



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Olivia Flannery
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	I graduated from the University of Dundee, Scotland in 2000. I completed my Basic Surgical training scheme in Scotland before returning home to Ireland. After completing and being awarded a Masters in Surgery from Trinity College Dublin I entered the Higher Specialist training program in Trauma and Orthopaedics. I was awarded a FRCS in Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery with RCSI in December 2011. After being awarded my CCT I travelled to New Zealand to commence a hand fellowship.
Title of Project/Fellowship	Hand Fellowship
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	2012 09/07/2012 30/06/2013

Summary (no more than 250 words)

The Auckland Regional Hand Service is the largest hand centre in New Zealand, providing the majority of the hand services for the city and region (a population of 1.5 million). There are 4 orthopaedic hand consultants who deal with complex wrist and elbow injuries, as well as all hand referrals. There were 2 hand fellows, one being plastics trained, and myself. We alternated between acute and elective weeks. During the acute week, 2 days were covered by the orthopaedic hand consultants and 3 by the plastics consultants so I got to see different approaches and ways of treating both soft tissue and bony injuries. The acute lists had on average 10 – 12 cases per day. For my elective week I had either 2 or 3 days in theatre and 1 or 2 days in clinic and usually half a day per week was allocated for research, if required. Every Friday morning there was a general hand

teaching session which was led by a consultant or the fellows. This usually involved a complex case where the patient was present for a history and examination, followed by 2 powerpoint presentations on recent journal articles. Finally, before completing administrative work, we reviewed the radiologically images of the operative and interesting cases of the week, over coffee! It was a total pleasure working in Middlemore hospital, where all staff were polite, friendly and helpful, and a huge volume of experience was gained.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

The main objectives of my fellowship were firstly to gain as much hand/ wrist knowledge and operative experience in both the trauma and elective setting. This included experience in microvascular work. Secondly, I wanted to undertake a research project with a view to publication and international presentation. Finally, I wanted to take this fantastic opportunity to see the beautiful scenery that New Zealand is well known and loved for.

Did you achieve these objectives?

All objectives were achieved. I was involved in a total of 678 cases of which I performed the majority. 466 were trauma cases and 212 elective. There was a wide spectrum in the complexity of cases, including hemi hamate osteochondral graft, rib osteochondral graft for scaphoid fracture, small joint arthroplasty and replants. I had no experience with a microscope prior to my hand fellowship but soon developed my microscopic skills with nerve repairs and revascularisation/ replant cases.

I undertook a research project where I reviewed all Ulnar head replacements that were performed using the Ascension implant from the company LMT. The study has been completed and was presented to the department at my final research meeting day. A paper is presently being written which will hopefully get published in one of the hand journals. I aim to submit the paper for presentation to the Irish hand society meeting and European hand meeting next year.

Finally, I did manage to see some of this beautiful country; the golden sandy beaches of the North Island and the spectacular views of mountains, lakes and fiords of the South Island.

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

(a) Yourself

The award contributed to my travel to Auckland. It took 3 flights to reach my destination, but the experience there made it worthwhile. I have seen and performed exciting new cases for the first time, and increased my skill and knowledge on procedures and cases done during my training in Ireland.

(b) The institution in which you worked

I was the first Irish hand fellow in the hand unit in Middlemore and they were impressed with the training I had received on my SpR training scheme, and in fact have recruited a fellow SpR trainee as the next orthopaedic hand fellow.

I was responsible for teaching within the unit and taught and guided plastics trainees through many bony operative cases in theatre. I was involved in the Friday morning departmental teaching sessions and in teaching the medical students.

I had my own fellow clinic and theatre clinics, including extra Saturday new patient clinics which were run to try and reduce waiting list numbers.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

I learned how the hand unit in Auckland was started and hope that I can have a roll in the setup of a much needed hand unit in Ireland. In the interim I will be able to apply the skill and knowledge I have gained in providing the best care in hand surgery for my future patients.