



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN

Ethicon Grant/Fellowship Report Form

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| Grant Holder Name | Roisin Dolan |
| Brief biography, including qualification and year of graduation (no more than 100 words) | Graduated with an honours degree from UCD in 2007. Following my internship at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital I completed a full-time 2 year basic science MD at Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science, UCD. Following BST and a year as a junior registrar I completed the higher surgical training programme in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and attained FRCS Plast in March 2017. I am currently doing a hand and microsurgery fellowship at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK. |
| Title of Project/Fellowship | Paediatric Plastic Surgery Fellowship at Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. |
| Year of Award: Commencement Date: Conclusion Date: | 2017 July 2017 July 2017 |

Summary (no more than 250 words)

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Hospital for Sick Children in July of this year and would highly recommend it to junior trainees in plastic surgery. As a leading paediatric institution I observed how the infrastructure and environment is incredibly child friendly in attempt to minimise the typically cold clinical interface. The high play therapy input especially in the perioperative setting really minimised stress for the children and their families and I would like to think this is something we could invest in, in Ireland moving forward. Clinically, I learned how to maximise the information gained from clinical examination of a child's upper limb in a short period of time and how most of this is actually based on play and observation of function. The attendings were very keen to teach and I felt the environment was very much learning orientated. Time in the OR was also used as a teaching opportunity reviewing radiology, discussing other reconstructive options and their limitations. Overall my experience was very positive and I would be delighted if I were awarded one of the 4 paediatric fellowships Hospital for Sick Children offer each year.

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

Objectives of Project/Fellowship:

1. Gain exposure to spectrum of paediatric plastic surgery pathology in a leading and well respected global paediatric organisation
2. Observe assessment and surgical management of complex upper limb deformities by leading experts in this field
3. Observe physiotherapy and occupational therapy structure within the organisation and how this is adapted to suit the needs of children
4. To develop research links with a leading authority in management of complex upper limb disorders

Did you achieve these objectives?

Yes. I spent some time learning how to assess complex upper limb deformities in the context of a multi-disciplinary setting and observed first-hand how this environment was adapted for children. Input from orthopaedic upper limb surgeons also formed an important part of this assessment process. I was fortunate to observe some complex oncologic upper limb reconstructions requiring free flap surgery and this was valuable in allowing comparisons to our setup in Ireland and changes we could make. Hospital for Sick Children are a very well respected research community also and I established some links for future work during my observership.

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

(a) Yourself I hope to do a full clinical fellowship at Hospital for Sick Children so this short observership allowed me to assess if this fellowship would meet my expectations in terms operative exposure and training opportunities.

(b) The institution in which you worked

I think international visitors are important as it allows us to share our experiences in terms of clinical observations, use of new technologies and fostering research links with the institution we are visiting to advance patient care and hopefully outcomes. It certainly promotes innovation and lateral thinking which I think are key to the advancement of the field of plastic surgery.

(c) In the future for Irish patients

Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto is a leading global organisation in the care of sick children. I think fellowship training at such an institution would certainly help us optimise the development of our national children's hospital in Ireland. Their multi-disciplinary delivery of care is central to their ethos and I certainly saw first-hand how that changed the experience of both the child and their families in-hospital experience.