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SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC PRIMARY CARE

State must 'risk-share' on PCCs



Prof Colin Bradley

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While it was in the State's interest that primary care centres be developed, it was only fair that this should be reflected in terms of financial risk-

sharing by the State, according to the Head of University College Cork's Department of General Practice.

Prof Colin Bradley also stressed that it was important that the tradition of a personal doctor was maintained, but within a model where more flexible working arrangements could be accommodated. This would facilitate good primary care and chronic disease management, he told *Irish Medical Times*.

Increases in chronic illness and in particular multi-morbidities were major themes at last week's Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC)

Dublin Meeting, hosted by **RCSI** at Dublin Castle.

Sessions were held on medicines and prescribing, while cardiovascular disease prevention was also considered.

The difficulty in convincing policymakers of the need for investment in primary care and prevention (as opposed to investing in the treatment of 'events') was also discussed.

Lives were being saved through prevention, but these patients were not as easily identified as stroke survivors who had benefited from thrombolysis, Prof Bradley said.

Primary care centres were part of the future for primary care delivery, in terms of pre-

vention and managing chronic disease and multi-morbidity, he added, and the old model of single-handed practitioners with few staff was probably not appropriate in this context.

Yet State investment in primary care had not progressed, lamented Prof Bradley, who stressed the need to invest in primary care infrastructure and incentivise general practice.

Academic study of general practice was growing, Prof Bradley said. The SAPC meeting in Dublin was hosted by the Department of General Practice, **RCSI** Medical School, and the HRB Centre for Primary Care Research.