



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Timothy Martin Murphy
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	I graduated from UCC in 2002, and completed my National Neurosurgical Training Scheme rotating through Beaumont Hospital & Cork University Hospital.
Title of Project/Fellowship	Clinical fellowship in Spinal Neurosurgery
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2012 August 1 st 2012 May 1 st 2013

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I worked as Spine Clinical Fellow in the Department of Neurological Surgery in Washington University St Louis, USA from August 2012 – May 2013.

My main supervisor was Professor Neill Wright. He specialises in cervical spine surgery, & has pioneered the translaminar screw technique as a safer alternative to atlantoaxial fixation. He taught me the operative technique, it's benefits & it's limitations, and also management of cervical spine pathologies in both the inpatient & outpatient settings.

Dr Paul Santiago specialises in redo/revision lumbar spine surgery. This is an ever expanding field world-wide, and is very challenging. It can be disheartening both for patients & surgeons due to the high risks of complications & poor patient satisfaction. Dr Santiago's methodical approach both pre-operatively with regard to patient & instrumentation selection, and intra-operatively managing unexpected complications, will serve me well in the future.

Dr's Todd Stewart & Dr Zack Ray also assisted my learning about thoracic spine & peripheral nerve injuries.

As the centre was a quaternary referral centre, the amount of "weird & wonderful" pathologies that I could review & assist in the management of was amazing.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

To gain familiarity with the complexities of cervical spinal surgery, most especially the translaminar approach to atlantoaxial fusions.

To gain competence in management of spinal trauma.

To become familiar with the management of the common revision spine surgery complications.

To gain confidence in planning & executing redo spinal procedures.

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes.

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

(a) Yourself

It allowed me to witness at first hand the planning for such complex atlantoaxial procedures, and to appreciate the positive impact that appropriate use of cutting edge technologies can have on patient outcomes.

(b) The institution in which you worked

The department were very welcoming to me, and were very interested in seeing alternative ways of managing similar problem patients in Ireland. They seem to enjoy discussing the pros & cons of our sometimes differing approaches, and were always open to hearing suggestions which initially appeared at variance to the "WashU way". I believe that this was due to all 4 attendings in the department having undergone fellowship training in other institutions, and 3 of the 4 having spent some of their time outside the US.

The residents also enjoyed having a non-US surgeon about the department for the same reason.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

A link has been forged allowing for future Irish trainees to pursue further fellowships in this institution. One such trainee is there presently. This will allow such expertise to be available to Irish patients for many years to come.