



# RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

## Grant/Fellowship Report Form

<b>Fellowship/Grant Holder Name</b>	Zahraa Al-Hilli
<b>Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Graduated from RCSI in 2004 (LRCPSI, MB, BCh, BAO)</li><li>- IMRCS (2006)</li><li>- Diploma in Healthcare Management (2008)</li><li>- MD (2009)</li><li>- MMedSci (Masters in Medical Education- 2009)</li><li>- Completed training in General Surgery in 2015 and received the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST- 2015) and Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FRSCI-2014).</li><li>- Fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota in June 2015</li><li>- Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.</li></ul>
<b>Title of Project/Fellowship</b>	Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
<b>Year of Award:</b> <b>Commencement Date:</b> <b>Conclusion Date:</b>	2015 Commencement date: July 2015 Conclusion date: June 2016

**Summary (no more than 250 words)**

My surgical training in Ireland has given me the necessary skills and confidence to practice as a General Surgeon with an interest in Breast and Endocrine Surgery. I have sought fellowship training to further supplement my training thus far and allow me to continue my career with new ideas, experiences and techniques. I sought fellowship training that balances a strong research foundation with extensive clinical exposure, such that it will allow me to refine my surgical and clinical skills and support my research interests. As such I have completed fellowships at Mayo Clinic in both Breast Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery.

I completed an Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at Mayo Clinic which is one year in length (July 2015-June 2016) and included a focus on endocrine surgery procedures (thyroid, parathyroid, neck dissection, adrenal glands, neuroendocrine pancreatic tumors, robotic endocrine surgery etc) as well as experience in the various clinical multidisciplinary components including endocrine surgery clinic, medical endocrinology, radiology and nuclear medicine.

Academically, I was appointed to the academic rank of Instructor in Surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. In addition, I was actively involved in research within the department and completed several research studies during my fellowship.

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

**Objectives of Project/Fellowship:**

The Mayo Clinic is amongst the leading healthcare institutions worldwide. It holds a strong reputation in clinical excellence, research, and education. The Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at Mayo Clinic is one of the most prestigious endocrine fellowships in the world. It is one year in length and includes a focus on endocrine surgery procedures (thyroid, parathyroid, neck dissection, adrenal glands, neuroendocrine pancreatic tumors, robotic endocrine surgery etc) as well as experience in the various clinical multidisciplinary components including endocrine surgery clinic, medical endocrinology, radiology and nuclear medicine. The fellow is expected to perform consultations, formulate management decisions, plan operative interventions, gain extensive benign and malignant endocrine surgery hands on experience and manage patients in the post-operative setting. In addition to the vast surgical and clinical experience, didactic training is delivered through multidisciplinary meetings, endocrine conferences, oncology core curriculum lectures, weekly grand rounds, morbidity and mortality conferences and journal club.

**Did you achieve these objectives?**

Yes

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

**(a) Yourself**

I gained proficiency in the clinical and surgical management of a wide range of endocrine presentations. I also had the opportunity to see, manage and treat some of the most complex and rare endocrine presentations. I am confident that I have attained the goals I have outlined for myself as well as those outlined by the program at Mayo Clinic. I was able to gain proficiency in neck ultrasound, FNA of thyroid nodules and related procedures, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, neck dissection, adrenal surgery (open/laparoscopic/robotic) and neuroendocrine pancreas surgery. In addition to clinical care, I expanded my research interest and profile by completing multiple research studies and collaborating with several research groups. This work has been presented at national/international meetings in the United States, submitted for publication and some in final preparation to submit for publication in the near future.

**(b) The institution in which you worked**

I was able to work closely and train with world experts in Endocrine Surgery and Endocrinology who have been great mentors during my fellowship and who will remain as my mentors and colleagues as I continue my career. I look forward to having the opportunity to collaborate with the Endocrinology and Endocrine Surgery Department clinically and academically.

**(c) In the future for Irish patients**

The field of Endocrine Surgery is growing and continues to expand with increased awareness of the role of an Endocrine Surgeon in the care of patients with benign and malignant endocrine diseases. I had the opportunity to see, manage and treat some of the most complex and rare endocrine presentations. It is critical for the caring surgeon to be comfortable with current practice as well as controversial areas within this field. In addition, one must be proficient in a wide range of techniques and procedures. I look forward to utilizing all the skills and knowledge I have gained in Ireland and in the United States in the management of patients with various endocrine disorders.