



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

Grant Holder Name	Ivor Cullen
Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)	I graduated from medical school in Cork in 2002 and commenced basic surgical training followed by higher surgical training in Urology completing FRCS (Urol) in 2011 and was awarded CCST in July 2013. I commenced a post CCST fellowship in Andrology and Genital Oncology at the Institute of Urology in UCLH, London
Title of Project/Fellowship	Ethicon Travel Grant
Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date:	September 2013

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I completed 14 months of post CCT fellowship experience in the Institute of Urology at University College Hospital London. This institute is an internationally recognised quaternary centre of urological excellence for all of the UK and indeed many cases are sent from Ireland to this hospital.

The first six months were spent working in Genital Oncology where I was exposed to at least five new penile, urethral and testicular cases per week. The unit is also a regional centre for the management of rare genital cancers such as sarcomas and extra-testicular scrotal malignancies. I was trained in the surgical art of penile preservation cancer surgery and in particular penile reconstruction post cancer excision. The unit is noted for its use of sentinel node mapping for penile cancer metastasis detection and I was exposed to radiological techniques such as lymphoscintigraphy and PET scanning in the management of these cancers.

The next eight months were with David Ralph and his team specialising in benign andrology. This unit is a specialist team involved in the surgical management of erectile dysfunction, curved penis, micropenis, buried penis. I was also heavily involved in the phalloplasty service provided at UCLH and was trained in radial artery phalloplasty surgery whereby we created new penes from forearm flaps for cancer amputees, transgender patients and patients with rare metabolic and genetic conditions. I personally inserted over eighty penis implants. I was also trained in stricture surgery and penile trauma surgery.

I performed 60 micro surgical testicular sperm extraction (microTESE) operations for men with non obstructive azoospermia. UCLH is a pioneering centre for this operation and all elements of the management of male factor infertility.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

Train in modern penile cancer diagnostics and surgical approaches.

Train in penile preserving surgeries and reconstruction post cancer surgery.

Train in male factor infertility diagnostics and surgical management.

Train in erectile dysfunction surgery.

Train in penile curvature surgery.

Participate in national and international surgical conferences and contribute to literature.

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes I did.

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

(a) Yourself

My exposure to this niche specialist area has been massive.

While we might treat 50 cases of genital cancer in Ireland in a year, I was involved in the surgical care of more than 5 cases per week.

My diagnostic skills and operative repertoire have increased exponentially in this area.

I am also developed expertise in the surgical management of male factor infertility, congenital penile abnormalities, erectile dysfunction and phalloplasty.

I have also been exposed to an entirely new management and governance structure in the NHS a lot of which I feel could benefit our health system significantly.

(b) The institution in which you worked

I represented Irish surgery and in particular Irish Urology in a very positive light.

They were impressed at my existing skillbase, my hunger for learning and my attitude to work.

I think I brought particular positive elements of Irish surgery to the unit and reflected well on our higher surgical training schemes.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

There has been extremely limited access for specialist andrology services in Ireland to date. I hope to be able to provide this specialist service to the population and negate their need to travel. In my opinion penile implant surgery is a crucial element of post pelvic cancer survivorship and something we should offer our patients more and more. I am trained in the latest penile cancer surgeries and will be able to offer penile preserving and reconstructive options to patients. Finally I have developed close ties and professional links with this world famous institute which will undoubtedly be of benefit to myself and my Irish colleagues where expert or alternative opinion is needed.