacy.

There has been much interest from other EU educational institutions in establishing affiliations, via student exchange schemes and we have already completed several of these. Teaching innovations in the undergraduate course have included the introduction of OSCE-based assessment programmes and integrated teaching modules designed to reinforce learning both horizontally and vertically using case-based teaching. OSCE programmes for pharmacy are novel and our experience of their development has been published. The School of Pharmacy received an Erasmus Charter during the year.

Research activities are growing in the areas of Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology. The Pharmaceutics Programme has a focus on development of commercialisable products and technologies, reflected in success in gaining proof of concept and commercialisation funding. Some of this research is the subject of patent applications and the first proposed products are reaching the stage of clinical trials.

School of Physiotherapy This year saw the graduation of the first Masters students from the RCSI School of Physiotherapy. The School of Physiotherapy continues to attract a high number of both CAO and graduate applicants with equal numbers from both groups being enrolled annually. Permanent clinical tutor appointments have been made in Beaumont Hospital, Waterford Regional Hospital, Cork University Hospital and UCHG/Merlin Park Hospitals, ensuring the delivery of a quality clinical education programme. Despite a somewhat more difficult employment situation, all RCSI graduates were successful in gaining employment in a variety of practice settings in Ireland and abroad.

School of Postgraduate Studies In recognition of the importance of postgraduate education, the RCSI School of Postgraduate Studies was established in September 2006 to pursue a strategic agenda for fourth level education and to provide a platform for the development of RCSI postgraduates as competent and inspiring leaders capable of making significant contributions to human health.

The School will market, recruit, support and retain a world class postgraduate community at RCSI. In addition, the School will assist academic staff in training versatile postgraduates for success and to maximise the influence of RCSI postgraduates in a range of careers. Through stronger links with local and international peer institutions, the School will pursue an agenda for postgraduate excellence.

During the past year, the School was successful in its application to the Health Research Board for a new PhD Scholars Programme in “Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease” to the value of €5 million. This programme brings together the complementary skills of researchers from RCSI, Beaumont Hospital and Dublin City University. It will be run by a Steering Committee of eight members including Professor Gerry McElvaney as Programme Director. The four-year PhD programme will run for a total of seven years with four intakes of seven scholars per year beginning in October 2007 and represents a new model for training PhD students as an alternative to the traditional apprenticeship model.

This programme will provide excellent training in biomedical and translational research, equipping scholars with skills to become academically qualified investigators capable of conducting clinically relevant research. The programme reflects RCSI’s research strategy in translational medicine and focuses on its strengths in Respiratory Medicine, Neuroscience, Molecular Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine/Biology and Biotechnology. The programme includes themes in Biomedical Diagnostics driven by an established RCSI/DCU partnership and Structure Based Drug Design, which seamlessly integrates with the other themes.

A second HRB PhD Scholars Programme application on the above theme, led by Professor Hannah McGee, was also successful. This is a joint initiative between the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and
University College Cork. Scholars from both programmes will attend joint workshops to encourage interactions between biomedical and population sciences graduates. These programmes ideally position RCSI to deliver a truly translational (“from bench to bedside to community”) doctoral training experience.

The accumulated experiences from these programmes will help us form the basis of a permanent one and three year Scholar Programme as the standard format for educating PhDs in RCSI. This aligns with the strategy for the School of Postgraduate Studies and builds on the success of the MRes/PhD Programme, which was funded under PRTLI Cycle 3.

The School of Postgraduate Studies, in collaboration with the International School of Healthcare Management and the Department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, has developed an innovative Leadership and Management Development Programme for Researchers. This programme will alert researchers and research administrators to the importance of the leadership and managerial aspects of their careers, giving them practical information to encourage their success as planners and managers of research programs. The programme will begin in September 2007 and is funded by RCSI in the first year.

International School of Healthcare Management The International School of Healthcare Management (ISHM) was formed in 2005 to bring together the management and leadership training activities of a number of Units and Departments within the College. The School is now well established with a staff of eighteen in Ireland and overseas. Six hundred students are currently registered, 40 percent of whom are based overseas. This year, the School set up its headquarters and Irish training centre in Reservoir House, Sandyford.

The ISHM has established an RCSI base in Dubai in order to deliver training and consultancy in management and leadership and also to facilitate other RCSI activities in the region. RCSI Dubai is a self-contained academic training centre, located in Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC). The latter is a major strategic development in the United Arab Emirates which, when complete, will consist of 17 hospitals and 300 clinics. RCSI Dubai is working in association with Harvard Medical International to help establish training and accreditation systems in DHCC.

Through the School, RCSI has made an initial application to the UAE Ministry of Education for licensure as a recognised training organisation. This would permit the College to provide education and training throughout the UAE. The School also has a close association with the Medical University of Bahrain and will have a base in the new University building. This will facilitate the School’s contribution to training and development in the new King Hamad Hospital and in the Health Oasis.

Currently, the School provides Postgraduate Diplomas and MSc degrees in Healthcare Management, Creative Leadership, Management Development, and Quality and Safety in Healthcare, in Ireland, Dubai, Bahrain and Jordan. The School also provides short programmes in leadership, management and professional development for healthcare personnel. Consultancy projects in accreditation and in knowledge management have been initiated in Ireland, Bahrain and Dubai. The strategic plan for the coming academic year involves expansion overseas, the development of a significant research and consultancy base, the initiation of training programmes in patient safety and risk management, and the implementation of sophisticated systems to evaluate the personal and organisational impact of training.

Faculty and Staff Changes On the 30th September 2006, Professor Alan Johnson completed his final day after eight years as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences. During his period of Deanship, the Medical School underwent a number of major changes which saw the development of a new integrated curriculum, the establishment of the College’s Virtual Learning Environment, the establishment of the School of Pharmacy and many other notable events and successes. These included an international assessment of the quality of the medical programme by a team of international experts led by Dame Lesley Southgate. As a follow on from this exercise, Professor Johnson presented at the Ottawa Conference in New York in May 2006 on the experience of the Medical School being assessed and benchmarked against the World Federation of Medical Education Standards (WFME). Professor Johnson’s Deanship was a time of innovation, creation and development and his legacy will live long into the future.

In June 2007, Ms. Beatrice Doran retired as Head Librarian after successfully serving the College for a period of nineteen years. In that time, the RCSI Mercery Library became a flagship for medical libraries throughout the world. In addition to her role as librarian, Beatrice was a member of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Board. In her many roles, she also contributed to curriculum and assessment development and e-learning at RCSI. Beatrice’s influence and contribution to RCSI went way beyond her role as Head Librarian and it is one from which the College as a whole has benefited substantially. Ms. Kate Kelly has been appointed Head Librarian.

The Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences also had a number of changes to critical Faculty and staff. The 2006/2007 academic year saw the appointment of Professor Cathal Kelly as Dean of the Faculty.

This year saw the appointment of Professor Geraldine MacCarrick as Vice Dean for Medical Education. Dr. Alice McGarvey was appointed as the new Vice Dean for Student Affairs, and has already developed protocols and procedures to help students have a more positive experience at RCSI.

Professor Cathal Kelly Dean
RESEARCH

The informing principle of RCSI’s research strategy is the promotion of Translational Medical Research: “Bench research informed by bedside problems, translated into diagnosis and treatment and into the community”.

In alignment with the institutional strategy, in 2007, under the HEA PRTLI-4 funding scheme, the RCSI Research Office submitted a proposal for a single research programme in translational medicine underpinned by a clinician-scientist co-principal investigator research and training programme in the College’s strategic areas of research: Neuroscience, Cancer, Cardiovascular Biology, Respiratory Medicine, Infection and Immunity, and Tissue Bioengineering. Under this funding initiative, RCSI successfully secured €2.7 million towards clinician-scientist training.

Also under the PRTLI-4 funding scheme, RCSI co-ordinated the submission of the National Biophotonics and Imaging Platform proposal which successfully secured €30 million towards the establishment of an integrated research and training infrastructure in Imaging and Biophotonics. This funding will support the development of a national network of dedicated cores of excellence for collaborative research and advanced training programmes in molecular and cellular imaging, small and large animal imaging, human diagnostic imaging, Biophotonics and new imaging technologies.

As part of RCSI’s strategy towards translational research, in the academic year 2006-2007, RCSI made a significant long term financial commitment towards the provision of funding support for three Research Chairs; in Cancer Genetics; Neurodegeneration and Translational Medicine and two Biomedical Research Lectureships.

RCSI also concluded agreement on several significant research partnerships, notably a €5.5 million collaboration with the Children’s Research Centre at Crumlin Hospital in paediatric cancer genetics.

New Building on York Street

In 2006 the RCSI Research Office undertook a space and usage review of the RCSI Research Institute’s laboratory/offices/technology in the buildings on York Street. The purpose of this review was to identify the main cores of research activities in the RCSI city centre site and prepare for the move of researchers into the York Street extension. The new research space layout will consist of a flexible network of shared research facilities and technology cores designed to facilitate the integration of multidisciplinary research activities.

The extension of the RCSI Research Institute on York Street has now been fully commissioned and is due for completion in late 2009. The Research Institute also includes the Education and Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital and serves to integrate the College’s research activities in thematic clusters organised around the strategic areas of research.

Faculty and Staff Changes

RCSI welcomes Professor Ray Stalling, Professor of Cancer Genetics and congratulates Dr. Markus Rehm and Dr. Sarah O’Neill on their appointments as BioMedical Research Lecturers.

Vignette

Dr. Marc Devocele was awarded the 2006 Servier Award for Medical Research at the French Embassy. Named after Dr. Jacques Servier, the founding President of the Servier Research Group, the Servier Award aims to promote and encourage scientific exchange between the medical community, healthcare industry, universities and research organisations particularly in the field of therapeutic research. Dr. Devocele was awarded for his efforts and success in supporting RCSI research collaborations with France and for his breakthrough research into therapeutic agents for cardiovascular disease.

Acknowledgements

Professor Brian Harvey received prestigious national award from France. Brian Harvey, Professor of Molecular Medicine and Director of Research, was made a knight by the French government. The prestigious award “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Merite” was given by decree from President Jacques Chirac and was presented by His Excellency Monsieur Frederic Grassot, French Ambassador to Ireland. The honour was in recognition of Professor Harvey’s work in promoting scientific collaboration between France and Ireland over the past 25 years.

RCSI research income in 2006 amounted to €18,145,000, a 61% increase on 2005. Among the significant awards were:

- Professor Ruairi Brugh, in collaboration with Professor Gill Walt from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, was awarded €750,000 by Irish Aid (Dept of Foreign Affairs) and DANIDA (Dept of Foreign Affairs, Denmark) to develop “A Network approach to Global Health and HIV/AIDS Initiatives” to deal with issues of Harmonization, Systems Capacity and Marginalized Groups funding. Professor Brugha and other European partners were also awarded an EU-FP6 grant.
- Professor Hannah McGee, in collaboration with Margaret Barry (NUIG), Ivan Perry (UCC) and Dorothy Watson (ESRI), was successful in securing €1.5 million funding award towards a National Health and Lifestyle survey, sponsored by the Dept. of Health and Children. The Irish Heart Foundation also awarded Professor McGee €500,000 to carry out a National Stroke Audit, in collaboration with Professor Seamus Cowman, Dr. Francis Horgan, Dr. David Whitford, Dr. Ann Hickey and other partners from TCD, the Dept. of Health and Children and the ESRI.
- Professor Hilary Humphries, in collaboration with Dr. David Coleman from TCD Dublin Dental School and Hospital, was recipient of a €1.35 million HRB Translational Research Award to tackle antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections in hospitals.
- Dr. Kevin McGuigan, in collaboration with European, Asian and African partners, was successful in co-ordinating and securing funding of €2.2 million from the EU, Irish Aid and the HRB, to run large scale health impact studies on the efficacy of solar disinfection of drinking water as an intervention against childhood diarrhoea in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya and Cambodia.

Professor Brian Harvey, Director of Research and of the RCSI Research Institute
During the previous twelve months, the Faculty of Dentistry has been extremely busy both at home and abroad. The Education Committee has done much work this year centred on the establishment of the new format MFD RCSI Examination and the new format of the Fellowship Examinations. The Finance & General Purposes Committee has continued its work on strategic review and preparation of our Annual Scientific meetings.

The Faculty is very active in encouraging young dentists to become more involved in postgraduate education. The Faculty hosts an MGDS Study Group six times a year. These meetings are always well attended.

The Intercollegiate accord with sister Colleges will cease in autumn 2007 with the introduction of new two part examinations, replacing the present MFDS/MFDS [RCPSGlas and RCSEd] and MJDF [RCSEng and FDGP]. Reciprocity will continue for all Part 1 Examinations and between RCSI and RCPSGlas / RCSEd for Part 2. The UK Colleges have decoupled the training element from the entry requirements. Training will continue to be necessary for those wishing to take the MFD RCS.

The Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry, a new Standing Committee of the Faculty, now monitors all specialist training in Ireland. Cross representation continues with the various AC’s and SAC’s.

International Activities The overseas centres in Jordan, Kuwait and Ajman [UAE] continue to thrive. Preparatory courses for the MFD examination take place in Kuwait. The increase in the number of candidates sitting the various examinations is most encouraging. The success rate in the overseas examinations continues to improve.

Specialist training programmes in the various dental disciplines have now been approved and established in the University of Jordan, Amman and the Jordanian University of Science & Technology, Irbid, Jordan. The Kuwait Institute of Medical Science is in the second year of the three year programme for the MGDS Diploma. The first diet of this diploma will take place in 2008.

During the year, the Dean travelled to Khartoum, Sudan and Bangkok, Thailand in an effort to increase the profile of the Faculty overseas, thus forging links to help establish collaboration between these overseas institutions.

Future Challenges One of the major challenges of the Faculty continues to be the maintenance of financial viability within the College setting. Matching core income with core expenses remains difficult. Our Honorary Treasurer Dr. Seamus Napier in conjunction with personnel from the Finance Office continues to monitor the situation closely. Compliance with annual subscription payment improves slowly.

Meetings The Faculty’s Annual Scientific Meeting entitled “Team Dentistry Today” took place in October 2006 and presented the cutting edge of the multidisciplinary approach to dentistry today, delivered by a truly international panel of speakers. It was a most successful meeting with an audience of over 300 delegates. The Annual Scientific Meeting for 2007 is entitled “Oral Care of the Elderly” and commences on Thursday 26th October.
The extent and scope of Faculty business continues to grow considerably, and the complexity increases apace. The Faculty in Irish standards is relatively small by comparison to other teaching bodies, but it must nonetheless provide the entire range of services in terms of education, training, CME accredited meetings and validation, as well as liaising with other bodies as required.

Radiation Oncology With the National Plan for Radiation Oncology now at an advanced stage, the main change for the Faculty this year has been the doubling of the number of Specialist Registrars. This year, Faculty appointed five new Specialist Registrars to the programme, and it is anticipated that a similar number will also be appointed next year. It is hoped that the promised expansion in consultant numbers will also occur, although this has been somewhat delayed by the continuing dispute over the consultants’ contract. Nonetheless this is a very exciting time to be a budding radiation oncologist, with major opportunities in place. The Faculty notes with deep gratitude the reconvening of the accreditation group for the week beginning January 21st 2008 when St. Luke’s Hospital will be revisited, and it is hoped that the facilities in Galway and Cork will also seek recognition for training for the first time.

SI478 & Compliance with EU Legislation It is a legal requirement of SI478 that an audit process be carried out on a five year time scale on the original enactment of the law in October 2002. The HSE and the Department of Health and Children have set up a joint task force to evaluate the process. It is intended that this will implement the strictures of SI478 in the old Health Board areas, but in particular will perform the overseeing role in relation to the implementation of the Radiation Safety Committees of the local hospitals and, most significantly for individual radiologists, will perform clinical audit in the departments of diagnostic radiology around the country. It is also likely that such audits will take place in departments of radiation oncology. A tender has been issued for this audit process, and the closing date has passed at the time of writing. This audit process will include all aspects of the work of the imaging department, including clinical audit, and will have major implications for our work practice.

Future Challenges Diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology are both in very healthy states at present. The quality of candidate we are attracting into our programme is absolutely outstanding and is not bettered in any other training discipline. This is due in no small measure to the outstanding reputation of the Faculty’s training programme and continued commitment of those involved in the teaching process.

Notwithstanding this, there is no room for complacency. It is very clear that new legislation and new agendas may undermine our core professionalism, and uncertainties regarding the new consultant contracts, as well as the unique situation of a non medical majority on the new Medical Council as proposed in the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, could fundamentally change the way we work, practice, teach and research. This brings its own challenges, which we must face head on and behave with dignity and professionalism.

Meetings Annual Scientific Meeting 2006 The theme of the Annual Scientific Meeting was Emergency Radiology and a very high standard of national and international categorical course lectures was given. In addition to President McAleese, the Faculty also awarded Honorary Fellowships to Professor Nicholas Courtsoyannis, outgoing President of the European Association of Radiology, for his outstanding contribution to European radiology over a long number of years, and to Professor Thomas Keane from Vancouver, whose support for Faculty processes distinguishes a long career in radiation oncology, and who was a member of the accreditation group in 2006.

Combined Spring Meeting 2007 The 2006 meeting was held at Lyraeth House Hotel in Kilkenny, and proved to be a great success. The theme of this year’s meeting was Musculoskeletal Radiology and the Faculty is deeply indebted to Dr. Barry Kelly for designing such a wonderful programme. A number of new innovations were made at this meeting, not least of which was the presentation session from students performing MSci theses in radiologic sciences at UCD.

European Society of Radiology At the final meetings of both the European Congress and European Associations of Radiology in Vienna in March 2007, both organisations have now been officially wound up and are amalgamated in a single umbrella organisation, the European Society of Radiology. The Faculty is delighted that the first President of ESR, Professor Andy Adam, who coincidentally will also at the time be the President of the Royal College of Radiologists (UK), accepted an Honorary Fellowship in September 2007 at our Annual Scientific Meeting.

A change to the way the ESR generates funds from National Societies Europe-wide has been proposed by the new President, incorporating a single fee of €10 levied on each national society for each member. However, this slightly increased subvention comes with the obvious worthwhile prize of automatic ESR membership with all the privileges which that entails. This is an innovative new development which Faculty Board has agreed to support.

Visiting Research Professor Dr. Lehan Thebane, a biostatistician from the University of Toronto, visited the Faculty in June 2006 to give a series of day long seminars on statistics and study design which was well attended by the registrars.

Faculty and Staff Changes After the Annual Scientific Meeting in September last year, Dr. John Stack, Dr. Ronan Ryan, Dr. William Torreggiani and Dr. Ian Kelly all joined the Board. All four have played a major role; Dr. Stack as Honorary Treasurer, Dr Ryan as Chairman of the Radiation Protection Committee, Dr. Torreggiani as Chairman of the Validation Committee and Dr. Kelly as Chairman of the Research Committee. Dr. Barry Kelly, Professor Donal Hollywood, Dr. Sean Darby and Dr. Eamonn breathnach, my predecessor as Dean, have all left the Board. I am delighted that Dr. Risteard O Laoide has accepted the appointment as Honorary Secretary to the Board.

Dr. Niall McEniff has accepted the ministerial appointment to the Board of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.

Professor Peter McCarthy Dean
This year the Faculty of Nursing celebrates 30 years of service. One of the longest serving providers of nurse education in Ireland, the Faculty has a core philosophy: through its programmes, to develop a caring and reflective practitioner who has the ability to seek out and use research based knowledge for the purposes of improving patient care.

This is a very exciting time in the development of nursing practice, research and education in Ireland. Rapid change, greater expectation and unpredictability are underpinning today’s healthcare services. Nurses and midwives as healthcare professionals are required to be more knowledgeable in managing technology, ethical and legal challenges and new health policy. The faculty of Nursing & Midwifery is a leader in postgraduate educational developments. The education programmes offered through the Faculty are particularly focused on preparing nurses and midwives to meet the challenges of today’s and tomorrow’s healthcare services.

A wide range of nursing/midwifery education programmes are offered through the Faculty including full time and part time primary degrees and masters degrees and postgraduate diplomas approved through RCSI as a recognised College of the National University of Ireland and An Bord Altranais. There is also a trend of increased numbers of nurses registering for postgraduate research studies at Masters and PhD levels.

All nursing and midwifery education programmes were well subscribed to and student examination results were good. Specialist postgraduate nursing and midwifery education programmes continue to be provided in partnership with Beaumont, Connolly, Cappagh Orthopaedic, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear, Coombe, Rotunda, and National Maternity hospitals.

A number of new postgraduate nursing education programmes were developed during the year - Renal Nursing in association with Beaumont Hospital, Telemetry Nursing in association with Connolly Hospital, and Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiners in association with the HSE. The new programmes will be offered in the next academic year 07/08. An education programme to prepare nurse and midwife prescribers was also developed and commenced in RCSI in April 2007. Work is also ongoing with Beaumont Hospital on the development of Advanced Nurse Practitioner posts in Accident & Emergency (Minor Injuries) and Liaison Psychiatric Nursing. The development of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner programme will add another dimension to the education suite of programmes offered through the Faculty.

At the RCSI November 2006 conferring ceremony, over four hundred nurses received academic nursing awards at BSc, Post Graduate Diploma, and MSc levels. It is notable that over twenty four nurses/midwives were awarded with an MSc in Nursing.

Future Challenges The reorganisation of health services and new policy directions will continue to provide major challenges to the academic activities of the Faculty. The Faculty must continue to provide nursing/midwifery education programmes that are relevant to nurses and midwives in the delivery of health services. The ultimate challenge is to ensure innovative education programmes that are practice sensitive and contribute to the improvement of patient and client care.

The Faculty must also continue to strengthen their programmes of research and to contribute significantly, through research, to the essential requirement for evidence based practice in nursing and midwifery. The process of strengthening the nursing/midwifery research agenda requires strategy, resources, collaboration and such activities will form a major element of the Faculty agenda. The Faculty must continue to be competitive in all opportunities for research grant awards.

Multidisciplinary education patterns of nursing education is an essential approach to ensuring productive multidisciplinary working in the health services for the benefits of patients and clients. The inherent challenge is to recognise a core of education appropriate to all healthcare professions and then ensure a curriculum development process and implementation to all health professionals in a shared forum.

Meetings A very successful 26th Annual Nursing and Research Conference was held in February 2007. Irish and overseas delegates presented a wide range of papers relevant to clinical nursing, nursing education and nursing management. This conference is now recognised as the oldest of its type in Europe. During the conference, the award of Honorary Fellowship was made to Dr. Therese Meehan, UCD.

Faculty and Staff Changes During the year, academic staff of the Faculty were appointed as External Examiners in both Ireland and UK academic institutions. Such appointments related to Bachelors and Masters Degree programmes, PhD vivas and membership of accreditation panels for new programmes. Staff publication in national and international journals increased during the year and staff also presented papers at national and international conferences.

Acknowledgements Research Achievements The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery enjoyed considerable success in research and a number of grants were obtained by staff. Two staff members, Ms. Zena Moore and Ms Geralyn Hynes, were awarded HRB Nursing research grants and are funded for three years full time to undertake PhD studies. Mr. Gerard White, Beaumont Hospital, was awarded a HRB Nursing Fellowship grant for one year to complete an MSc in Nursing Research. Ms. Bernie Corr, Beaumont Hospital, obtained a HRB Clinician Scientist award and will undertake a study on ‘End of Life Decision Making’. The HRB successes represent considerable progress with the RCSi nursing research agenda. Ms. Georgina Gethin, having previously been awarded a HRB Fellowship, submitted her PhD study for examination in June 2007. Georgina becomes the first nurse to complete a PhD in RCSi.

The Faculty Board, having agreed a Nursing and Midwifery Research Strategy, also established a nursing and midwifery research office under the direction of the Professor of Nursing. It is planned that the office will be developed in the autumn and will ensure accommodation for postgraduate nurse researchers. Three doctoral nursing students continue with their studies and have presented work at national and international venues.

At the RCSI November 2006 conferring ceremony, the Mary Frances Crowley medal was awarded to Ms Carol Hilliard, Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children, who was the top MSc student and achieved First Class Hons.
FACULTY OF SPORTS & EXERCISE MEDICINE RCPI & RCSI

Medical Education and Training (MET) Major developments are in progress in postgraduate medical education and training for all medical speciality training in Ireland. The Forum of the Irish Medical Training Bodies, under the chairmanship of Professor Joe McKenna, is advancing the proposals for the future development of Higher Medical Specialist Training in conjunction with the Postgraduate Medical Dental Board (PGMDB) and the National Committee for Medical Education and Training (NC MET), an Inter-Departmental group coordinating the future development of medical education, training and research in Ireland, based on the recommendations of the Buttmer and Fottrell reports.

Higher Specialist Training Programme The Higher Specialist Training Committee have had consultations and meetings with the HSE MET and the PGMDB, and submitted detailed documents, including the description of the role of a Specialist in Sports and Exercise Medicine, and proposals for the training programme to the HSE. A detailed proposal and description of the training programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine was made to the PGMDB in order to secure funding for dedicated training posts.

Faculty Members and Fellows will participate in upcoming courses on Effective Educational Supervision, Mentoring Skills Programme, Interviewing Skills, and Training the Trainer run by RCPI and RCSI, in order to enable them to participate as Trainers to the Higher Specialist Training programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine.

Finance and General Purposes Committee The Post-Graduate Medical and Dental Board (PGMDB) have approved in principle, funding for the Higher Specialist Training programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine commencing in 2008, with at least two training places each year on a four-year training rotation programme.

The Faculty has also been awarded €40,000 for the first time by the PGMDB, towards organisational costs in relation to approval of training programmes, travel and running expenses for Joint Committee meetings and related expenditure.

An application for a Capital Grant for 2007 has been made to the Forum of Irish Post-Graduate Medical Training Bodies and Health Services Executive, for the purchase of computers and teleconferencing equipment. The expanding role of the Faculty, especially the commencement of the Higher Specialist Training programme, creates an urgent need for more office space and finance due to significantly increasing workloads and additional costs.

Accreditation Committee / Faculty Membership and Fellowship Prior to the introduction of a Higher Specialist Training programme, admission of new entrants to the Faculty continues to be by way of Membership. The criteria for eligibility for Membership are shown on the Faculty website.

Entry on the Specialist Register The Accreditation Committee of the Board assesses applications for entry onto the Specialist Register in the Division of Sports and Exercise Medicine and, as the recognised training body, makes recommendations to the Medical Council. The criteria are published on the Faculty website at RCSI.

In March 2007, a special meeting of the Accreditation Committee took place and recommendations for revised criteria for entry on the Specialist Register were subsequently approved by the Faculty Board. These will come into operation in October 2007. There are seventeen practitioners on the Specialist Register in the Division of Sports and Exercise Medicine and some other applications are currently being processed.

Continuing Medical Education Fellows and Members are recommended to undertake Continuing Medical Education (CME) to achieve 50 credits each year, or 250 credits over five years. Work continues on the development of a distance-learning programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine, in co-operation with the Irish College of General Practitioners.

Anti-Doping/Drugs in Sport Committee The Board has kept up-to-date with developments by the Anti-Doping Committee of the Irish Sports Council (ISC) and the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA). Dr. O’Brien is to be congratulated and thanked for his advice and input in organising numerous informative symposia with leading international presenters, on the issues and developments in doping control in Sport.

Symposia on Anti-Doping/Drugs and on Medico-Legal Issues in Sport are planned by the Faculty to take place later in 2007 in conjunction with the Irish Institute of Sport (IIS) and the support of the Forum of the Irish Medical Training Bodies and the Health Services Executive Medical Education Training (HSE MET).

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (UK) The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI and Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (UK) have agreed that each should have one representative on their respective Board and Council. The Standing Orders of the Faculty will be amended to include and facilitate this agreement. The incumbent Dean, Dr. Pat O’Neill has been nominated by RCPI and RCSI to represent the FSEM, RCPI and RCSI on the Council of the FSEM (UK). The next Council meeting of the FSEM (UK) is in Edinburgh in September 2007, followed by the concurring of the Foundation Fellowships and Memberships of the FSEM (UK).

European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations (EFSMA): Three executive officers of the Faculty Board will represent medical practitioners and specialists in Ireland at the European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations 2007 Scientific Congress in Prague, Czech Republic in October 2007. The meeting will discuss the proposed important development of Sports and Exercise Medicine as a medical speciality within the European Union and other European States.

Meetings Annual Scientific Meeting 2006: The Faculty Annual Scientific Conference 2006 was held in Dublin on Saturday 16th September 2006. Ms. Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health and Children, opened the meeting, which was attended by 150 delegates on the weekend preceding the Ryder Cup in Ireland.

The objectives of the conference were to provide delegates with continuing medical education and update on recent research and developments in diagnostic investigations, therapeutic techniques and strategies to improve medical outcomes in the field of Sport and Exercise Medicine. The programme included lectures on sport injuries of the upper limb, with particular reference to injuries and medical conditions associated with golf, to mark the unique hosting of the Ryder Cup in Ireland in 2006. Ten interesting Clinical Case Presentations were made. 

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland / President's Report 2007 / Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine RCPI & RCSI
Malta 2008 The Faculty plans to participate in the scientific sessions at the RCSI 10th Overseas meeting in Malta in March 2008.

Tribute to Professor Michael G. Molloy Professor Michael G Molloy’s five years on the Faculty Board, including four years as Faculty Dean, will be completed in November 2007. Professor Molloy was a visionary icon in developing and establishing Sports and Exercise Medicine as a medical Faculty of the Royal Colleges and a recognised medical specialty of the Medical Council in Ireland. Professor Molloy received Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in April 2007. This honour is a unique achievement for a Physician and was bestowed on the foot of his academic, professional and sporting achievements over his lifetime.

Tribute to Dr. Rod. McLoughlin Dr. Rod McLoughlin, who is Faculty Treasurer, has been appointed to the posts of Medical Director of the Irish Institute of Sport, and Medical Officer of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI). The Faculty congratulates Dr. McLoughlin on his appointment to these two new important posts and offers him every support in his role in the forthcoming World Athletics Championships in Osaka, Japan in August/September 2007 and the Olympic Games in Beijing, China in August 2008.

Equality of opportunity, participation and outcome are essential elements of an inclusive organisation.
Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

RCSI has longstanding relationships with communities in the immediate area of Whitefriars and the Liberties.
Stimulate access to further and higher education, together with improving retention and attainments at second level, through a new and exciting programme of education outreach.
Enhance the life and educational life chances of young people in our neighbourhood communities.
RCSI is committed to reserving 5% of EU places on its Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy courses and to filling these places under its Access and Disability programmes.
programme is now an essential part of this programme, particularly with the development of the Virtual Learning Environment.

Balance Sheet The net assets of the College stand in excess of €150 million up from €116 million in the previous year. These values continue the positive trend of previous years, after recognising the unrealised surplus on the revaluation of property assets of €23 million in the year and the pension accounting requirements of FRS17.

Overall, with a secure asset base and sound financial structures in place, the College looks forward to another exciting year ahead both at home and abroad.

Jennifer Cullinane Financial Controller

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet
Years ending 30 September 2007 and 2006
(2007 figures draft at time of going to print)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

To provide a continued witness to our humanitarian obligations, we increasingly honour worthy individuals with eponymous lectures or Honorary Fellowships. In May and June, RCSI took great pride in bestowing our highest honour of Honorary Fellowship on two great humanitarians, Bob Geldof and President James Earl Carter. Both are icons of humanitarianism who have made enduring contributions to relief of third world debt, famine, disease, homelessness and the provision of education.
RCSI has raised in excess of €40 million towards the overall College Development Plan. This was made possible by the commitment of a fine board of international leaders who advise on the strategic direction of RCSI and the many funding opportunities available.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Dermot Desmond, the RCSI International Development Board is comprised of business leaders from Ireland, North America and the Middle East. Assisting with this effort are people like Mrs Loretta Brennan Glucksman, USA; Mr. Gilbert Little, Ireland; Mr Jim Flavin, Ireland; Lord Ballyedmond, Ireland; Mr. James Kenny, USA; Mr Bernard McNamara, Ireland; Dr. Faisal Almousawi, Bahrain.

Philanthropy plays a key role in leveraging funding from public bodies and enhancing the quality of resources that can be offered. New programmes and buildings on campus have benefited greatly from the generosity shown by friends of the College, its graduates and indeed staff – all taking pride in their association with RCSI’s plans and vision for the future.

With Phase I complete, we have commenced our efforts to raise an additional €30 million over the next three years, for Phase II which will focus primarily on “People and Programmes” in the provision of:

- A new National Surgical Training Centre the International Centre for Healthcare Management; improved student sports facilities; and additional education and research facilities – all to be located on our redeveloped site on York Street;
- A new REACH Programme (Recreation Education and Community Health) at RCSI providing access and support to those with social and economic disadvantage from the surrounding inner city area;
- Educational facilities at both Waterford and Drogheda Hospitals and Phase II Development at the Clinical Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital.

During this journey of embracing opportunities, we gratefully acknowledge the generosity and support of our donors, our graduates and the entire College community as we strive to build and achieve a reputation of international excellence – a legacy that all can be proud of.

Recent Events 2006

RCSI Golf Classic July 2006
Every year, for the past 18 years, RCSI organises a Golf Classic, raising funds for medical research at the College. In July, amidst blazing sunshine at the Carton Golf & Country Club in Maynooth, with twenty eight teams participating, we raised over €50,000 for cancer research.

RCSI Race Against Breast Cancer November 2006
RCSI, in association with VIVAS Health, hosted a Race Against Breast Cancer Day at Leopardstown Pavilion on Sunday, 5th November last. This high profile event raised in excess of €600,000 for breast cancer research in Ireland, the largest amount ever raised at a single Irish fundraising event.

Guests were welcomed to the pink themed event with a champagne reception and entertainment provided by the Camembert Quartet. Miriam O’Callaghan was Master of Ceremonies and over 800 glamorous guests were in attendance to help raise funds for this very worthy cause.

Thanks to the support of our main sponsor, VIVAS Health, and associate sponsors, Vincent & Beatty Solicitors, all monies raised through the sale of tables, the raffle and the auction went directly towards RCSI’s programme of breast cancer research. The event received the support of an impressive organising committee, including Pat Desmond, Kathleen Reynolds, Ann Smurfit, Anne Heffernan, Shelley Corkery, John Rocha, Carol Mallon, Jackie Skelly and Carmel Horgan, who brought their inimitable style and fundraising skills to the fore.

Funds raised from the event have been used to support the establishment of the Symptomatic Breast Unit at Beaumont Hospital under the supervision of RCSI’s Professor of Surgery, Arnold Hill. This new Unit, located at RCSI’s main teaching hospital in Beaumont, provides a more timely and efficient service, leading to earlier diagnoses and improved outcomes for women with breast cancer.

In addition, a dedicated research laboratory was also established at Waterford Regional Hospital to help more than 200 patients diagnosed in the South East of the country.

RCSI Leadership Lecture May 2007
On 24th May 2007, Sir Bob Geldof received an Honorary Fellowship of RCSI and delivered the College’s 7th Annual Leadership Lecture.

An international campaigner for human rights and rock star, Bob Geldof was conferred with an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in recognition of his contribution to charity and his efforts in tackling world poverty. He was chosen for this honour because of his efforts in endeavouring to cancel third world debt and his attempts to improve government responses to poverty, famine and genocide, especially in the third world.

The Honorary Fellowship conferring was followed by the 7th Annual Leadership Lecture which was delivered by Bob in which he spoke of the responsibility of leaders and the need to be true to the promises that are made by the powerful to the weak.Welcoming the guests to the event, Mr. Michael Horgan RCSI CEO announced “We are delighted to welcome Bob to RCSI. He has shown his leadership on the world stage by giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.”

On receiving his Fellowship Bob Geldof said “I am honoured to receive this award and be added to the list of Honorary Fellows which amongst others includes Nelson Mandela, Seamus Heaney, Seamus Mallon, Kader Asmal and the late Mother Teresa.”

The RCSI Leadership Lecture is a unique opportunity for RCSI to reach out to leaders in the business community so that they can discover more about the activities of the College both at home and abroad. The event was attended by over 200 prominent figures from the world of business, industry and politics including former Irish Taoiseach Albert Reynolds; Irish financier & Chairman of the RCSI International Development Board Mr. Dermot Desmond; CEO of CRH plc Mr. Liam O’Mahony; the Governor of the Bank of Ireland, Mr. Richard Burrows; American Ireland Fund Chairperson, Mrs Loretta Brennan Glucksman; the American Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Thomas C. Foley; and the French Ambassador, H.E. Frederic Grasset amongst a host of others.
COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Pictured from l to r: Mr. A.E. (Freddie) Wood, Consultant (Cardiothoracic), Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin; Professor H. Paul Redmond, Consultant Surgeon (Oncology), Cork University Hospital; Mr. Kevin O’Malley, Consultant Surgeon (Vascular), Mater Hospital, Dublin; Professor Thomas F. Gorey, Consultant Surgeon (General), Mater Hospital, Dublin; Ms. Eilis McGovern, Consultant Surgeon (Cardiothoracic), St. James's Hospital

2. Pictured from l to r: Mr. Frank McManus, Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic) Mater Hospital, Dublin; Mr. John Bosco O'Mahony, Consultant Surgeon (General), Wexford General Hospital; Mr. Joe O’Boiine, Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedics) Waterford Regional General Hospital; (Front row) Professor Michael J. Kerin, Professor and Head of Department of Surgery, NUI Galway

3. Pictured from l to r: Mr. Declan J. Magee, Consultant Surgeon (General) St Colmcille’s Hospital; Mr. Patrick J. Broe, Consultant Surgeon (General), Beaumont Hospital; Mr. Parnell Keeling, Consultant Surgeon (General), Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown; Mr. Joseph P. Duignan, Consultant Surgeon (General), St. Michael’s Hospital, Dun Laoghaire; Professor Frank Keane, Vice President Consultant Surgeon (General / Colorectal), The Adelaide & Meath Hospital Incorporating the National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght

4. Pictured from l to r: Professor Niall O’Higgins; Mr. John Hyland, Consultant Surgeon (General / Colorectal), St. Vincent’s University Hospital; Mr. Gordon Watson, Consultant Surgeon (General), Waterford Regional Hospital; Professor David J Bouchier-Hayes; Professor Gerald O’Sullivan, President

5. Pictured from l to r: Ms. Laura Viani, Consultant Surgeon (Otolaryngology), Beaumont Hospital; Professor W.O. Kirwan, Consultant Surgeon (General / Colorectal), Cork University Hospital
Other highlights throughout the year 2006/2007

24th August 8th Postgraduate Confering in Penang Candidates were conferred with Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MRCSI) at Penang Medical College. The ceremony was presided over by Professor Gerald O’Sullivan, President of RCSI, Dr. Dato’ Dr. Ramalingham, Principal of the Penang Medical College; Professor Amir Khir, Dean of the Penang Medical Faculty; Ms. Susuella, Chief of Surgery at the Penang General Hospital; Mr. Fintan Foy, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, RCSI and Professor Arnold Hill, Chief Examiner and Professor of Surgery at RCSI.

10th September RCSI formed a new Strategic Partnership with Trinity College Dublin RCSI and Trinity College Dublin agreed a new strategic collaborative research partnership in medicine. The TCD Provost, Dr John Hegarty and Mr. Michael Horgan CEO RCSI, signed the bilateral agreement which enables our respective institutions to build collaborative and complementary strengths.

29th September A New School of Postgraduate Studies Launched The new School will oversee and co-ordinate all postgraduate activities and will work with supervisors and colleagues in the Research Office, in College Administration and in the International School of Healthcare Management to provide a structure for postgraduate training of the highest quality.

9th October RCSI North American Chapter of Fellows Meet in Chicago The North American Chapter of Fellows met in Chicago in conjunction with the 92nd American College of Surgeons Annual Clinical Congress (ACS). The purpose of the Chapter Meeting is to promote and foster relationships between the College and its Fellows and Members in North America.

20th October RCSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Children’s Research Centre (CRC) at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin The CRC will allocate €5 million for the development of a research programme into solid tumour cancer genetics to be directed by a new Chair of Cancer Genetics at RCSI. The funds are being allocated under the CRC’s five-year development plan 2006-2010. It is the hope that this new programme in cancer genetics will be instrumental in the continued long-term survival of paediatric cancer patients.

5th November RCSI Raised €627,500 for Breast Cancer Research The RCSI/VIVAS Health against Breast Cancer took place in Leopardstown on Sunday, 5th November raising €627,500 for Breast Cancer research - the largest amount ever raised at a single fundraising event in Ireland. Thanks to the support of the main sponsor, VIVAS Health and associate sponsors, Vincent and Beatty Solicitors, all monies raised through the sale of tables, the raffle and auction went directly towards RCSI’s programme of breast cancer research.

10th November Millin Meeting Seamus Mallon, Former Deputy Leader of the SDLP and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at the annual Millin Meeting where he also delivered the 19th Carmichael lecture entitled “A Road Less Travelled”. The 29th Millin Lecture entitled “Moving with the Times: Arthoplasty, Mobility and Joint Preservation in the 21st Century” was delivered by Mr. Kevin Mulhall, Dublin.

16th November RCSI Confering Ceremony The first cohort of Pharmacy Graduates was conferred at the RCSI November Confering Ceremony. More than 300 students in total were conferred during two special graduation ceremonies. The morning event also conferred new graduates in Physiotherapy, Medicine and a number of Postgraduate degrees such as PhDs, Masters (M.Sc.) in Primary Healthcare as well as M.Sc. in Women’s Health, while the afternoon ceremony saw new graduates in Nursing, Practice Development and Nursing Management.

2007 16th January Dedication of the Harold Browne Lecture Theatre Professor Frank Keane, Vice President RCSI, dedicated the Harold Browne Lecture Theatre in the Department of Anatomy at a special ceremony. Professor Keane described Harold Browne’s immense contribution to the teaching of clinical anatomy in the College.

16th February Charter Day Meetings The Charter Day Meetings included a keynote address from Professor George H. Meier, Chief of Vascular Surgery, Norfolk General Hospital, Virginia on the “Future of Procedure Based Medicine”. Other highlights of the programme included the delivery of the 82nd Abraham Colles lecture on “Surgical Biodiversity” by Professor Jeffrey Matthews, USA.

17th February Charter Day Dinner Honorary Fellowships At the annual Charter Day dinner, Honorary Fellowships were awarded to Professor Kader Asmal, Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa; Professor Edward Copeland, President, American College of Surgeons and Professor Tom DeMeester, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, University of Southern California.

11th April RCSI Showcases Medical Research at Annual Research Day RCSI’s annual Research Day is an important date in the RCSI calendar, providing its scientists with the opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings. The 4th Annual Charitable Trust Lecture in Molecular Medicine was delivered at Research Day by Professor Kim E. Barrett, Professor of Medicine and Dean of Graduate Studies, University of California, San Diego at RCSI. “The intestinal epithelium as inner frontier: liabilities and benefits of our intimate life with a microbial ecosystem”, Professor Barrett spoke about her research into the cells that line the intestine, known as epithelial cells.

14th April European Surgical Association Meeting at RCSI The 14th European Surgical Association Annual Meeting was hosted by the President from Friday 13th to Saturday 14th April 2007. Leading surgeons and scientists from Europe and worldwide attended the conference, which was designed to provide comprehensive educational experiences in the fields of clinical surgery, experimental surgery and related sciences, surgical education and the socioeconomic aspects of surgical care.

18th April Meeting of RCSI UK Chapter of Fellows The UK Chapter of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) held its annual meeting in Manchester. Held in conjunction with the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI), the Chapter Meeting was attended by surgeons from all over Ireland and the UK. It was presided over by its Chairman, RCSI Council Member, Mr. Gordon Watson. The President of RCSI, Professor Gerald O’Sullivan, was also in attendance.

20th April RCSI Council meets in Cork The RCSI Council held its out of Dublin annual meeting in Cork to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Mercy University Hospital.

On this historic occasion, Honorary Fellowships were also awarded to Professor Michael Molloy (former Irish rugby international and founding Dean of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine at RCSI); Dr. John Daly (Dean of Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia) and Dr. John Mannick (Moseley Distinguished Professor of Surgery Harvard Medical School).
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland / President’s Report 2006/07 / Years Highlights

Awards

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Surgical Travelling Fellowship and Grants

The RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship

The RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship for 2007 was awarded to Myles Joyce to assist him towards the cost of an Advanced Colorectal Surgery Program at the Department of Colorectal Surgery, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Three Surgical Travelling Grants were also awarded as follows: Paul Ridgway received a grant towards the cost of a Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the University Health Network (University of Toronto), Toronto, Ontario. Gordon Smyth received a grant towards the costs of his Clinical Fellowship in laparoscopic urological oncology at the L’institut Mutualiste Montsouris University, Paris, France. Ronan Cahill received a grant towards the cost of his study of the development of optimum synthetic mesh for use in peritoneal and abdominal wall reconstructive procedures at the EIRCAD/EITS, Strasbourg, France.

RCSI/Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants

Six RCSI/Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants for the year 2007 were awarded to the following candidates:

- Colm Fahy, towards the cost of his visit to the Department of Otolaryngology, Christchurch Hospital, Canterbury, New Zealand.
- Alan Hussey, towards the cost of transfer to the Victorian Hand Associates, St Vincent’s Hospital Campus, Melbourne.
- Declan Murphy, towards the cost of his travel while visiting the Department of Urology, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria, Australia.
- Paul O’Neill, towards the cost of his visit to the Boston Harvard Children’s Hospital for further training purposes.
- Graham Roche-Nagle, towards his travel expenses to take up his post at Toronto General Hospital.
- Liam Skinner, towards his travel costs on his visit to the Department of ENT, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane.

Joint Research Grants in Surgery

Five Joint Research Grants in Surgery were awarded as follows:

- The Joint RCSI/TCD Grant was awarded to Dr. Desmond Toomey for his project ‘The role of the cyclooxygenase - prostaglandin cascade in pancreatic cancer associated angiogenesis’.
- The Joint RCSI/Department of Surgery RCSI Grant awarded to Dr. Darrabhaile Collins for her project ‘The role of novel transcription factor hosts for the coactivator SRC-1 in the development of endocrine resistant breast cancer’.
- The Joint RCSI/UCD Grant was awarded to Dr. Deirdre Fanning for her project ‘Urinary Biomarkers for Prostate Cancer’.
- The Joint RCSI/UCL Grant was awarded to Dr. Fiacra Martin for his project ‘The role of bone-derived cells in mediating homing, engraftment and proliferation of circulating breast cancer cell’.
- The Joint RCSI/UCL Grant was awarded to Dr. Daniel N Coakley for his project ‘An analysis of the effects of mechanical pressures on the predictors of occlusion and remodelling in tissue engineered vascular grafts’.

The RCSI-Anthony Walsh/Ipsen Urology Travelling Fellowship was awarded to Mr. Gordon Smyth to enable him to visit the Department of Urology, L’Institut Mutualiste Montsouris, University Paris, France.

24th May

Honorary Fellowship awarded to Bob Geldof prior to his delivery of the 7th Annual Leadership Lecture

Bob Geldof was conferred with an Honorary Fellowship of the College in recognition of his contribution to charity and his efforts in tackling world poverty. He also delivered a powerful lecture in which he spoke of the responsibility of leaders and the need to be true to the promises that are made by the powerful to the weak.

14th June

Alan Johnson awarded Honorary Fellowship

Professor Alan Johnson (former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine) was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the College at the summer Council Dinner. Alan received the honour in recognition of the substantial contribution he has made to the College, in particular the Medical School, and to medical education in Ireland. Professor Johnson, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, is now Director of the Graduate Entry Programme (GEP).

18th June

James Earl Carter III awarded Honorary Fellowship

President James Earl Carter, 39th President of the United States, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his tireless work in promoting peace, health and democracy throughout the world. Carter’s tireless campaign for peace, human rights and democracy has persisted through his courage, conviction and determination. By bestowing on him our highest award of Honorary Fellowship, we are recognising his dedication to eradicating disease, poverty and torture throughout the world, aims which we at RCSI share.

The President of UCC, Professor Michael Murphy, delivered the Robert Adams Lecture: ‘Where Finbarr Taught, Let Tonga Learn’.

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Irish Travelling Fellowship RCSI/RSM Section of Coloproctology
Mr Myles Joyce was awarded the RSM Section of Coloproctology Irish Travelling Fellowship to attend the annual (overseas) meeting of the Section. This year, the meeting was held in Paris, France.

Joint RCSEd/RCSI Fellowship Fiachra Rowan was awarded the Joint RCSEd/RCSI Fellowship for his project “The association between Sulphate Reducing Bacteria and Ulcerative Colitis: An aetiological or incidental phenomenon”.

Millin Lecture The Millin Lecture was awarded to Mr. Malcolm Kell. The title of his lecture is Surgical Wilderness to Clinical Utility.