



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Grant Holder Name</b>	James Walsh
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	Mch. FRCS(TR&Orth) Graduated from RCSI in 2001. HST: 2007 – 2012 Awarded CCST: 2012
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	1. Sydney foot and ankle fellowship 2. European foot and ankle fellowship
<b>Year of Award:</b> <b>Commencement Date:</b> <b>Conclusion Date:</b>	2012 July 2012 September 2013

### Summary (no more than 250 words)

I commenced my Fellowship in Sydney Australia, at the Royal North Shore Hospital under the principal supervision of Dr Andrew Wines (Department Head Foot & Ankle). I had additional placements with Dr Les Grujic, Dr Kim Slater, Dr Peter Lam and Dr David Carmody.

I was attached to Dr. Wines for the duration of the fellowship and rotated between the other consultants (2 different consultants every 6 months). The fellowship covered all aspects of foot and ankle surgery, including degenerative disease, sports, subspecialty spasticity surgery and trauma and I had an excellent exposure to a range of new techniques in foot and ankle surgery, including novel trauma techniques and minimally invasive elective foot & ankle surgery. Due to the number of consultants involved, there was a large caseload with a great deal of operating on private patients (under supervision). I was also provided with my own weekly public elective list and was first on call for any complex foot and ankle trauma in North Shore Hospital (a level 1 trauma centre, covering all of New South Wales North of the Harbour bridge).

To complete my fellowship, I followed my time in Sydney with clinical observership visits to Switzerland (Professor Beat Hintermann, Professor Markus Knupp) focussing on ankle replacement and distal tibial osteotomy and the Netherlands (Professor Nick Van Dijk and Dr Gino Kerkhoffs) focussing on arthroscopic ankle techniques. The European section of the fellowship was not finalised at the time of my departure to Australia, but added a very useful additional exposure, to the already comprehensive exposure I had received in Sydney.

**Grant Report (in the region of but no more than 500 words)**

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Comprehensive exposure to all aspects of trauma and elective foot and ankle surgery. Exposure to the leading centres of excellence for minimally invasive/elective/trauma (Sydney), ankle replacement and distal tibial osteotomy (Liestal – Switzerland) and ankle arthroscopic techniques (Amsterdam).

Did you achieve these objectives?

I feel I exceeded the objectives I had set prior to setting out on fellowship.

In your opinion, what is the value of your award to:

(a) Yourself

Huge exposure to all aspects of foot and ankle surgery. Opportunity to operate on a high volume of patients. I learned a great number of new techniques in foot and ankle surgery. I developed contacts in a number of institutions worldwide, due to my exposure to other surgeons in my specialty (consultants and international fellows).

(b) The institution in which you worked

The experience gained on fellowship will be of great use to my current institution (Beaumont/Cappagh Hospital), as the use of new techniques gained on fellowship will hopefully decrease inpatient stay and provide improved patient outcomes with decreased morbidity.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

Having an international fellowship provides a great opportunity to collaborate with and get advice from international experts in the field. This can only be of benefit to Irish patients. The new techniques I've learned on fellowship have significantly increased the surgical options available to my patients. I hope that this will ultimately lead to improved patient outcomes. The links I have made with other institutions and surgeons around the world will hopefully be of additional use for future Irish trained foot and ankle surgeons, looking for international fellowships.