A special exhibition exploring the human stories of surgeons and insurgents associated with the RCS Ireland and the 1916 Easter Rising has opened at the College on St Stephen’s Green, Dublin, and runs until April 7.

This free exhibition that is open to the public will bring visitors on a journey of the RCS Ireland occupation during the 1916 Easter Rising, with a focus on the stories of nine surgeons and nine insurgents involved in these historic events.

The exhibition was opened by Dr Maurice Manning, Chancellor of NUI and Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations, last week (March 23).

The College’s occupation by insurgents under the command of Michael Mallin and Countess Markievicz is a well-known aspect of the Easter Rising. “The centenary commemorations of the 1916 Easter Rising are of particular significance to RCS Ireland,” commented RCS Ireland President Mr Declan Magee. “Our building on St Stephen’s Green was one of the principal sites occupied by the Volunteers, but, also, many of the College surgeons played important roles in treating the injured.”

“Despite being a focal point for the Rising, the building and rooms occupied during Easter week remain intact as they did in 1916 and we are privileged to host this commemorative exhibition in these historical surroundings,” he added at the launch. The exhibition takes place in the rooms occupied by the insurgents, which are virtually unchanged since 1916, with original features including a bullet-hole from a bullet that struck the brass plate of an internal door during the fighting.

Artefacts on display in the exhibition include the tricolour believed to have flown over the College during the Rising and the will of Countess Markievicz, both reportedly taken from the building by the wounded Margaret Skinnider. This tricolour, which is on loan to the College from relatives of Skinnider, is on public display for the first time.

A sword disguised as a walking stick, belonging to Captain Christopher Poole, on loan from the Poole family, will also be on display at the event.

Features of the exhibition include a scale model of St Stephen’s Green in 1916 with visual and sound-effects, showing the firing lines across the Green and reconstructions of furniture barricades, the first aid station and the ‘bombs’ table, re-creating some of the scenes found in the College during the Rising.

The exhibition is family friendly, with children’s activity sheets available for younger visitors. Admission is free, however, booking is required for the lectures and peak times of the exhibition. Further details of opening times and bookings are available at www.rcsi.ie/2016.


The College was also involved in a number of the official city-wide events over the Easter period. The remaining lectures in the RCS Ireland series include: Conal Ó Dálaigh on ‘The Rising: A statement of intent, successes and failures’ (April 1, 7:30pm).
Mr Declan Magee, President of the RCSI, with Liam and Karen Bradley (5/4 yrs); Isabella Roast (5) and Alice Shields (4) along with life-size cut-outs of Countess Markievicz and Christopher Poole on the steps of the RCSI.

The RCSI College Hall after the insurgents surrendered. The first aid station was set up behind the screen.