Surgeons’ fleam

RCSI

A Year in Review
Looking to the future!
Welcome to the latest issue of Surgeons’ Fleam which highlights another exciting year for the College and we are delighted to share with you some of the important initiatives that have taken place during the past twelve months, especially in Malaysia, where the College has a strong presence.

The purpose of our annual review is to inform and engage with the ultimate aim of building stronger ties between RCSI and our most valued stakeholders – our esteemed alumni. As graduates you play an integral role as part of the RCSI community. Your support and advocacy on our behalf is instrumental in raising our profile and advancing the reputation of Irish medical education.

I would also like to thank you for your most wonderful support of our Alumni Annual Appeal which allows us to provide unique opportunities for our students through research, electives and helping the wider community. We deeply appreciate your generosity.

Your input and feedback is always welcomed and encouraged, so if you have any suggestions please contact me at alumni@rcsi.ie

Finally, on behalf of the Alumni Office, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our alumni for their on-going support. We look forward to working with you during 2012.

Kindest regards

Louise Sherwin
Alumni Officer, RCSI
Celebration of the launch of the Perdana University - RCSI School of Medicine

The Ambassador of Ireland, H.E. Declan Kelly, and RCSI’s CEO, Professor Cathal Kelly, launched the Perdana University - RCSI School of Medicine at the Ambassador’s Residence, Kuala Lumpur in June 2011. RCSI’s President, Professor Eilis McGovern attended this important event in the College’s history which will further strengthen the College’s long standing educational involvement with Malaysia.

In September 2011, the new Perdana University - RCSI School of Medicine accepted its first 100 undergraduate medical students. Professor Anthony Cunningham, former Professor of Anaesthetics in RCSI is the Foundation Dean.

RCSI is delighted to join Tan Sri Mohan Swami in realizing his vision for a world class medical centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The Perdana University Initiative is part of the Kuala Lumpur Academic Medical Centre (AMC), a proposed development for a centre of excellence for medicine in Malaysia, incorporating a custom built medical campus which includes a 600-bed private hospital, a research centre, and Perdana University. The undergraduate medical programme run by RCSI and a graduate entry programme run by Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, US.

AMC is an important Public Private Partnership launched in 2010 with the Government of Malaysia under the patronage of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The AMC development will be carried out in a phased manner, with the final medical school campus and hospital scheduled to be delivered in 2014.
Major expansion of RCSI and UCD in Malaysia

Ministers from the State Government of Terengganu, Malaysia, signed an agreement in March 2011 for the provision of medical education by the College and University College Dublin (UCD) by the two colleges in the State of Terengganu in Malaysia.

The new agreement involves establishing a medical college branch campus in Terengganu, on the East coast of Malaysia which will initially allocate 50 places in September 2011 and building to accommodate up to 150 students per annum. Students will be selected by academic merit and interview and successful candidates will come to Ireland to study at RCSI and UCD for 2.5 years and will return to the new medical school in Terengganu to undertake their clinical training and complete their medical degrees - which are awarded by the two Irish universities.

Signing the agreement, the Most Hon Haji Ahmad Razif bin Abd. Rahman, the Chairman on State Education, stressed the long relationship in medical education between Malaysia and Ireland. “Irish medical education has an excellent international reputation for training high quality, clinically skilled doctors and Terengganu welcomes this agreement with RCSI and UCD and to extend this education programme to our State.”
Dear Graduate,

As Chief Executive of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, it is my pleasure to update you on the activities within the College over the past year.

The past year has seen RCSI grow both in Ireland and abroad as we continue to develop our core activities of education, training and research. In October 2010, the College was granted independent degree awarding status by the State. This followed a quality approval process culminating in the Government approving the bye-law, which enables the College to award degrees alongside its traditional powers to award licentiates. Our graduands will now receive an RCSI degree alongside the traditional licentiates of the RCSI and RCPI and the degree of the National University of Ireland. To mark this landmark in the College’s history, the first ever RCSI degree was awarded in May 2011 to Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland.

In terms of postgraduate activities, 2010/2011 was an exciting year with the largest number to date, (60) graduating with higher degrees by research (23 PhD, 15 MD, 14 MCh and 8 MSc). Our postgraduate student numbers have increased year on year from 314(135 research) in 2005 to 854 in 2010 (253 research). In our postgraduate activities we already have many of the recommendations of the Hunt report in place and look forward to further.
enhancing the quality framework for our higher degree researchers as recommended in the report.

Despite significant cuts in the Irish Government’s research funding, RCSI received HEA funding of €1.8 million for a new inter-institutional PhD programme in BioAnalysis and Therapeutics (BioAT). Our partners are Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth, and the Institute of Technology Tallaght. The programme offers students a unique training experience in applied research, advanced technologies, and collaborative clinician-scientist research in hospital-based laboratories. This integrated approach to advancing the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases with significant potential for commercialisation is a major strength of the programme.

Also in area of research, the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, which is a scientific and clinical partnership between DCU and RCSI secured €14.8 million in funding, as part of the largest award ever granted by Science Foundation Ireland. The investment which will support research and innovation is a significant achievement for the institute.

This year also saw considerable progress in the development of the Academic Health Centre between Beaumont Hospital, Connolly Hospital and RCSI. The mission of the Academic Health Centre is to prioritise patient care across the hospital and the community within a research-intensive learning environment, guaranteeing improved patient outcomes. A partnership agreement has now been signed by the parties involved and a

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RCSI was accredited by the Irish Medical Council to administer the Professional Competence Schemes for Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Sports & Exercise Medicine.

Within the Department of Surgical Affairs, the RCSI Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology continues to go from strength to strength. Most recently, its development of a podcast for surgeons which provides surgeons with easy access to the latest information regarding clinical practice and surgical technology is a great example of an innovative and internationally focused product and it continues to ensure that RCSI is internationally recognised as a leader in medical education.

Last year also saw the appointments of a new Director of Research and a Director of Corporate Strategy. Professor John Kelly, former Foundation Head of the School of Pharmacy, joined the Senior Management Team as Director of Research, bringing extensive experience, particularly on the commercialisation of research and clinical trials, to the position. Mr. Michael McGrail was appointed as Director of Corporate Strategy. Michael has extensive experience in consulting and corporate finance and previously held the role of acting Director of Finance in the College.

2011 also saw RCSI enter into two very exciting opportunities in Malaysia. In Kuala Lumpur, the new Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine will deliver the five year undergraduate medical programme, with the first intake of students in September 2011. The Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine is part of the Kuala Lumpur Academic Medical Centre which will comprise a 600 bed private hospital, a research centre and Perdana University and is due for completion in 2014. In March, RCSI together with UCD signed an agreement for the provision of medical education with two colleges in the State of Terengganu in Malaysia. The agreement involves establishing a medical college branch campus in Terengganu. These students will come to Ireland to study at RCSI and UCD for 2.5 years and will return to Terengganu to undertake their clinical training and complete their medical degrees.

2011 proved to be a difficult time for our staff and students in Bahrain. Since

number of working groups have been established to deliver the project.

Much change has taken place this year within the Department of Surgical Affairs. With the appointment of Eunan Friel as Managing Director of the Department in 2010, and the culmination of a strategic review process, new structures were put in place to ensure the department provides excellence in surgical training and relevance in surgical practice and to address changes in the delivery and regulation of the medical profession in Ireland. Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 came into effect on 1st May 2011, whereby it became mandatory for all medical practitioners practising in Ireland to be enrolled in a Professional Competence Scheme.
the beginning of the unrest in Bahrain in February, we have endeavoured to ensure the safety of our 900 students and 100 staff in Bahrain, to enable our students to complete their programmes. We developed contingency plans to ensure that irrespective of political unrest, our final medical year students would graduate on time. In June, we conferred 53 medical doctors and 70 nurses as originally scheduled. The graduation ceremony was an important tribute to the commitment and courage of these young people. It was a particularly proud day for all of us that were there to witness the occasion.

The mission of the Academic Health Centre is to prioritise patient care across the hospital and the community within a research-intensive learning environment, guaranteeing improved patient outcomes

As a leading provider of medical education, we are committed to ensuring our educational offering to our students is second to none. Following the College being granted independent degree awarding powers, we established the Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) to support the implementation of the RCSI quality assurance and quality improvement strategy following recommendations by the National Qualifications Authority. The primary activity of the QEO is the coordination of quality reviews and to support the RCSI Schools and Faculties in statutory accreditation processes. The School of Postgraduate Studies underwent the first quality review in May, which was carried out by an international Peer Review Group.

The strategic decision to sell a collection of books in the RCSI Library from the 16th to the 19th century in the fields of medicine, natural history, travel and literature was made last year. The decision was made in order to concentrate on the conservation and preservation of the RCSI archives and modern records which are essential and unique to the College. All money raised from the sale of the books will be reinvested into the library.

During the Degree Awarding process, an external panel made a three day site visit to the College. The panel was uniform in its praise of the staff and students, the sense of morale and the sense of community within RCSI. Despite the panel’s extensive experience, they had never witnessed such a sense of collegiality in any other institution worldwide, which is testament to the sense of endeavour and collaboration that is evident across the entire RCSI community. I have always been proud of RCSI, but never more so than during this period.

As a not for profit institution, we are enduringly grateful for the support of our loyal alumni, fellows, members and friends of the College, who continue to support us in our endeavours and who give generously to the College. I would like to thank you for your continued support and help you give to the College. We are always interested to hear from our loyal alumni, as you play an integral role in the RCSI community.

Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive / Registrar
Fellowships of the Faculty of Radiologists Ad Eundem were awarded to Josephine Barry, Raymond Fielding, Charles Gillham and Leo Lawler. Fellowships of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery Ad Eundem were conferred on Ann Begley and Charles Docherty and a Fellowship by Special Election was awarded to Thomas Kearns. Speaking at the conferring ceremony, Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI congratulated new Members and Fellows on their success in reaching this exciting milestone in their careers and wished them all the very best as they continued to strive for their goals.

‘Anatomists, Engineers & Artists - Anatomy from the Outside In’

The RHA School in association with the RCSI, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) & Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) launched a 3D video presentation called ‘Anatomists, Engineers & Artists - Anatomy from the Outside In’ in the RHA Gallery on 8th December 2011. Medical students are reluctant models, so getting one to take

Professor Conor Murphy, Professor of Ophthalmology, RCSI; Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI; Mr Ali Jalil Awad, (Fellowship of RCSI Ad Eundem); & Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive/ Registrar, RCSI.

One hundred and fifty healthcare professionals were conferred with postgraduate awards at the conferring ceremony in December 2011. These included Fellowships in Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery and Urology. Memberships of RCSI including Ophthalmology were also awarded as well as Fellowships and Memberships of the Faculties of Radiologists, Dentistry and Nursing & Midwifery. A Fellowship of RCSI Ad Eundem was awarded to Ali Jalil Awad. Emer Lang received an RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship and an RCSI Surgical Grant was awarded to Rowan Casey (‘97).

RCSI students Chelsea Garcia and Omar Eldishish
off his shirt to demonstrate the surface anatomy of the heart valves can be a challenge. Yet surface anatomy is the basis of clinical examination and students must learn where to listen to the heart, the markings of the liver, the sites of incisions and the movements of joints – in short the site of everything from the outside in. Artists and art students don’t always have access to a live model either, and for them a knowledge of the underlying skeletal and muscular structure is fundamental to drawing and painting the figure.

Professor Seamus Sreenan meets President Michael D. Higgins to mark World Diabetes Day

Professor Seamus Sreenan, Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology at Connolly Hospital and Director of the Graduate Entry Programme in Medicine at RCSI, met with the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to mark World Diabetes Day, which took place in November. Professor Sreenan was part of a delegation from Diabetes Ireland who met the newly inaugurated President at the event which took place in Áras an Uachtaráin. Professor Sreenan is also a Medical Advisor for Diabetes Ireland.

Rationalisation of the hospital service & rationalisation of surgical training explored at annual RCSI Millin Meeting

Rationalisation of the hospital service and rationalisation of surgical training were explored at the annual RCSI Millin Meeting which took place in November in the College. More than 120 surgeons and surgical trainees attended the daylong conference and presentations will be given by leading consultants, the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Council.

RCSI hosts the First International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students

The first International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (ICHAMS) took place in RCSI with more than 150 undergraduate healthcare students from the United States, Sri Lanka, the Ivory Coast, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

The event organised by RCSI undergraduate medical and healthcare students entitled: ‘A conference for students by students’, provided opportunities for students to develop their biomedical research skills, presentation of their research findings to each other and the extended research community will cultivate the exchange of research knowledge. The event also educated students on the importance of research in the broader medical fields and give them the chance to expand their networks in an international setting.

Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences said ‘The importance of research cannot be underestimated in the quest to advance understanding and treatment of disease, which in turn leads to better clinical care.
and best practice patient care. By providing healthcare students with the opportunity to develop their research skills and interests at an early stage in their career, it gives students an insight into the world of scientific research and a better understanding of how research can be translated from the bench to the patients’ bedside.’

Professor Nikolaus Plesnila, of the University of Munich’s Medical Center and Dr Kate Coleman, eye surgeon and founder of the Right to Sight charity, gave keynote addresses at the conference. One Hundred poster and oral student presentations were being presented. Interesting student research being presented includes: ‘Long term consequences of a career in professional horse racing: the prevalence of pain amongst retired race jockeys’; ‘Willingness and attitudes of the general public towards the involvement of medical students in their healthcare’ and ‘Fever, fear and hunger: The response of the Irish population to infectious disease during the Great Irish Famine 1845-1848’.

Annual Sports and Exercise Medicine Conference focuses on preparations for the London Olympics

The 8th Annual Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine RCPI and RCSI took place in September and looked at preparations for the London 2012 Olympics Games.

Professor Donal O’Shea, Consultant Endocrinologist and Physician in St Vincent’s University Hospital and St. Columcille’s Hospital opened the two day conference with a talk focusing on the obesity epidemic in Ireland and the role that sports and exercise can play in trying to combat it.

Dignitaries pay visit to Perdana University-RCSI Campus

The new Perdana University-RCSI campus welcomed a number of dignitaries to its campus last August, including His Excellency Mr Declan Kelly, Irish Ambassador to Malaysia and Mr Michael Garvey, Director of Enterprise Ireland.

The Ambassador met with the PU-RCSI Foundation Dean, Professor Anthony Cunningham along with Faculty staff, before being led on a visit of the campus with the CEO of Perdana University, Major General Dato Pahlawan Dr Mohan Dass.
Biomedical Training Begins, Stanford University Style

A specialist training programme in medical device innovation, modelled on Stanford University’s prestigious Bio design Programme, was officially launched at NUI Galway in August 2011.

The Bio Innovate Ireland Fellowship Programme has been jointly developed and delivered by a consortium of five Higher Education Institutions, including NUI Galway, University of Limerick, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Centre of Innovation in Surgical Technology (RCSI-CIST), DCU and UCC.

Programme participants will experience an intensive clinical immersion in teaching hospitals to help identify potential medical device development opportunities. Throughout the 10-month period, they will avail of the expert advice, direction and guidance from dedicated industrial mentors and serial entrepreneurs.

This initiative has received funding from Enterprise Ireland and several corporate sponsors including: Medtronic, Creganna-Tactx Medical, Lake Region Medical Ltd and Steripack, Ltd. It is envisaged that the Bio Innovate Ireland Fellowship Programme will act as a catalyst for the generation of further product development research and spin-out companies in collaboration with partnering companies.

Ministerial visit marks RCSI links to Malaysia

In recognition of the long standing relationship between RCSI and Malaysia, RCSI welcomed the Malaysian Minister of Rural and Regional Development YB. Dato’ Seri Haji Mohd Shafie Bin Haji Afdal to the College last July. The Minister was accompanied by YBhg. Datuk Ibrahim Bin Ahmad, the Director General of MARA, a Malaysian Government agency that provides educational scholarships to Malaysians for study overseas, accompanied the Minister.

The Malaysian delegation met with RCSI Senior Management to discuss the ongoing developments in RCSI Dublin, Bahrain and Malaysia. The Minister met with some current and past MARA sponsored students of RCSI and was joined by the Ambassador (Designate) of the Embassy of Malaysia in Ireland, Dato' Ramli b Naam.

RCSI has strong linkages with Malaysia with almost 800 Malaysian students coming to the College in the last ten years. Malaysians are one of the largest student populations at the Dublin campus with
one in every five students coming from Malaysia. A twinning programme with Penang Medical College in collaboration with UCD has been in place since 1996 and a five year undergraduate medical programme for the new Perdana University-RCSI School of Medicine commenced in September 2011.

RCSI Postgraduate Conferring Ceremony

Approximately 100 healthcare professionals were conferred with postgraduate awards at a conferring ceremony in College of Surgeons last July.

Fellowships of RCSI Ad Eundem were awarded to Professor Chintamani and Mr. Maqsood Manzoor Elahi and Fellowships of RCSI by Special Election were awarded to Professor Ravi Kant and Professor Bina Ravi.

RCSI Surgical Travel Grants were awarded to Mr Jürgen Mulsow, Mr James O’Riordan and Ms Eimear Phelan. Mr Brian Donncha Barry was awarded with an RCSI Surgical Travelling Fellowship.

RCSI and RCPI to deliver standardised endoscopy training for Specialist Registrars

RCSI and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) launched a standardised endoscopy training programme for Specialist Registrars in June. Educational experts from both institutions together with physicians and surgeons working and teaching in the relevant specialties, have developed a joint endoscopy training programme for Specialist Registrars (SpRs).

Under the new programme SpRs will receive competence-based training, ensuring a high-quality endoscopy service to patients. A detailed curriculum, aimed at trainers as well as trainees,
highlights the importance of cognitive and interpretive skills, in addition to technical skills. Trainees will be regularly assessed throughout the programme and will be required to satisfactorily perform a wide range of technical procedures. New trainees will develop their technical skills using simulators in RCSI.

Speaking on behalf of the Irish Society of Gastroenterology (ISG), the president Professor John Hyland, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, stated, ‘The launch of the new standardised, integrated gastrointestinal endoscopic programme emphasises the commitment of RCSI, RCPI and the ISG to improve services for all patients. This programme allows for strict training guidelines, underpinned by good governance and quality assurance.’

Saudi Minister of Higher Education visits RCSI

The Deputy CEO, Dr Terry McWade and the Immediate Past President, Professor Frank Keane presented gifts to H.E. Dr Khalid Mohammed Al Ankary to mark to occasion of the Saudi Minister of Higher Education’s first visit to Ireland and the College.

Professor Gerry O’Sullivan awarded Honorary Fellowship of COSECSA

COSECSA President, Dr. Frederick Mutyaba, (right) presents the Honorary Fellowship of COSECSA to Professor Gerry O’Sullivan (left).

Professor O’Sullivan was responsible for establishing links between RCSI and COSECSA which culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Colleges in 2007 with the objective of enhancing surgical training and standards in the East, Central and Southern African region.

Reading the Citation for Professor O’Sullivan, Professor Krikor Erzingatsian, CEO/ Registrar of COSECSA said: ‘The honour which COSECSA is about to bestow on Professor O’Sullivan is a fitting tribute coming from the surgical fraternity in East Central and Southern Africa, who think it essential to express their gratitude and respect to an outstanding representative of Irish Surgery.’

Professor O’Sullivan completed his Higher Surgical Training in 1979, following which he spent time in the Middle East and North America before returning to Ireland. Since then he has devoted his life to cancer work in Ireland and became Director of the Cancer Research Centre in Cork. Professor O’Sullivan remarkable curriculum vitae includes 229 publications to his name; 9 postgraduate qualifications; 37 awards, achievements and titles; 44 memberships of learned societies and committees; 29 keynote invited lectures;

Pictured is the delegation from Saudi Ministry of Higher Education with RCSI staff and students
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7 patents, and he has developed 11 new surgical techniques, mainly in gastrointestinal oncology. Professor O’Sullivan was President of RCSI from 2006-2008.

(Professor O’Sullivan sadly passed in February 2012 and our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time)

RCSI opens enrolment for Professional Competence Schemes

RCSI opened its Professional Competence Scheme in May 2011 via the Colles Portal, where an online PCS module has been created to enable medical practitioners easily record and monitor their continuing professional development and clinical audit activities which are now required by the Irish Medical Council under Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.

RCSI will administer its PCS to doctors working in surgery, emergency medicine, sports and exercise medicine, ophthalmic surgery and ophthalmology.

All practising doctors except those who are enrolled in a BST or HST programme are required to enrol in a recognised Professional Competence Scheme and the PCS module will enable doctors to maintain an accurate record of CPD activity, provide easy access to CPD programme requirements and provide immediate access to CPD category scores matched to the schemes requirements, so that doctors can plan their professional development activities to meet the requirements. The College also provides a range of educational activities for fellows and members to help them meet the professional competence requirements including the annual Charter Day and Millin meeting as well as approving external educational meetings for the purposes of CPD.

RCSI is one of the thirteen postgraduate training bodies accredited by the Irish Medical Council to administer the PCS to medical professionals. The cost of the scheme, which has been set in consultation with the Medical Council and is being administered on a not-for-profit basis, is €275 per year.

Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI said ‘RCSI’s role in the professional competence scheme is to act as a repository for surgeons to input data about their professional activity, which will then be collated and made available to both the individual clinician and the Medical Council. We look forward to working with healthcare professionals to support their PCS requirements as well as their development needs for the benefit of their patients and their practice.’

RCSI Students Launch Fourth RCSI student medical journal

Students from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland launched the 4th edition of the RCSI Student Medical Journal (RCSImj)

The RCSImj is run by students for students and staff alike and aims to promote excellence in undergraduate medical research. It is a multidisciplinary publication including pieces from Medical,
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Physiotherapy, and Pharmacy students from RCSI. Articles range from original research, audits, and special interest pieces to the publication of abstracts, case reports, and elective reviews.

The annual publication is now in its fourth year and this year’s issue continues the essay competition on ethical issues, concerning the ethics of randomised control trials. It also has a special focus on healthcare in Ireland, exemplifying a commitment to excellence in medicine here at home.

Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, RCSI complemented the student editorial team for their production and their professionalism in dealing with issues such as rejection and revision of papers submitted in order to achieve a quality product. “The quality of the journal is a testament to the students who have worked very successfully as a team, and to those committed academic staff who support the students in achieving their goals. We have no doubt that these papers published by our undergraduates will be the first cherished CV entries for many successful careers in the future,” said Professor McGee.

The RCSIsmj would like to kindly thank RCSI’s alumni for their generous support through the Alumni Annual Appeal for making this publication possible.

World-renowned speakers address inaugural RCSI Neuroscience Symposium

The RCSI’s Society of Neuroscience hosted its first Neuroscience Symposium last March. The conference organised in association with the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience welcomed seven world-renowned speakers from the United Kingdom, Australia and the Middle East who gave talks across a broad field of Clinical Neuroscience topics, including Neurology, Neurosurgery, Interventional Neuroradiology and Psychiatry.

Among those presenting were Dr. Martin Turner, Consultant Neurologist, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK, who explored ‘Motor Neuron Disease: The Search for a Biomarker’ and Professor Pat McGorry, Professor of Psychiatry; Melbourne University, Australia, spoke on the topic ‘Early Intervention in Psychotic Disorders’.

Professor John Waddington, Professor of Neuroscience, RCSI, and President of the Society said: “This symposium is the first of such calibre to be organised by a student society in RCSI. It is unprecedented for a student-led conference to have such a comprehensive international programme and to attract an audience beyond their peers, to include clinicians in higher training, senior clinicians and researchers. I commend those involved in the Society of Neuroscience who have made this event a reality, driven by their own initiative, enthusiasm and effort.”

RCSI Charter Day Meetings address new developments and issues in surgery

The annual Charter Day meetings took place in February 2011 with over 50 leading national and international surgeons giving lectures on a wide range of surgical
Professor John Waddington, RCSI Professor of Neuroscience and Society President; Mr Shane Crilly, RCSI Society of Neuroscience; Mr Paul Eldridge, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Director of the Walton Centre, Liverpool; Professor Ciaran Bolger, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Beaumont Hospital; Mr Conor Mallucci, Consultant Neurosurgeon, the Walton Centre, Liverpool; and Mr Yasser Al-Jabi, RCSI Society of Neuroscience.

Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI presents Mr. Edward Kiely with the Colles Medal after he delivered the 86th Colles lecture on the ‘Surgery of Conjoint Twins’.

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the National Health Service in the UK delivered the J&J Lecture. His talk ‘Clash of Expectations’ focused on resource allocation in the health service within the current economic climate.

The Charter Day meetings culminated on Saturday evening when the College awarded its highest distinction - Honorary Fellowship of RCSI to Mr Edward Kiely and Professor Sir Bruce Keogh.

RCSI hosts training week for international research fellows

Postdoctoral research fellows from Italy, France, Canada, Poland, Germany and Portugal took part in a Leadership and Management Development (LMD) training programme held in RCS in March 2011.

The participating postdoctoral fellows funded under the Career Enhancement Mobility Programme (CEMP) which aims to support experienced research fellows at various stages of their career in attaining and strengthening their career prospects to become independent investigators or senior scientists in education or industry.

The aim of the LMD Programme is to alert CEMP researchers to the importance of the leadership and managerial aspects of their career and to give them practical information that will help them to succeed as planners and managers of research programmes.

The second week of the programme held in RCSI in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture Dublin (IIC Dublin) and the agenda focused on leadership and strategy in research, success in grant writing, success in publishing, project management, financial management and intellectual property.

The Italian Institute of Culture hosted a dinner for the CEMP fellows and their respective supervisors, where the Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Angela Tangianu, said “our future lies in your
hands, in your programme research, in your ability to work together effectively toward a common vision of improvement of the quality of living”.

The CEMP is co-funded by the EU FP7 Marie Curie Co-fund Scheme, the Irish Higher Education Authority Programme for Third Level Institutions (PRTLI) Cycle 4 and the Italian National Research Council.

Celebration of UAE Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Alumni

Ciarán Madden, Irish Ambassador to the UAE, hosted a reception in Abu Dhabi where he welcomed a delegation from RCSI led by Professor Cathal Kelly, RCSI Chief Executive and Dr Faisal Al Mousawi, President of RCSI Bahrain.

The event will assist the College in its endeavours to strengthen relations with its alumni in the region and to create an active Alumni Association in the GCC region. RCSI provides world-class healthcare education in the Middle East at both undergraduate and postgraduate level through its Institute of Leadership in Dubai and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

Professor Cathal Kelly said “Healthcare requirements in the GCC are continuing to grow substantially due to population growth, medical tourism, changing patterns of disease and privatisation as well as the additional challenge of rising healthcare costs. It is important for healthcare professionals in the UAE to be engaged and aware of the issues facing medical professionals. RCSI is committed to contributing to the healthcare arena in the UAE and working with our graduates, who form an integral part of the RCSI community, is one way in which we can address these challenges.”

UAE students have been travelling to RCSI headquarters in Dublin, Ireland to study since 1988 and to date over 430 UAE Alumni have graduated through its undergraduate programmes in Medicine and its postgraduate surgical programmes. Ciarán Madden, Irish Ambassador to the UAE said “Education links between the UAE and Ireland have always been strong and RCSI has been at the heart of this relationship since 2005 and will continue to be so in the future. The Embassy is delighted to support the RCSI Alumni here in the UAE today and into the future.”

Established in 2005, RCSI Dubai offers postgraduate education, training and consultancy in leadership, management, patient safety and quality. All RCSI Dubai’s Masters programmes are designed with working healthcare professionals in mind and are accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
through the Commission for Academic Accreditation and the National University of Ireland. RCSI Dubai is located in Dubai Healthcare City.

RCSI Welcomes Transition Year Students

Approximately 160 Transition Year students from 80 schools began a week-long Mini Med training programme today in the College and Beaumont Hospital in January 2011. The interactive programme gives Transition Year students the opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a doctor.

As part of the programme, students witnessed a live operation, attended interactive lectures, gained hands-on training in clinical skills as well as practical experience in medicine and scientific tutorials.

Topics covered include human anatomy, cardiology, psychiatry, trauma and orthopaedics.

Leading medical professionals from RCSI and Beaumont Hospital delivered the programme, including Professor Marie Cassidy, State Pathologist and Head of Forensic Medicine, RCSI who gave a lecture on Forensic Medicine.

Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, RCSI said “The TY Mini Med programme is a great opportunity for students to gain insight into the world of medicine, science and research. This is the 4th year of the programme and demand for the programme outweighs the number of places available. The participation of leading medical professionals from RCSI and Beaumont Hospital, the use of innovative technology and the practical sessions helps make the learning experience interesting for students as well as providing them with experience of what it is like to train as a medical professional.”

Biological Society Welcomes Broadcaster and Journalist Marian Finucane at 78th Annual Meeting

Broadcaster and journalist Marian Finucane delivered the 78th Annual Biological Society Meeting held in the College in January 2011. During her talk on ‘Listening’, she spoke about how important it is for healthcare professionals to give time to listen to patients’ needs and feedback and emphasised that although listening is of upmost importance, it is often underestimated in the patient’s treatment plan.

The proceedings were opened by the new President of the Society, Professor Mary Leader, followed by the presentation of medals. Among the recipients were David Lynch, who received the RCSI Council Medal; Jean Engela who received the RCPI Council Medal; Yasser Al-Jabi, who received Denis Gill Medal. Daniel Joyce and David Lynch, recipients of The Leonard Abrahamson Medal, were also acknowledged.

Professor Mary Leader delivered her Inaugural Presidential Address entitled “Celebrating the past, focusing on the future”.

The Biological Society is the longest...
running society at RCSI, and is made up of Medical students and faculty members. The Society promotes and encourages lateral thinking and healthy competition through broad based discussions at guest speaker forums and case competitions. During the college year, students present case studies to a judging panel of professors and doctors, categories include Paediatric Case Competition, Obstetrics Case Competition, Senior Case Competition and Junior Case Competition. This year the Biological Society will hold an Intercollegiate Global Health Competition to be held in April 2011.

**RCSI joins the European Vaccine Initiative**

Professor Eilis McGovern, President of RCSI signed an agreement signifying RCSI’s joining of the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI) in January 2011. EVI supports the development of effective, accessible and affordable vaccines for diseases of poverty and it aims to harness European expertise in vaccine development to bring novel vaccines to low-income populations. It is legally constituted as a European Economic Interest Group and other members include Stockholm University, Heidelberg University, Jenner Vaccine Foundation of University of Oxford, BPRC and the Netherlands Vaccine Institute. Generously funded by Irish Aid, EVI, develops new pro-poor vaccines in partnership with industry. As a medical research organisation EVI takes promising ideas from the benches of scientists and help the scientists develop them through to clinical trials. Trials of several new malaria vaccines have been supported to date.

Dr Terry McWade, Deputy CEO will represent RCSI on the board and Professor Sam McConkey, Head of Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine serves as a member on the Scientific Advisory Committee. Professor McConkey is a former Chairperson of its predecessor organisation European Malaria Vaccine Initiative (EMVI) since 2007 and was a member of the board of EMVI. RCSI will now represent Ireland in the development of the strategy and decision-making process for EVI.
Remembering the College in your Will

Have you thought of leaving a legacy to RCSI?

If you are updating your Will or making one for the first time – you have the opportunity to express your support and affection for RCSI by means of a bequest.

Making a Will is a highly personal way to help us to develop our resources and facilities.

RCSI has a tradition of offering students the freedom to experiment, to think differently, to be an individual based on our highest academic standards of teaching and research. If you should choose to remember RCSI in your Will, you would not only be making a generous gift, you would also be helping to ensure that the RCSI tradition lives on.

For further information, please contact:

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2010 was a momentous and historical year for RCSI with our ratification as an independent degree awarding institution by the Irish Government’s Department of Education and Skills. This endorsement of the range and quality of our health-focused degrees is testament to decades of hard work by the College’s academic, administrative and technical staff in supporting our students to achieve high standards in their academic studies. Not only that, but this new level of independence provides us with a platform to move forward and to consolidate our position as one of the leading medical schools in the world.

In keeping with our new degree awarding status, in 2011 we invited our First Citizen, Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, to receive the first RCSI degree. On May 30th 2011, President McAleese was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Sciences and then joined RCSI Graduands at their Conferring Dinner to make a most memorable occasion for the Class of 2011.

This new status has required addressing governance issues to ensure we can achieve best practice in relation to similar institutions. A new governing authority of our degree awarding activities has been established by the Council in 2011: the Medicine and Health Sciences Board. This Board comprises 26 members, including representatives of the public, and staff and student representatives. It is chaired by the College President. Public representatives are Professor Aine Hyland, Emeritus Professor of Education, University College Cork; Mr. Michael Kelly, former Secretary General, Department of Health and former Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority; and Dr. Anthony White, former President, Milltown Institute. This group will provide strategic guidance for our academic decisions in Ireland and internationally in the coming years.
Quality enhancement
The Faculty in the past year experienced some remarkable leaps of progress in our primary mission of education and training and our new degree awarding status comes in the year when the number of RCSI alumni tops 20,000 for the first time. These numbers remind us of the large and international footprint of RCSI in healthcare delivery; a legacy to be proud of and a responsibility to take very seriously to ensure that we remain in touch with all that is needed to empower today’s students to be the best they can as the healthcare workforce of the 21st century.

There are many ways in which the College ensures it maintains quality and stays ahead, rather than abreast of, others in educational innovation. The profile of the new team of Vice-Deans provides some specific examples of this – with Professionalism and Student Career Development as new Vice-Dean roles. More broadly, reflecting the accreditation needs of a degree awarding institution, the College established its Quality Enhancement Office (QEO), with Professor David Croke as Director, Dr. Richard Arnett as Deputy Director and Ms. Anne Weadick as Administrator. The QEO has a breadth of knowledge about the College’s degree programmes and administrative support and has the technical and academic expertise and independence to provide robust and informative evaluations of all of our academic and administrative units on a sequential basis. The model is that tailored review teams comprising external and internal evaluators provide constructive feedback based on a unit’s self-assessment report. This includes a site visit incorporating feedback from a range of College sources. This feedback concludes with recommendations from which the unit in question will develop and progress a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The first reviews, in a five-year schedule, have just been completed in the School of Postgraduate Studies and the Examinations Office. The model provides for continual renewal and improvement in a constructive and collegial manner and will help us to maintain the quality and attractiveness of our courses. In the spirit of transparency that is important to quality enhancement, the QIPs are made available on RCSI’s website.

New programmes
RCSI’s strategy to develop international programmes is most recently exemplified by the Perdana University - RCSI School of Medicine (PU-RCSI) initiative, opened in Kuala Lumpur in September 2011. This complements RCSI’s ‘twinning’ approach to medical education already being provided in Penang and its undergraduate programme in Bahrain. RCSI is delighted to be a partner in the Kuala Lumpur Academic Medical Centre (AMC), a proposed centre of excellence for medicine in Malaysia. AMC will comprise Perdana University - incorporating an undergraduate medical programme run by RCSI (PU-RCSI School of Medicine) and a graduate entry programme run by Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, US – together with a 600-bed private hospital, a research centre and ancillary facilities on a custom built state-of-the-art medical campus at Putrajaya, close to Kuala Lumpur.

In September 2011, the new PU-RCSI School of Medicine accepted
its first 70 undergraduate medical students. Its five year degree will be based on the programme offered by RCSI’s medical schools in Dublin and Bahrain. In addition to providing the curriculum for the PU-RCSI School of Medicine, RCSI has seconded a number of senior Faculty to deliver the programme, including the Foundation Dean, Professor Anthony Cunningham who moved from his role as Professor of Anaesthesia at RCSI Dublin. The establishment of the PU-RCSI School of Medicine builds on RCSI’s international programmes and in particular extends the College’s long-standing educational links with Malaysia. The initiative also realises a number of key institutional as well as Irish government strategic objectives to make Ireland internationally recognised as a world leader in the delivery of high-quality third level education.

Conclusion
2011 has been another busy and stimulating year for the Faculty. International initiatives and activities in the College, which include maintaining our educational activities in Bahrain, Dubai and Penang and developing new programmes with Perdana University in KL, Malaysia, provide both challenges and new opportunities for Faculty.

My thanks to our excellent Faculty for all of our achievements in the past twelve months; their commitment to the College means that our students are very well served and prepared for their career, whatever and wherever that may be in the future.

Professor Hannah McGee
Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences

Education
Highlights in 2011

- Dr Tom Farrell of the Department of Anatomy received a National Award for Excellent in Teaching in November from Mr Ruairi Quinn, TD, Minister for Education & Skills. Tom was nominated for the award by his RCSI colleagues based upon his contributions to the College in teaching, research and clinical expertise.

- Launch of SafetyNet Mobile Health Clinic was an important initiative in the launched by the Mercer Health Clinic. This service provides free GP care and support services to the homeless in Dublin and is run in conjunction with SafetyNet, which includes Dublin Simon Community, Chrysalis and the Order of Malta. It operates two evenings per week from 7.00 pm – 11.00 pm. The medical care is provided voluntarily by GP Registrar with supervision by fully qualified GPs. Importantly from an education perspective, it provides invaluable training experience for GP Interns.

- Quality Enhancement Office co-ordinated a number of educational support initiatives on curriculum and assessment workshops as well as “Writing Learning Outcomes”.

- BioAnalysis & therapeutics PhD Programme was launched by the Minister for Education, Mr Ruairi Quinn, TD. This is a collaborative
surgeons' initiative linking RCSI, Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth and the Institute of Technology Tallaght. It is aimed at equipping young researchers with expert knowledge and training required to prosper in the emerging biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries in Ireland.

- National Pharmacy Internship Programme was provided by RCSI on behalf of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to 157 pharmacy interns.

- RCSI Conferring Ceremony in Dubai was held under the patronage of the Chairperson of Dubai Healthcare City Authority, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Students from across the UAE graduated with masters degrees in quality and safety in healthcare, delivered by RCSI’s Institute of Leadership.

New initiatives in RCSI - Alumni Mentoring our Students

Developing career opportunities for students is one of the areas of responsibility for Dr Alice McGarvey, Vice Dean for faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. These initiatives assist our students to be well positioned to return to their home countries or elsewhere to continue training post-graduation. As part of this strategy, the College has a number of collaborative agreements with international institutions to facilitate elective opportunities for our students. Amongst many other events Dr McGarvey will run an International Careers Opportunity Symposium which is scheduled for 21st April 2012.

A very important aim of this programme is to further develop links and relationships between the students and alumni and this will be achieved through the development of an on-line Mentoring Portal. This portal will act as an interface between the students and our alumni and will facilitate the flow of knowledge and advice from our alumni to the students based on country, region and profession. The interface will allow students to request assistance from alumni without directly sharing email addresses. The alumni can choose to assist a particular student or not as is convenient at the time.

This information system will provide important data on which countries are students are seeking career advice from and it will strengthen our understanding around the information needs of our students and how we can better assist them in the future.

Dr McGarvey says “we will be in contact with our alumni by email over the coming months to invite you to become part of this new initiative. We very much look forward to your involvement in this important project.”.
Physiotherapy students at RCSI are offered excellent learning experiences in both College and practice settings. The School consists of a dynamic and growing faculty dedicated to excellence in education, research and service. Our aim is to educate professionally safe, competent, reflective and analytical physiotherapy practitioners and to develop and promote research and scholarly activity.

The School was well represented at the 16th International World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress. The conference held in Amsterdam, Holland in June 2011 attracted over 5000 delegates from 101 member organisations, of which Ireland is a member. The School delivered a total of 11 presentations (four oral, one poster discussion and six poster presentations). Those who presented included faculty staff (Dr Frances Horgan, Dr Helen French and Ms Dara Meldrum), PhD students postgraduate students and graduates.

This year saw the consolidation of the School’s research programme in areas such as exercise and hip osteoarthritis, gait alterations in cervical spondylotic myelopathy, exercise and peripheral arterial disease, outcomes among older people in a rehabilitation unit and the effects of vestibular rehabilitation on gait, dizziness and balance.

The programme was further boosted with the awarding of Health Research Board (HRB) grants to five undergraduates students to complete summer research projects on a range of topics including chemotherapy induced peripheral
neuropathy, concussion in sport, hip joint kinematics and exercise in older people. These awards in key priority areas will strengthen our research programme but will also stimulate and encourage our undergraduate students to think about the challenges involved in undertaking research.

The School of Physiotherapy launched a taught Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Neurology and Gerontology in 2008; this two year programme is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland and its second cohort of part-time postgraduates have just completed their first year. The second intake of nine students is due to graduate in 2012. The programme focuses on the development and enhancement of the professional research knowledge base and skills required by physiotherapists to fulfil their role in the rehabilitation of neurological and elderly patients in the context of changing health care services.

The School has accomplished a tremendous amount during the past twelve months and this has been achieved through the enthusiasm and dedication of our faculty and staff who are committed to a vision of excellence and leadership as we set out enhance our profile within the College, the community on a national and international stage.

Supervisor: Louise Keating (RCSI)

The Physiotherapy Practice Education team, led by Practice Education Coordinator Aileen Barrett, was recently successful in securing a research grant from the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL). The aim of the research project is to investigate the reliability of assessment in undergraduate clinical education and to use this information to develop an online assessment skills module for RCSI clinical tutors. This year’s grants were awarded to existing networks/communities of practice with inter-institutional links. Tutors from Beaumont, Galway University, Cork University, Kerry General and Waterford Regional Hospitals will participate in the research project which will take place over the coming 12 months.
The School of Pharmacy continues to lead in pharmacy education and scientific discovery in Ireland and beyond. This has been further enabled in 2011 by the expansion of Faculty staff with the appointments of Dr. Samuel Maher (discipline of pharmaceutics) and Dr. Ben Ryan (discipline of pharmacology). Dr Judith Strawbridge, one of our founding staff members, successfully obtained her PhD in June 2011 and the foundation Professor of Pharmacy, Professor John Kelly, who retired from the post in June 2010) was appointed RCSI Director of Research in 2011. In September 2011, Dr Brian Kirby was seconded to the School of Medicine at RCSI-Perdana for a period of two years to lead on the teaching of pharmacology and clinical therapeutics.

In April 2011, the School hosted All-Ireland Inter-Schools of Pharmacy Research Seminar. The event attracted a record attendance thanks to the meticulous oversight by Dr. Brian Kirby with the assistance of Dr. James Barlow and Ms. Sharon Kerswell.

One of the most exciting developments for the School and RCSI was the winning of a EU-competitive tender from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland for the establishment of an Institute of Pharmacy Managing Body (post graduate faculty for pharmacy) in June 2011. The tender submitted by Dr. Helena Kelly and the Registrar/Chief Executive, Professor Cathal Kelly is a great step forward to ensure that the School remains at the forefront of education and training and that we can move forward in exciting new ways. The RCSI is at present engaged in agreeing service level
agreements with the PSI and HSE for a detailed service delivery plan for the Institute until 2016. This is arguably the most exciting development for the entire profession of pharmacy since the introduction of the Pharmacy Act 2007. The proposed Institute will underpin, facilitate and quality assure the enhanced role of the pharmacist at a critical time in the overall re-structuring of health care delivery in Ireland.

In August 2011, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland accredited the Masters in Pharmacy programme, which the School delivers on a national basis (National Pharmacy Internship Programme). The PSI Council on the basis of the final report accredited the programme and remarked on the leadership within the School, the innovative use of technology to drive learning, the standing of academic staff and inter-Faculty collaboration.

The Masters in Science (Industrial Pharmaceutical Science) continues to attract strong numbers of applicants both nationally and internationally and quality assurance of the structure and delivery of the programme is overseen by the Programme Director, Dr. Zeibun Ramtoola and Programme Director of Studies, Dr. Fiona O’Brien.

This dedication to hard work and excellence of the School is evidenced also in outputs from our research strategy under the direction of the School research convener Dr. Sally Ann Cryan. Faculty delivered 60 invited lectures and conference presentations, supervised 26 students for higher degrees, and published 49 peer-reviewed publications. In addition, they also achieved success in securing over €900,000 in research and educational grants.

The School of Pharmacy continues to enable the research clusters in College through their expertise in drug delivery, biotechnology and pharmacokinetics. The SFI Irish Drug Delivery Network Research Cluster (in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and University College Cork) contributes more than €1.3 million to RCSI in research funding through its Principal Investigators Drs. Sally Ann Cryan and Marc Devocelle.

Some of the highlights of the year included the awarding of the prestigious Donegan Bronze Medal to Mr. Amro Widaa at the Royal Academy of Medicine. Mr Widaa is completing his PhD and is supervised by Dr. Steve Kerrigan as well as the publication of a new breakthrough discovery on chemical reactions by Professor Mauro Adamo in Angewandte Chemie, the world’s leading journal in chemistry.

Paul Gallagher
Head of School

Catherine Sweeney who was awarded the national prize for best undergraduate research in the pharmacy category receiving her medal at the Royal Irish Academy from the Chancellor of the University of Dublin Dr. Mary Robinson. Catherine subsequently presented her findings to RCSI Research Day 2011.
From its foundation in 1974, the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery has sought to maintain the highest standards in education and training for health professionals. As one of the earliest and longest-serving providers of nurse education in Ireland, the Faculty has ensured wide ranging and relevant programmes of education for nurses from a variety of clinical specialities. The programmes range from certificate level to PhD, with a close alignment to clinical practice. In line with its philosophy the Faculty has an inherent aim, through its programmes, to develop a caring, reflective practitioner who has the ability to seek out and use research based knowledge for the purpose of improving patient care.

Education Programmes
During 2011 there was 448 students registered with the Faculty. The programmes are delivered on a part-time basis at bachelors, masters, higher diploma, post graduate diploma and diploma and certificate levels of learning. All of our education programmes are compliant with the Bologna principles and the National Framework of Qualifications and are approved through the National University of Ireland (NUI) and An Bord Altranais. The programmes are based on a modular system, incorporate accreditation of prior learning, and facilitate flexible pathways to NUI educational awards. In accordance with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, educational awards are offered at level 8 (bachelors), level 9 (masters), and level 10 (PhD). Students may study for major, minor and supplemental awards. In addition, a number of stand-alone modules are also offered which focus on particular
areas of clinical practice. Successful interdisciplinary education collaboration continues with the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy and the Department of Surgical Affairs.

The Faculty and School are currently delivering their education programmes through blended learning. Blended learning involves online computer-mediated teaching combined with face to face teaching. Combining these two learning strategies, using the benefits of each, has resulted in greater accessibility to learning for students. Our aim is to continue to be innovative in our educational approach and we are currently working towards the development of an exclusive e-learning model of educational provision for some of our education programmes.

In support of health policy and in collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and individual hospitals a number of new education programmes to prepare Advanced Nurse Practitioners have been developed with academic and professional accreditation and validation from An Bord Altranais and the NUI:

- MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) Epilepsy
- MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) Neonatal Intensive Care.
- MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) (Additional Strand Gastroenterology Care: Colorectal Screening and Disease Management).

**Research Achievements**

In order to meet the needs of a continuously changing health care environment and maintain best practice, nursing research is essential. Faculty staff have successfully played a leading role in research and development both nationally and internationally. Since its launch in 2007, the Faculty Research Centre has been proactive in the development and conduct of multidisciplinary, multiagency research and in supporting MSc, MD and PhD students in the conduct of research. Noteworthy there is a Health Research Board (HRB) funded, 3-year study to develop, implement and evaluate best practice in day surgery being conducted in collaboration with ESRI and HSE. The research approach involves an eDelphi methodology in order to obtain consensus on best practice among surgeons, anesthetists, nurses and administration staff, and a final stage to pilot the best practice standards in a clinical site. Two research reports have been published on the role of the nurse in radiation oncology and the clinical nurse specialist in...
cancer care in collaboration with St. Luke’s Hospital, Rathgar. This work is important in the context of professional development and reconfiguration of cancer care services. Prevalence of lymphoedema among persons with diabetes attending vascular and wound management clinics is being investigated in collaboration with AMNCH Tallaght. A Pan-European eDelphi study of management of violence in psychiatry has commenced across 22 countries and in 10 languages. Currently, there are 9 students registered for MSc, MD and PhD within the department.

Staff Achievements
In April 2011, Dr. Geralyn Hynes returned to the Faculty following research leave. Her research focus was palliative chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) care for which she was funded through a HRB fellowship. Alongside this, she undertook an Irish Hospice Foundation-funded research project that examined the experiences of carers of people with advanced COPD. Ms. Catherine O’Neill submitted her PhD work on practitioner perspectives on patient autonomy at the end of life. Ms Mary O’Neill also continues her PhD work on integrated care in stroke services. Ms. Catherine Clune-Mulvaney has been successfully awarded a place on the PhD scholars programme at the RCSI and will commence in September 2011.

Each year the Faculty hosts an international nursing & midwifery research & education conference. This year the conference celebrated its 31st year, with over 180 national and international delegates in attendance. A noteworthy event during the conference was the launch of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum with an aim to support education and research for Advanced Nurse Practitioners and provide a discussion forum.

Challenges for the Future
The opportunity to bridge the theory practice gap is often fraught with difficulty with organisational and environmental factors exerting a significant influence on how care is provided. In today’s health care climate, it is likely that these factors will continue to influence practice, challenging the professional ideals of nursing/midwifery. The Faculty continues to actively support and facilitate nurses and midwives to develop their clinical and professional competence, through innovative approaches to education development and delivery. In doing so, the faculty is supporting the profession to lead cost effective efficient healthcare services in increasing challenging clinical environments.
School of Postgraduate Studies

Developing and supporting postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers to become competent and inspiring leaders capable of making significant contributions to Human Health.

The School of Postgraduate Studies is the conduit for 4th level education at RCSI. It caters for 253 research postgraduates; 72 postdoctoral researchers and 106 supervisors across all RCSI Dublin and international campuses. This entails the School overseeing higher degrees (PhD, MD, MCh and MSc) by research as well as taught Masters programmes, postdoctoral training and workshops for supervisors and thesis examiners.

We strive to ensure that all these activities are carried out to the highest standards and that appropriate codes of practice are followed. The School of Postgraduate Studies assists postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to become fully incorporated into life at RCSI and that they are afforded an optimum

Members of the External Advisory Committee for the HRB Structured PhD Programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease: Professor David Lomas (University of Cambridge), Professor Bruce Trapnell (University of Cincinnati) Dr Colin Edwards (Boehringer Ingelheim) with Programme Director Professor N Gerry McElvaney.
environment for personal, scholarly and career development.

The School aims to enhance the quality of all aspects of the postgraduate and postdoctoral experience, both academic and social. We are delighted to work with the Postgraduate Students Union, which promotes peer interaction through organised activities and meetings.

Structured PhD Training – the First Graduates, the First Co-Tutelle and a New Programme

Many of our PhD students are enrolled in structured PhD programmes. Typically these involve

- relevant taught modules and laboratory rotations or placements in year 1

November 2011 – First Graduation of Scholars in the HRB-funded Structured PhD Programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease: Dr Ross McKiernan, Dr Ciara Kelly, Dr Isabel Vega Carascal and Dr Robert Wells

November 2011 – MD and PhD graduates with Professor Kevin Nolan Director, School of Postgraduate Studies and Dr Helen McVeigh, Postgraduate Programmes Manager

All 29 BioAT PhD students attending taught modules at RCSI with Dr Sally Ann Cryan, PI on the programme, Ms Cliona Lyes, Programme Administrator, Dr Helen McVeigh, Programme Manager and Professor Kevin Nolan, Director, School of Postgraduate Studies
• grant writing and defense at the end of year 1 (a new initiative recommended by the international advisory panel)
• informed choice and development of a PhD project which is carried out over the next 3 years
• overseas placement
• transferable / business skills throughout the programme

We are delighted to congratulate the first PhD graduates of the HRB funded PhD programme in Diagnostics and Therapeutics for Human Disease. All of these graduated within four years and are continuing in their research or industry careers, in most cases as a result of contacts they made through their overseas or industry placements during the PhD.

Another significant achievement this past year is the completion and graduation of the first Co-Tutelle PhD. This innovative programme is a collaborative venture between RCSI and the University of Montpellier 1. The students complete PhD projects spending time in laboratories in both institutions under joint supervision. The Thesis Committee for the final viva examination includes members of both institutions and follows the examination procedure of the host institution where the majority of the work was carried out.

In 2011 we launched the inter-institutional PhD programme in BioAnalysis and Therapeutics. This programme, funded by the Higher Education Authority, is a partnership between RCSI, DCU, NUI Maynooth and the Institute of Technology Tallaght to train 29 PhD students in a 4-year structured programme. The students attended taught modules at all partner institutions – RCSI hosted all 29 students for the first three modules including an innovative online one in Research Methods and Information Analysis. The programme was officially launched in October 2011 by Minister Ruairi Quinn, Minister of Education & Skills.

Postgraduates Numbers Remain High
It is significant that the numbers of postgraduate students at RCSI have been maintained despite the economic downturn. We had much to celebrate in 2011 including the following statistics:

• 60 higher degree (by research) graduates which included 36 PhD, 15 MD, 4 MCh and 5 MSc. This is the highest number of higher degree by research graduations to date.
• 306 MSc graduates in various taught courses
• 253 students registered for higher degrees by research which included 166 PhD, 64 MD, 12 MCh, 11 MSc
• 49 were new registrations: 30 PhD, 14 MD, 4 MCh and 1 MSc degrees
• 424 postgraduates were registered for taught Masters level programmes

November 2011 – Dr Mark Sherlock at his recent MD graduation with his parents Mrs Ellen Sherlock and Mr Jim Sherlock (Head Porter, RCSI)
Highly Successful Quality Review

The School was the first RCSI academic unit to undergo a quality review. This involved:

- review by an international Peer Review Group (PRG)
- preparing a Self Assessment Report
- evaluation of our activities from a range of stakeholders both internal and external
- a 2-day site visit
- development and implementation of a Quality Improvement Plan which addresses the recommendations of the PRG’s report
- engagement with 570 stakeholders through online evaluation surveys

The results of this exercise will form the basis of strategic planning covering the next five year period.

October 2011 – Official launch of BioAnalysis and Therapeutics (BioAT) structured PhD programme: Professor Brian MacCraith (President of DCU), Professor Philip Nolan (President of NUI Maynooth), Minister Ruairí Quinn (Minister of Education & Skills), Professor Cathal Kelly (CEO & Registrar of RCSI) and Dr Christine Loscher (Senior Lecturer, DCU).

May 2011 – Quality Review Site Visit: back row L to R: Professor John Breen (University of Limerick), Professor John Waddington (RCSI); Ms Bernadette Kearney (School of Postgraduate Studies), Professor Kevin B Nolan (Director, School of Postgraduate Studies); front row L to R: Dr Helen McVeigh (School of Postgraduate Studies), Ms Clíona Lyes (School of Postgraduate Studies), Ms Kate Kelly (RCSI), Professor Pamela Denicolo (Vice Chair UK Council for Graduate Education).
Postgraduate Students Union

The Postgraduate Students' Union (PGSU) represents postgraduate students in all aspects of graduate life including highlighting graduate issues, lobbying for improvements and providing support. The current PGSU team comprises Siobhán Smith (Co-President), Cai Lloyd-Griffith (Co-President), Naadiya Carrim, Kieran Brennan, Lorna Farrelly and Conor Malone. The PGSU organises a variety of activities including Welcome Receptions for new postgraduates, social events such as movie nights, ice skating and and Race Night which raised €105 for Breast Cancer Ireland. A major annual event is the table quiz night which raises funds for chosen charities, in February 2011 they raised €623 for “Turn The Tide of Suicide”. You can follow their progress on Facebook, username “RCSI PGSU” and on twitter at @twitter.com/RCSIPGSU.

Transition Year Mini Med School

The School of Postgraduate Studies again coordinated the annual Transition Year Mini Med School. In 2011 we hosted 160 transition year students for a one-week Mini Med School at St Stephen’s Green and Beaumont Hospital. The students from 86 schools around the country gained first hand insight into medical school training. They attended a range of lectures, learned about stress management, carried out practical laboratory and clinical skills assignments and observed two live operations. Our top performing academic, clinical and surgical teachers provide the training and this combined with the use of innovative technologies ensures that the students enjoy an unforgettable week.
Geriatric and Stroke Medicine

**Location:** Beaumont Hospital and St Josephs’ Hospital, Raheny

**Staff:** Prof David Williams (Head of Department), Dr Ciaran Donegan (Consultant Physician), Dr Alan Moore (Consultant Physician), Dr Cora McGreevy (Clinical Lecturer), Dr Orla Dunne (Clinical Lecturer), Dr Linda Brewer (Clinical Research Fellow) Mr Miriam Barry (Research Nurse), Ms Patricia Hall (Research Assistant), Ms Lisa Mellon (HRB Scholar)

**Webpage:** [www.rcsi.ie/geriatric_medicine](http://www.rcsi.ie/geriatric_medicine)

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**Introduction**

Geriatric Medicine is a branch of medicine which focuses on the healthcare of older people. It aims to promote health and prevent and treat diseases and disabilities in older adults. Similar to other developed countries, the proportion of the population in the older age groups is increasing in Ireland. This is partly due to larger groups of people in middle age progressing into older age and the effectiveness of recent healthcare interventions. The absolute increase in the number of older people in Ireland is significant; it has been estimated that the population aged 65 and over will have increased by 68,700 from 2006 to 531,100 by 2011, to 636,000 by 2016 and 753,300 by 2021. The largest relative increases will occur in the oldest age groups. Furthermore, there has been a shift in morbidity from acute presentations such as myocardial infarction, to chronic conditions such as heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, osteoporosis and cognitive impairment. This epidemiological transition with substantial increases in the prevalence of chronic diseases has implications for quality of life and for provision of health and social services in this population. With this demographic shift, the prevalence of age-related illnesses such as stroke and dementia has also increased dramatically thereby creating a substantial shift in healthcare demands and a growing requirement for expertise in the field of geriatric medicine. Prof David Williams joined the Department of Geriatric and Stroke in 2009. One of the initial aims of the department was to develop a new and dynamic curriculum in geriatric medicine and pursue excellence in the education of undergraduate and postgraduate ‘research centric’ students.

The Department supports clinical teaching and research in geriatric and stroke medicine on the Beaumont Hospital Campus and has established strong links with other RCSI-affiliated teaching hospitals and other national centres of geriatric medicine.

**Teaching and Education**

The curriculum in Geriatric Medicine identifies the key knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour which would be expected of all graduates undertaking this new curriculum at RCSI. It also includes the crucial components of psychiatry of old age and palliative medicine. The curriculum is
supported by student-selected components which allow the student to study particular topics in more detail in relation to geriatric and stroke medicine and enables the student to develop self-directed learning and become familiar with research and presentation skills. The curriculum also forms the basis for developing a future interest in the speciality of geriatric and stroke medicine. A particular emphasis is devoted to prescribing, which is an important issue in the care of elderly patients who are often taking multiple medications.

Teaching modalities include formal lectures, case-based problem-solving exercises, and computer-assisted learning. In addition to clinical attachments at Beaumont Hospital, students also attend St Joseph’s Hospital in Raheny where a new teaching facility has recently opened. Opportunities to experience family meetings, rehabilitation multi-disciplinary meetings and therapy sessions are central to students’ learning experience. Students develop awareness of key parts of complex discharge planning and of the roles played by individual members of the multi-disciplinary team. At the end of each attachment students will have experience of the process of how a comprehensive geriatric assessment works and how older patients with complex problems can be supported in the community. Undergraduate students are invited to spend time in the department in order to gain a greater understanding of the speciality.

The Department provides post-graduate training in geriatric medicine to senior house officers (SHOs) and registrars. Dr Alan Moore was previously the National Specialty Director in Geriatric Medicine for the RCPI and is currently Director of Basic Specialist Training for RCSI medical SHO schemes.

Members of the department have published in a number of areas of geriatric medicine including stroke, prescribing, osteoporosis and syncope.

**Prescribing – current concerns**

The prescribing of multiple medications (Polypharmacy) is the norm in the elderly, making prescribing a particularly important issue for this group of patients. There is evidence that serious adverse medication events in UK hospitals are common and have been increasing. Over 40,000
are reported to the UK National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) from acute/general hospitals each year. A study of medication errors in one London teaching hospital found 135 drug errors a week of which 25% were potentially serious, and 89% were made by recent graduates.

Inappropriate prescribing of ineffective/harmful drugs is widespread (e.g. diuretics, analgesics, antidepressants, antimicrobials) especially amongst the elderly, while other effective treatments (anticoagulants, ACE inhibitors and statins) are commonly withheld. The demands placed on prescribers are increasing rapidly because of a higher patient throughput, progressive introduction of newer more powerful medicines, an older and more vulnerable patient population taking more medicines and increasingly complex prescribing protocols.

Under these circumstances it is vital that all new prescribers are adequately prepared to undertake this responsibility. Most medical interns can expect to have to write many prescriptions on their first day of work and, indeed, write the majority of prescriptions for hospital in-patients. This is a concern because systematic analysis of medication errors in hospitals indicates that inadequate knowledge and training is an important contributory factor to many adverse events while educational interventions have been shown to improve prescribing performance, although most outcomes were short term and under controlled conditions.

Recent Developments
In relation to prescribing the following knowledge and skills are expected of all new doctors.

- The ability to plan appropriate therapy for common indications including (i) planning treatment that is appropriate to individual patients, (ii) deciding at a simple level between different therapeutic options, and (iii) being able to prescribe high-risk drugs (e.g. anticoagulants, opioids, insulin).
- The ability to appraise critically the prescribing of others including the ability to (i) review prescription charts and relate medicines to symptoms (e.g. a nitrate and headache), (ii) identify common drug interactions (e.g. erythromycin with warfarin), (iii) identify inappropriate prescriptions (e.g. a hypnotic during daytime), and (iv) identify obvious dosing errors for common drugs (e.g. aspirin).
- The ability to provide patients with appropriate information about their medicines including (i) being able to provide important information about commonly used drugs or groups of drugs (~75 in all), (ii) being able to help patients make informed decisions about their care, and (iii) being able to give instructions that improve safety and effectiveness (e.g. safety warnings about warfarin, explanations about inhaled therapy).

These expectations are in line with earlier guidance produced by the UK General Medical Council which highlighted the need to focus learning around a core list of commonly used drugs to avoid excessive factual burden – a ‘student formulary’. In Ireland this has led to the introduction of the Irish National Formulary to all medical schools. Furthermore the introduction of an on-line prescribing module at senior cycle at RCSI has provided a time-efficient and effective method of improving prescribing competence.

As part of RCSI’s commitment to Patient Safety First, a Certificate in Safe Prescribing was introduced into the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum at RCSI, to assess the ability of undergraduate medical students to plan appropriate therapy for common indications, to appraise critically the
prescribing of others and to provide patients with appropriate information about their medicines.

While this initiative is mainly focused on undergraduate medical education in the first instance, some of the materials will also be relevant and appropriate for students of other healthcare professions such as pharmacy and nursing. Indeed significant support for this development has been provided by the Departments of General Medicine, Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, General Practice and the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing, RCSI.

Drs Caroline Delaney (see Picture) and Dr Jan Griffen were awarded the British Pharmacology Society undergraduate prize in clinical Pharmacology for their results in the inaugural Prescribing Certificate Examination.

Research
A number of research projects are currently ongoing within the department. The department has a particular interest in vitamin D and is currently examining the effect of Vitamin D supplementation on arterial compliance. Dr Cora McGreevey has recently published a review on the association between vitamin D and Cardiovascular disease in the annals of Internal Medicine (Annals of Internal Medicine, 2011;115:820-826). In collaboration with Professor Niamh Moran of the department of Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics (MCT), we are examining the effect of stroke on platelet function. Dr Stuart Lee was recently awarded the Irish heart foundation John Feely Bursary for his work in this field. The Department in conjunction with Colleagues in the Department of Psychology, RCSI was recently awarded a Health Research Board of Ireland Award to conduct a two-year health research study on the secondary prevention of Stroke (ASPIRE-S) in the North Dublin Population. At Six months, following stroke, the team of researchers will complete a home assessment for those discharged to home or nursing home settings, following an established protocol for evaluation of secondary prevention. In addition, the researchers will measure compliance with rehabilitation recommendations (defined at discharge) and ongoing rehabilitation need (in terms of mobility, cognitive and speech and language ability). It is hoped that this work will provide key information in the Irish context to inform a prioritised development of services for the community management of stroke.

A Day in the Life of the Department
A day in the department can be varied and includes clinical work (outpatients, day hospital, managing patients with acute stroke, geriatric rehabilitation and acute medicine), teaching and research. The department offers a broad clinical experience to students in Geriatric medicine and provides numerous learning opportunities. The department also offers a number of research opportunities in the field of geriatric and stroke medicine and prescribing. We are also involved in postgraduate training for general medicine and participate in MRCPI tutorials and Medical Grand Rounds. We have several weekly General Medicine/Stroke educational meetings at Beaumont Hospital.
The College is currently in consultative phase with all of its stakeholders and below are some of the initial aspirations for 2012-2015.

**RCSI’s Priorities 2011-2015**

1. **THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE:**
   The proposed redevelopment of York Street as a central component of the RCSI Campus Community could provide the following.

   a. A state of the art modern **Library Learning Resource Centre:**
      A modern spacious, welcoming environment with flexible spaces for single study, group work and social interaction, equipped with the latest online resources and technology. In addition we will create an enhanced **Language and Communication Skills Centre** supporting our international communities, enhancing their language proficiency, learning and study skills for third level study with an Irish tertiary context.

   b. **The Colles Institute,** A world leader in the development and delivery of surgical training based education training and assessment with the capacity to provide for

      - A Centre for Research and Development (CR&D) which will provide clinical research services and facilitate clinical research
by surgeons and by industry in Ireland and Internationally.

- A Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (CIST) which will provide services to assess, develop and commercialise surgical technology ideas from surgeons, researchers and industry.

c. **An Educational Resource**
   which will accommodate modern teaching practices across a range of disciplines and provide facilities for annual conferring and large conference settings.

d. **An Exhibition and Interactive Space** that will pay tribute to the medical leaders of the past, present and future innovators.

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**2. RESEARCH –**

*Focus on People & Programmes with particular emphasis on the following core areas.*

- Neuroscience
- Neurodegeneration and Stroke
- Epilepsy
- Cardiovascular
- Cancer - Breast
- Respiratory/Cystic Fibrosis

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**3. COMMUNITY ACCESS –**

*A College without Walls: Providing access and services to those in need*

- **REACH** (Recreation, Education & Community Health.) Programme continues to provide both access and support to both primary and secondary students and their families from areas of social and economic disadvantage within the surrounding inner city. A super opportunity for both staff and students to give something back through an array of activities eg Homework Clubs, Sports Clubs, School Support Mechanisms etc.

- **COSECSA:** The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa aims to improve the standards of surgical care, education, training and examinations in various regions of Africa. This model for sustainability relies very much on upskilling and training local surgical capacity rather than western surgeons going over to provide same.

With your support we can really make a difference. As John D Rockefeller JNR says

*“Think Of Giving Not As A Duty But As A Privilege”*
Chemistry at RCSI

Chemistry in RCSI goes back a long way, the first Professor of Chemistry, John Apjohn, having been appointed in 1828 (-1850). This was in response to a letter by Abraham Colles to the President requesting the appointment of a Professor of Chemistry ‘to detail and illustrate the principles of this science but to enter very fully into the subject of animal chemistry; it should also be part of his duty to analyse for members of the College such morbid animal products as may be submitted to him ..’. The Chair was then held by Professors William Barker (1850-73), followed by Charles Alexander Cameron (1875-1920), William Caldwell (1915-29), William John Edward Jessop (1929-34), Norman Rae (1934-61) who was also Registrar for most of this time, Eithne Gaffney (1934-1987) and Kevin Nolan (1987 - current).

Education & Research

Having previously incorporated Physics, the Department in 2002 was redesignated Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry to reflect its teaching and research focus upon which there is strong emphasis. The Department is responsible for undergraduate chemistry teaching in the Schools of Pharmacy, Medicine and Physiotherapy as well as postgraduate teaching in the School of Pharmacy and the RCSI structured PhD programmes. The staff complement is 5 academic staff (named elsewhere), 2 senior technicians (Suzanne Donnelly, Emmet Campion), 2 secretaries (Patricia Whyte, Rosemary Dr Marc Devocelle receives the Dean’s Award 2011 from Professor Hannah McGee at the Annual Faculty Dinner.)
Donohoe), 4 postdoctoral research fellows and there are also 20 postgraduate students.

Members of staff have on several occasions won the President’s teaching award, inaugurated in 2009, in recognition for excellence in teaching as nominated by the students: 2009 – Dr Celine Marmion; 2010 – Dr James Barlow; 2011 – Prof Kevin Nolan and during its 4-year tenure the Students Union Teaching Award for best pre-clinical lecturer in 1998 – Prof Kevin Nolan. Dr Marc Devocelle was the recipient of the Dean’s award in 2011 for ‘Endeavour, Innovation, Collaboration and Service’.

The Department is also very research active and has thriving research programmes in the following areas:

- Peptide-based antibiotic and anticancer agents, nanomedicines and drug delivery systems.

Professor Kevin Nolan (2nd left) was one of the invited speakers at the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology annual symposium held at UCD in December 2011. The others were Professors Tim Donohue, University of Oxford; Mark Lautens, University of Toronto; Christina White, University of Illinois and Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Trinity College Dublin.
• Synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of metal-based anti cancer agents.
• Novel inhibitors of cyclooxygenase as anti-inflammatory agents.
• Drugs from natural sources.

The Department is part of The Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology, a major research collaboration in the chemical sciences between RCSI (led by Prof Kevin Nolan), UCD and TCD funded under the Irish Government Programme for Research in 3rd Level Institutions, Cycle 3. Dr Marc Devocelle’s group is also a key participant in a Science Foundation Ireland Strategic Research Cluster ‘Irish Drug Delivery Network’ with UCD and Schools of Pharmacy at RCSI, TCD and UCC.

The Department has a large postgraduate and postdoctoral school and has produced 24 PhD graduates in the last 10 years. Members of the Department publish extensively in leading international journals such as Angewandte Chemie, currently the world’s top chemistry journal, in which Professor Adamo has recently published 3 papers; Nature Chemical Biology; Chemical Communications (the flagship journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry); Journal of Organic Chemistry, Organic Letters, Dalton Transactions and others. They are also successful in securing highly competitive national and EU funding e.g. in the latest Science Foundation Ireland Research Frontiers programme 2011 Professor Adamo, Dr Marmion and Dr Devocelle all obtained significant funding although there were only 6 national chemistry awards in total.

Over the past 5 years Professor Adamo has acquired in excess of €2M for his research, has published over 40 papers, has recently formed a ‘spin-off’ company to exploit IP generated by his research, has developed new organic reactions for the synthesis of several blockbuster drugs and has filed 5 patents. In the same period of time Dr Marmion has secured €1M, has filed 2 patents and in 2010 licensed her technology to a pharmaceutical company while Dr Devocelle has secured in excess of €2M in funding, has filed 2 patent applications and has 18 active collaborations in peptide science with groups at RCSI, UCD, TCD, UL, DCU, NUIG, UCC, ITT. In 2006 Dr Devocelle won the Servier Award for successful research collaborations with France and for the breakthroughs in therapeutics for cardiovascular disease.

Professor Mauro Adamo with his research group.

Other Activities
Members of staff are involved in many high level College activities. Since 2006,
Professor Nolan has been Head of the RCSI School of Postgraduate Studies, having previously been Vice-Dean of the Medical Faculty and Chairman of the Research Committee 1998-2002. He was also President of the Biological Society 1998. Dr Marmion is currently Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Director of the Foundation Year and of the Medical Commencement Programme. Dr Devocelle is Associate Vice-Dean for Student affairs. Professor Adamo is RCSI ERASMUS coordinator.

Dr Marmion was on the Management Committee of EU COST Action D39 ‘Metallodrug Design and Action’ and hosted the final meeting of this action in RCSI in 2011. She is currently on the Management Committee of EU Cost Action CM1105.

Professor Nolan was chairman of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Ireland section 2003-2006; Vice Chairman of EU COST Action D21 and was on the Management Committees of EU COST Actions D8, D21 and D34. He is also Chairman of the Irish Institute of Metal-Based Drugs.

The Department is actively involved in educational outreach through lectures and workshops for the general public and pupils in primary and secondary schools. Dr Marc Devocelle is co-organiser of the annual RCSI Primary Science Teachers Initiative Programme approved by the Department of Education and Science. Dr Barlow is Director of Assessment for the National Pharmacy Internship Programme.

The Future

As indicated by the above activities Chemistry in RCSI is on a very sound footing and will continue to play a key role in RCSI’s future. A large part of the credit for this is due to not only the current staff but also those from the past who many of the Fleam readers will fondly remember including the late Professor Eithne Gaffney, Pat McGuinness, Geraldine Rafferty, Mary Kelly, Kenny Winser, Kevin McGuigan, the late Eibhlin Kenny, Terry Murphy, Gus Pidgeon, the late Hilary Rylands, the late Stephen Payne and all those preceding them.
REACH RCSI Programme

Recreation Education And Community Health

The REACH RCSI Programme is the Community Outreach and Access programme of RCSI and aims to promote education, community health and social inclusion in the local community of South Inner City Dublin.

Recreation and Community Health Initiatives: REACH RCSI SPORTS DAY 2011
The fourth annual REACH RCSI Sports day took place at RCSI Dardistown sports complex on April 14th 2011. The event was attended by over one hundred young people from local REACH Link schools (St. Enda’s National School, Whitefriar Street and Presentation Primary School, Warrenmount, Dublin 8).

50 RCSI students volunteered their time and the children competed in a number of events e.g. Egg & Spoon race, H2O relay, Obstacle Course etc.

Annual Free Medical Checks for the Local Community:
RCSI provided free medical checks for members of the local community, through Mercer’s Medical Centre on Tuesday, 16th August 2011. The medical checks screened for...
a range of illnesses including heart
disease, diabetes, high cholesterol,
kidney disease, as well as checking
BMI and blood pressure. Over 50
members of the local community took
part in the initiative.

REACH RCSI
Annual Shield
The REACH RCSI Annual Shield took
place on Wednesday 7th December
2011 at Dardistown Sports Grounds.
This year’s event saw Aungier Celtic
FC (ACFC) the local soccer team retain
the shield with a comfortable win over
the RCSI soccer team.

REACH Foundation Year
Elective: Student Ambassador
Programme
The REACH RCSI Student
Ambassador Programme is one of a
menu of electives offered for selection
by Foundation Year Students during
their second Semester. In 2011, the
purpose of the REACH Elective was
science promotion and saw thirty two
Foundation Year students and three
inner city Primary Schools.

Debating Science Issues
Competition 2011
Debating Science Issues (DSI) is a
dynamic debating competition which
invites young people to engage in
debate on the cultural, societal and
ethical implications of advances in
biomedical science. The competition
is open to senior cycle second level
students in the Republic of Ireland
and Northern Ireland and participating
schools have the opportunity to avail of
a 3-hour interactive student workshop
on biomedical science.

Debates topics include:
• Stem Cell Research
• Genetically Modified Food
• Nanotechnology
• Health & Self Testing
• Vaccinations
• Animal Testing

Debating Science Issues (DSI) is
funded by the Wellcome Trust and the
programme is coordinated in RCSI by
Dr. Maria Morgan, Molecular & Cellular
Therapeutics and Maria Kelly, RCSI
REACH Programme Manager.

http://www.debatingscienceissues.com
Summer Course Science for Primary Teachers 2011
The “Come to your Senses….with RCS!" workshop for 25 primary school teachers was held in RCS! from July 4th - 8th 2011. The RCS! Primary Science for Teachers Initiative is a workshop based programme that uses the theme of ‘My Body’ to allow primary school teachers to develop an interest and enthusiasm for teaching science with direct relevance to the primary school curriculum.

Workshops introduce participants to some of the ways scientists work and allow them to conduct simple experiments which they will subsequently be able to perform with confidence in the classroom.

Homework Club
RCS! students and staff continue to volunteer their time to tutor young people from the local community three evenings per week on site in RCS!. The club is attended by a number of young people from the local community
of SE Inner City Dublin who require extra support with their studies. For many of these young people the club is a space for them to complete their homework in a safe, informal environment. Key goals of the club are to encourage the young people to remain in school, complete their education and introduce them to third level. Comments from participants has been very positive e.g. “…if I didn’t understand something in class I would come here and it would make it easy.”

Kiran Pathak Scholarship in Pharmacy
The Kiran Pathak Fund has been established in memory of Kiran Pathak MPSI and his family, who lost their lives in a tragic boating accident in Kenya in 2001. The fund supports a range of Pharmacy initiatives and a key area of interest to the Pathak family is the establishment of this access scholarship for students with a desire to study Pharmacy who, due to social exclusion, may otherwise be unable to undertake this course of study. RCSI is keen to promote social inclusion by facilitating access to educational opportunities for those groups traditionally underrepresented at third level and to date four students have been supported through the Fund.

Ballroom of Romance July 14th 2011
Over three hundred senior citizens attended the hugely successful Ballroom of Romance held in the Exam Hall of RCSI on July 14th 2011. The REACH RCSI Programme worked on the event with Dublin City Council and entertainment was provided by the Garda Band.
Student Services

The Student Services Office is delighted to once again update our alumni on its many activities, achievements and contributions to the RCSI student experience. We all know that learning extends beyond the lecture theatre or laboratory. Our role is to provide a variety of out-of-classroom supports and services that benefit and enhance the student journey. We serve to make RCSI a vibrant place – a place dedicated to both the academic and personal development of its students.

STUDENT LIFE – Annual Events

2011 was another action packed year in terms of student events, including the annual favourites such as the College Ball, Sports Ball, International Night, International Food Fair, the Graduation Ball and the Chocolate Ball. All these events continue to draw large crowds and remain ever popular in the student life calendar.

International Night, was held once again in the Mansion House and a group of very imaginative students representing the Middle East took home the Parnell Keeling Award for Best Performance of the Night.

The RCSI Red Cross Society organised the hugely popular ‘Lights, Camera, Auction’ event, with all proceeds donated to the Irish Red Cross. Staff and students bid on a host of fun items such as a ‘Fish Pedicure’, a ‘Sky Dive’ and a ‘Limousine Ride to the College Ball’.

The Sports Ball was well attended in its second year, celebrating the many sporting achievements of the RCSI
student body. Award winners in 2011 included:

- Sports Club of the Year - Ladies GAA
- Sports Woman of the Year - Maud Annie Foley
- Sports Man of the Year - Mohd Noorazmi Saharuddin
- Sports Captain of the Year - Tom Branigan

The Alan Johnson Perpetual Trophy for Sporting Excellence was awarded to Jamie Clerkin.

Members of the RCSI Running Club participated once again in the 115th Boston Marathon, raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland. The first RCSI runner to cross the finish line was Jordan Veenstra who was awarded the prestigious Vinny Coyle trophy. Corriena Brien, Student Services Manager also laced up her running shoes to participate in the event and hopes to encourage other staff to join the student runners in this challenging but most worthwhile event.
Society News
We are delighted to report that the number of RCSI student societies has increased since 2010 from 28 to 33 – a considerable number for a college the size of RCSI. Some of our new societies include:

• Choral Society
• Careers Society
• Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières
• Leadership and Management in Healthcare
• St Vincent de Paul Society
• UNICEF

Our students continue to show great commitment and dedication not only to their personal and career development, but also to many charitable causes.

Fresher’s Carnival
The Students’ Union organised a wonderful Fresher’s Carnival at the RCSI sports grounds in Dardistown. From disco tents to rubber slides, candy floss to shooting booths, the area was transformed into a fun-filled fairground. New students were made to feel right at home during a truly memorable evening.

Biological Society Annual Meeting
The 78th Annual Biological Society Meeting took place in January. The keynote speaker, well-known RTE radio presenter Marian Finucane, addressed the large assembly of staff and students on the topic of ‘Listening’. Yasser Al Jabi was awarded the Denis Gill Medal, David Lynch the RCSI Council Medal, and Jean Engela the RCPI Council Medal.

PMC Farewell
A night of singing, dancing, dining, fun and friendship for staff and ongoing students to say farewell to the departing group of students returning to Penang Medical College (PMC) took place in December.

The Penang Medical College Students’ Association (PMCSA) have the all-important task of arranging the annual farewell party for students returning to Malaysia after completing their pre-clinical studies in Dublin. Every year, the organisers work tirelessly to make the night a success. The Exam Hall was transformed into a venue filled with all the glitz and glamour of Hollywood – with decorations created by the talented members of the Art Society. After a sumptuous dinner and enjoyable entertainment, two video
presentations brought much laughter to the night – “A Typical Day at RCSI” and “A Typical Day at Beaumont”.

Choral Society – Flash Mob
One of the highlights of the year was an impromptu ‘Flash Mob’, organised by the Choral Society in December. Students and staff were treated to an array of Christmas Carols, which got everyone in a festive mood just before the holidays! The Choral Society also showcased their talents at the College Council Dinner and the Chocolate Ball.

Please Talk Annual Candle Lit Event
RCSI’s annual ‘Please Talk Candle-lit Event’ was appropriately held in the newly renovated Serenity Prayer Room where staff and students gathered to remember those who lost their lives through suicide.

Now in its fourth year of campaigning, ‘Please Talk’ continues its message that ‘talking is a sign of strength’, especially when experiencing challenges. RCSI students and staff members gathered to highlight and reinforce this message and to show that through our collective and collaborative efforts with chaplains, student welfare officers, students’ unions, disability support services, buddy students, academic and administrative staff, we can work together to safeguard mental health and wellbeing.

Sports News
Student Services are delighted to support an additional four new sports clubs in 2011 – Athletics, Cycling, Equestrian and Kite Surfing – bringing the total number of clubs and teams active to 36. We commend the enthusiasm of all those who get involved in sports at RCSI. Healthcare programmes are demanding at the best of times. We believe that supporting
students in their pursuit of sporting and non-academic activities is an important factor in finding a healthy study-life balance.

In other exciting news, 2011 proved to be ‘a year for the ladies’:

The RCSI Ladies GAA team won the All-Ireland Donaghy Cup in an outstanding performance, beating the favourites from NUI Galway in their hometown. Despite being down to 14 players for the majority of the match, our ladies were still up to the task and triumphed.

The Ladies Hockey Team also performed very well in 2011, reaching the CUSAI League final. Alas, they could not withstand the Galwegian storm and lost by a narrow margin of 2 goals in an exciting match.

There was some success for our sports men as well, as the RCSI Golf Team successfully retained the Nottingham Cup for RCSI.

The RCSI Rugby team welcomed its counterparts from the Pierre & Marie Curie University in Paris. The history of this hotly contested annual game stems back over 20 years. RCSI went on to defeat their ‘old rivals’ by 10 points to 7. The teams were treated to an after-match dinner in the College and presentations were made to the hardy visitors.
OPERATIONS: RCSI Merchandise
A new range of RCSI branded merchandise is now available for purchase from the Student Services Office. This stylish range of clothing and accessories is the first collection of official RCSI merchandise to be developed in line with the new RCSI branding. Available items include golf umbrellas, beanie hats, tote bags, travel mugs, polo-shirts, t-shirts, hoodies, key rings and much more besides. The range was launched in December 2011 and has been well received by staff and students alike. We have lots of ideas on how to develop this service and are looking to add new items each semester. A merchandise brochure is available from the Student Services Office. Please contact us for further information with regard to ordering items (studentservices@rcsi.ie)

New Moodle Site for Incoming Students
As we mentioned in the FLEAM 2010 edition, a new Moodle site, dedicated to incoming students, has been developed and was well received by the new students. With the working title ‘Project RCS EYE’, the site aimed to provide useful information about accommodation, immigration and visa requirements, living in Dublin and college life. One of the best received features of the site was the Student Forum, which allowed pre-registered students to make contact with each other and arrange informal meetings and events. This, in turn, led to many new students already knowing each other before setting foot on campus. We hope to further develop this section of Moodle and introduce additional features for the 2012/2013 intake.

Mercer Court – On Campus Accommodation
Another exciting development for the Student Services Office was to assume the management of our on-campus student accommodation at Mercer Court.

The development is ideally located next door to the RCSI library and within 2 minutes walking distance of the main college. It comprises of two buildings - Mercer Court and Millin House. It offers single and twin rooms alongside apartment style units with a total capacity of 109 beds. A dedicated web page is currently being developed and will go ‘live’ shortly. An exciting refurbishment is scheduled for the summer of 2012 which will bring the facility up to modern student accommodation standards.
Partnering with the Estates Office, we aim to make this development a ‘home from home’ for all its residents.

**Renovation of Oratory – Serenity Prayer Room**
The Chaplaincy Team launched the newly renovated Serenity Room in the main college in October. Located in the basement of the old college building and previously called the Oratory, the room received a complete make-over: from walls to ceiling, lighting to furniture, all areas received detailed care and attention and the finished product reflects the efforts. As part of the launch, staff and students were invited to come along and see the new space and were treated to tea from around the world.

Every year (usually during the summer period) Student Services undertake to deliver a project aimed at improving student facilities. Previous projects have included the Muslim Prayer Rooms, Student Lounge, the Friendship Room and the College Gym.

In 2011, the Serenity Room made it to the top of our list.

2011 has certainly been another busy and successful year for the Student Services Office. In 2012, we endeavour to keep supports and services that benefit students and promote student life at the centre of everything we do.

**Some of the many support services delivered by the Student Services Office:**
- Access
- Accommodation
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling
- Cultural Advice
- Disability Support Service
- Hardship Fund
- Immigration & Visa support
- Induction & Orientation
- Merchandising
- Publications
- Societies
- Sports Clubs
- Student Events
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1 Charles Bouvier and his mother Arirstasia
2 Elizabeth Broe; Paddy Broe, Vice-President, RCSI; Claire Broe
3 John Fennell (73) with his son Andrew, fourth generation of doctors
4 Yanette Bueno Diaz, Colm McDermott, Sinead Sullivan, Tadhg Reddan (Masters in Pharmacy Graduates)
5 Medical Graduates at June 2011 conferring ceremony in the National Concert Hall
6 Samer Abujaber and Fatima Gilami
7 Caoimhe Duffy
8 Maryam Al Obaidly, BSc Pharmacy Graduate
9 Aileen O’Shea, Aisling O’Riordan, Craig Delavari, Caroline Delany, Sinead Cronin, Brian Hannon and Kim Caulfield,
10 Mr Joe Duignan, Member of Council, Professor Eilis McGovern, President RCSI with their daughter Emma
11 Aileen O’Shea, Aisling O’Riordan, Kim Caulfield, Caroline Delany and Sinead Cronin
12 Aisling Walsh
13 Razan Aljasem
1 Paul Manley, Naomi Richardswon
2 Niall Clancy, Simon Bull and Shane Guckian
3 The Graduating Class of 2011
4 Timothy Murray with his parents Mr an Mrs Frank Murray
5 Catherine Sweeney, Paul Hennelly, Sandra Sullivan, Jenny Reynolds
6 Ebba Kass and her father Borne (72)
7 Aine O’Connor, Bernard Rice, Mary Brennan
8 Sinead Cronin and Brian Hannon
9 Gillian Doyle
10 Tamunotonye Onyemelukwe with his family
Alumni Weekend

1 John ('71) & Angela Doherty and Jack Pregar ('71)
2 Collette Ramsay ('77) & John Flynn ('76)
3 Class of 71
4 Michael ('76) and Marie O'Rourke
5 Michelle ('86) with her husband Vincent Fearon
6 Terry Hynes ('59) & Fergal Nally ('59)
7 Tore ('71) & Anita Marie Aarnaes
8 Rune & Claire Hapnes ('71)
9 Elenor McNamara ('86) & Riaz Hussain ('86)
10 Gareth ('68) and Sheila Jones ('65)
11 Junius Horne and Sally Anne Lynch ('86)
12 Maire Leahy ('51) with Pamela Mangal, President of Association of Graduates
A sincere thank you to our Corporate Partners for their ongoing support.
UAE Alumni Chapter
Inaugural Event

RCSI-UAE Alumni held their inaugural event in Dubai in November 2011. The objective of the event, sponsored by ProVita International Medical Center Abu Dhabi, is to further developing relationships with Alumni throughout the Middle East.

RCSI–Dubai Alumni include, Dr. Ahmad Bin Kalban (CEO, Primary Healthcare Service Sector, DHA), Dr. Ali Obaidily (Chief Medical Officer, SEHA), Ibtesam Bastaki (Head of Health Section, Prime Minister’s Office), Hayder Mohammed Khalaf Al Zubaidy (CEO Canadian Speciality hospital), Magi Livadaris (General Manager, ProVita), Adele Smiddy (Chairperson, Irish Business Network Dubai), Diana Grobler (Director of Nursing, Welcare Hospital).

According to RCSI-Dubai Alumni President, Dr Mohammad Al Redha, Head of Health and Acting Director of Health Data and Information Analysis Department at the DHA “This type of event is essential to furthering the regional dialogue about Medicine and Surgery, Healthcare Management and Quality and Safety practices. The RCSI Alumni have an opportunity to raise the bar for the UAE’s healthcare standards and such events provide a platform for information sharing and idea generation.”

The event was attended by RCSI senior officials including Professor Eilis McGovern, President, RCSI; Professor Cathal Kelly, CEO/Registrar, RCSI; Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Professor Tom Collins, President, RCSI MUB and Professor Ciaran O’Boyle, RCSI’s Institute of Leadership.

1 (L-R) Mr. Issa Aiyat, Dr. Beena Nair, Dr. Abdulrazak Mahmandar
2 (L-R) Dr. Mohammad Al Redha, Dr. Sheikha Alya H. Al, Professor EILIS McGOVERN
3 (L-R) Dr. Saeed Salem, Dr. Abdulla Al Redha, Professor Hannah McGee, Professor Cathal Kelly
4 (L-R) Professor Ciaran O’Boyle, Mark E. McCourty, Ms. Rita Gallagher, Mr Ciaran Madden
5 Dr. Dr. Mohammad Al Redha
6 (L-R) Professor Cathal Kelly, Mr Ciaran Madden, Dr. Yousuf Al Serkal, Professor Hussam Hamdy, Professor Hannah McGee, Dr. Fahad Ali Hassan Ali Alzarouni, Dr. Mohammad Al Olama
7 Ms. Sawsan A.S Al Madhi
8 Professor Eilis McGovern, Professor Hussam Hamdy
9 (L-R) Ms. Tina Joyce, Dr. Fuzan Alkhaliidi, Dr. Mohammad Al Redha
10 (L-R) Dr. Fuzan Alkhaliidi, Dr. Mohammad Al Olama, Dr. Fahad Ali Hassan Ali Alzarouni, Dr. Yousuf Al Serkal, Professor Cathal Kelly.
11 Dr. Mohammad Al Redha, Dr. Sheikha Alya H. Al Qassimi, Mr Ciaran Madden
2011 was a busy year for the Association with lots of activity including a very successful AGM where Mayilone Arumugasamy made an excellent presentation on Bariatric Surgery, we also held a CPD meeting in conjunction with the Medical Protection Society and the year concluded with a thoroughly enjoyable Annual Dinner with a visit from Santa compliments of Hidden Hearing.

The Association also sponsored an undergraduate student to partake in the Research Summer School. Rijul Puri completed her research project on “Platelet Function Screening for Personalised Medicine” with Professor Niamh Moran and Professor David Williams in RCSI. The Association is delighted to support this wonderful initiative.

One of the highlights was Alumni Weekend where over 225 graduates and guests were welcomed back to the College. This was a very special time for me personally as my class, the class of 1971, celebrated its 40 year reunion. My fellow classmate Jack Preger unveiled his portrait by the
renowned artist Myles na Gopaleen. Jack with his big heart presented this to the College and it hangs proudly in the Student Recreation Area. The class of 1971 is also very proud of the achievements of John Doherty, who shared in the 2005 Nobel Prize. The prize was awarded equally between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, for their efforts towards a safer and more peaceful world. John has been the Medical Director of the IAEA since 1993. The IAEA, the United Nation’s nuclear watchdog, has recently played a pivotal role in world events. Its nuclear inspectors have been involved in critical situations in Iran, Iraq and North Korea.
During Alumni Weekend, trophies kindly donated by former president, Dr Frank Prendiville, Class of 1962 were presented for the Golf Outing. These will only be awarded to graduates who are celebrating reunions. Mrs Mary Prendiville presented the silver cups to Pamela Mangal, Class of 1971 and Niall Swan, Class of 1991.

The Association will continue to thrive but its success is very much dependent on the support of our graduates especially those based in Ireland. I urge you to make an effort to keep up to date and in touch with Louise at the Alumni Office. We also have a presence on Facebook, so look us up there, for news of upcoming events.

**Dates for your diary are:**

AGM - Friday 18th May and Annual Dinner on Saturday 24th November. I do hope to see you there.

Thank you for your support for the past two years, it has been a great honour leading the Association and one which I very much enjoyed as I met so many graduates.

Wishing you all every success for 2012

*Pamela Mangal*
Class of 2010

Congratulations to Ackhil Shukla who got married on the 26th June 2010, we wish Ackhil and his wife Nikita every happiness for the future.

Congratulations to Torin Glass on his marriage to Michelle Elizabeth Buree on September 10th, 2011 in Vancouver, Canada. We wish them best wishes for their married life and for their future together.

On July 16th, 2011, RCSI 2010 Alumna Yasmine Usmani married Mr. Kheredine Belhimeur in a ceremony that celebrated all religious and cultural aspects of their union. Hungarian Folk Dancers, Indian Bollywood dancers and Belly Dancers entertained guests and highlighted the cultural richness in the room. Dr. Usmani is currently a PGY2 in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Canada while her husband is an Aerospace Engineer.

Class of 2009

Tate Greditzer is a third year Diagnostic Radiology resident at The University of Miami / Jackson Memorial Hospital. He lives in South Beach and enjoys golfing and surfing in his free time.

Paul Dhillon Completed the European Masters in Disaster Medicine at the University of Novarra, Italy and Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium. An excerpt from his first novel, “Time to Retract” was awarded the Irish Society of Medical Writers Andreas McEntee Writing Prize in 2011. Paul is currently the International Research Lead for the Retrieval, Emergency and Disaster Medicine Research and Development Unit (REDSPoT) based out of Limerick, Ireland.

Class of 2008

Congratulations to Mona Jasuja and Aaron F. Jolly (09) on their marriage on December 26, 2011 in India. The lavish week-long event was attended by many
close family and friends. Mona completed her residency in 2008 in Paediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Orange County, and is currently practicing in Orange County, California. Aaron is currently an Internal Medicine resident at the University of California, Irvine.

Greg Klar is currently doing his residency in Anaesthesiology at the University of Manitoba. He is in his fourth year of five year programme. Greg has also spent time in Rwanda on a humanitarian project which was funded through the University of Manitoba. He travelled with the “Canadian Anaesthesia Society” where they are developing sustainable anaesthesia residency training programme. Greg continues to keep in touch with his two closest friends and class mates Olav Hopland and Victor Krohn and they will spent time skiing in Japan in late January.

Class of 2007

Raj Naidoo will be graduating in Radiology in Pittsburgh, in June 2012. He has secured a Fellowship position in Chest Radiology at Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, BC starting in July 2012. This position will mean that he will be reunited with his wife Smit N Naidoo (06) who is currently in the midst of a Psychiatry residency at the University of British Columbia.

Ruchir Patel completed his residency in Internal Medicine residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, USA, in 2010 and then went on to undertake a fellowship in Sleep Disorders Medicine at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, USA, in 2011. He is currently in private practice as a consultant in Sleep Disorders Medicine in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

Congratulations to Amanda Horrigan on her marriage in May 2011 to Sam Tinkler in Charleston, South Carolina. Samantha Burrows (07) was in her wedding party and many other classmates made the journey to Charleston to celebrate with them including Ruchir Patel, Eric Malloy,
Allison Koppert, Bryan Doherty, and Joseph Cullan. Amanda and her husband are expecting a baby boy this February. On the professional front, Amanda is finishing up her second year of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at University of California Los Angeles. In July, she will commence a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina so they will be leaving sunny Los Angeles for the southern charm of Charleston, South Carolina.

Karen Eustace (07), Sam Burrows (07), Ciara O’Connor (10), Amanda Lavan (09) participating in the 2011 Flora Women’s Mini Marathon in Dublin to raise funds for CF Association of Ireland.

Talissa Adkison received her Board Certification in Internal Medicine in 2010 and just received her Subspecialty Board Certification in Geriatrics in 2011. Talissa is currently working with a private group in Scottsdale Arizona doing geriatric home care for the frail, home-bound elderly.

Melissa Pendergrass moved to Chicago after graduating from RCSI to do residency in OB/GYN at North-western. Currently Melissa is doing a two year fellowship in minimally invasive gynaecologic surgery in Portland, OR.

Class of 2006

Dinuk Wijewardene was awarded his MRCSI in July 2011. Dinuk Wijewardene is pictured with his girlfriend Mary Flahive, from the RCSI Physiotherapy 08 class.

Two graduates from RCSI have been appointed Chief Neurology Residents in Tufts Medical Centre Boston commencing in July 2012, Karen Lynch (06) and Meghan Hickey (09). They are both delighted and honoured with the appointment and really thrilled to be working in such a prestigious hospital.
Shamini Kirupananthan has completed her postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Baystate Medical Centre, Tufts University in Springfield Massachusetts in June 2011. At her graduation she received the Research Award for her original research “How much do women know about hysterectomy? A survey of women in an academic obstetrics and gynaecology practice”.

**Class of 2002**

**Ayman Raees** has successfully completed his residency in Urology at McMaster University in Ontario and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Canada (FRCSC). He is currently doing a minimally invasive Urology Fellowship at the University of Toronto. Congratulations to Ayman and his wife on the birth of their second son Khaled.

Elaine Purcell has recently returned home to Ireland.

**Shahrum Ahmad Suhaili** on the 4th of December 2011 in Gombak Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We wish them every happiness for the future.

**Class of 2004**

Congratulations to **Ayman Yassa** and **Charlotte Alme** on the birth of their baby boy Noah who was born on October 14th.

**Ted Collison** is currently working as a Trauma Surgeon in Prevea Health in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is married to Julie and they have two children, Quinn (2) and Samantha (4).

**Leila Hebshi** is excited to be joining Kaiser-Permanente in Oakland, CA, USA after three years in private practice as an anaesthesiologist. Leila, her husband Peter, and their two children (Frank, age 8 and Lauren, age 2) are currently living in San Francisco. They all hope to visit Ireland soon.

**Class of 2003**

**Cooper Buschemeyer**, completed his residency and fellowship in Urologic Surgery at Duke University in June 2010 he is currently practicing Urologic Surgery and Urologic Oncology in Louisville, KY, Cooper and his wife Kristi have two children Brayden Cooper born May 28, 2010 and Avery Mae born November 28, 2011.

**Avind Rampersad** and his wife **Bernadette Antonyrajah** (04). They are both paediatric ICU physicians in Cleveland, Ohio. They had a baby boy, Gavin in April 2011, and they already have a girl, Isabella.

Congratulations to **Syarifah Azlina Syed Azauddin** who was married to Mr Ahmad Shahrum Ahmad Suhaili on the 4th of December 2011 in Gombak Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We wish them every happiness for the future.
to Dublin after spending 6 years abroad in the United States where she completed training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Tufts Medical Centre in Boston and later pursued a further dedicated fellowship in Sleep Medicine at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. She is now working full time at The Sleep Disorders Clinic, in the Mater Private Hospital treating adult and paediatric patients.

Christina Day and Elizabeth Ford are living in Los Angeles. They have an 18 month old son Seamus. In December Christina was working as a pathologist at the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital and has since started a new job as a Pathologist at the University of Southern California. Elizabeth is working as a paediatrician at a non-profit clinic in downtown Los Angeles called Eisner Paediatric and Family Medicine Clinic she has held this position since 2007.

**Class of 2000**

Ramesh Singh completed a Cardiothoracic Fellowship last year and is now a Cardiac Surgery Faculty Member at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, USA. He and his wife Susan have a 15 month old baby girl, Meleia; and they are expecting another baby this year.

John King is currently working as a Retinal Specialist at Ocusight in Rochester, NY. He and his wife Katie have two daughters, Katherine who is 12 and Genevieve who is 9.

Congratulations to Lars Seeberg and his wife Kathrine on the arrival of their third child, a baby girl, Benedicte, who was born in October. They have two older daughters Pernille 7, Mathilde 4. Lars is living in Oslo and working with GI Surgery & Bariatric Surgery and has one year left on his PhD “GI Cancer and Micro Metastasis”.

**Class of 2001**

Congratulations to Paul O'Neill and his wife Caitriona on the birth of their daughter Ellie who was born on 28th September 2011. Paul is currently completing his second clinical year in Head, Neck and Skull Base Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York and Caitriona is completing her PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in MSKCC.

Huzaimah Ahmad is currently working at Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Temerloh, Pahang as a general radiologist. He is married with two boys, Umar Mukhlis and Muadz Akhtar.

Stephen Crowther has been appointed consultant histopathologist at AMNCH, Tallaght.

**Class of 2000**

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**Class of 1999**

Tony Maloney is a Vascular Surgeon at St Michael's Hospital, Toronto and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. Tony and his wife Eimear have two children, Jane (3) and Charlie (1).

Since leaving Medicine in 1999, Andrew Heffernan has worked in many different roles within the business world. He now works as a Strategy Consultant, advising small businesses on growth and marketing plans. He tells us “It is a long way from my days assisting in the Operating Theatre.” Andrew completed his first marathon last year in NYC and is presently training for a triathlon.
Class of 1995
Anil Jina has left his position at Sanofi Aventis in Paris and will be joining a biotech company called Shire HGT which is located in Switzerland, near Geneva. His new position is Vice President and Head of Global Medical Affairs. Congratulations to Anil and his wife Erica who gave birth to their daughter in 2011, they now have three children: Ethan and Noah, aged 7 and 6 years and baby Sara aged one.

Class of 1993
20 years on ... A Drink for Dan
Dan Kelly started in surgeon’s journey with us in premed 1987. Dan was a gifted student and enjoyed learning. He was always happy to help the rest of us when we struggled. He was a keen rugby player and was especially proud of his involvement in the Hospitals Cup. But what a lot of us loved most about Dan was his great zest for life! He adored his family and was a loyal, generous and considerate friend. He had a charming smile and an infectious laugh and was always up for the ‘craic’. He loved a pint of the black stuff and was always surrounded by friends in our favourite haven, The Swan. People just loved being around Dan. Like the rest of us, he had hopes for his future. He wanted to be a great surgeon. He wanted to travel and see more of the world. He wanted to have a family.

His sudden death in October 1991 was utterly devastating for his family. And as his classmates who had got to know and love him, it was a blow that would leave long lasting effects. We were in our early 20s, life was good. We were happy, healthy and having a ball and most of us had not encountered grief as yet. The class spirit was significantly dampened from that day on. The class of 1993 was never quite the same again.

20 years on, we still remember him, we still miss him, and we still talk about him. A group of us are linked forever by his friendship. We are scattered around the world now but thanks to email, we keep in touch and when we do meet, it is like taking up from where we left off. On the 19th October each year we have a drink for Dan. In Ireland, England, America, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia.

I have no doubt that for a lot of us, losing Dan has made us better doctors but knowing him has made us better people. We will continue to try to live as he did.

Work hard and play hard
Live well and love well.
Here’s to you Dan, till we meet again. All is well.

Bu O’Brien (Pathmakanthan) (‘93)

Class of 1990
George Huculak, married in 2006. He has a daughter, Arianna who turned one in December. George has recently received his private pilot’s license, but will only use it recreationally and stick to medicine as a career. George is working in a group family practice in Whitby, east of Toronto.

Class of 1989
Congratulations to Laurel Blakemore who was elected to the board of the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.

Ifeoma Lauretta Odogwu wants to say “hello” to the class of 89. She is married to Chris Oti and they have three beautiful
children - Samantha (3) and twins Erica and Nicole 15 months. They live in Greensboro, NC. Ifeoma works as a Haematologist/Oncologist.

David Crooks recently received a Medical Heroes Award from the Red Cross in Pennsylvania for responding to a local steel foundry and working in dire environs. Fifteen feet up in the air along a catwalk, kneeling in sand and carbon soot eventually extricated and saved a trapped worker. David had to cut off his arm just below the shoulder. But thankfully it worked, he is alive and well, thanks to everyone involved in his after-care and rehab. The award was presented in November 2011; with 600 in attendance, including television and print media. David was very thankful with the patient’s outcome.

Class of ‘89 has a private Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/RCSI89.

Haroon Docrat, a well known surgeon in Durban, South Africa died on December 17, 2011 from complications of cardiac surgery. He was in private practice at St Augustines Hospital with a special interest in bariatric and minimal access gastrointestinal surgery. He was an active member of the Islamic Medical Society and had passionately dedicated himself in building the first Islamic Hospital in South Africa. He also sat on the boards of many international surgical bodies in an advisory capacity.

Haroon entered the RCSI after completing his secondary schooling in Dublin. He quickly immersed himself into student life and became a well-liked leader who organized and championed the international cultural evening to promote cultural diversity and inclusivity. Haroon had broad social and extra-curricular interests and was the founder of the “Parachute” and “Vegetarian” clubs. It came as no surprise that Haroon was regularly our class representative and intimately involved with the College Student’s Union. He was instrumental in designing the first RCSI logo towel, which is now an absolute must-have as far as College memorabilia is concerned.

Haroon was born in South Africa on 18 January 1964, to Zora and Yusuf Docrat (RCSI Class of ‘61) – both South African, of Indian origin. He lost his parents at the tender at of 6, and this had a profound and lasting impression on his future career choice and outlook on life. He was truly Mr. Congenial, willing to help anyone in need. During one summer when most of his classmates where trying to get electives at the best medical schools, Haroon chose to go to a small, remote fishing town in Alaska to serve as the village physician. Over the years, Haroon thoroughly enjoyed his training at the RCSI and deeply immersed himself in the Irish culture, which he loved and spoke about fondly to one and all. His love for Ireland and all things Irish never diminished – including the ‘gift of the gab!’

We will always remember Haroon for his warm smile, his eternal optimism, his humour and his joie de vivre. He always saw the good in everything and everyone and was always able to put people at ease, getting even the most introverted person to open up. With his passing, we have lost not only a classmate...
but a gifted physician and a true friend. Haroon is survived by his 14 year old son Yusuf and his sisters Fatima (class of ‘81) and Razia. Haroon we will dearly miss you!

Goodbye Haroon, our Classmate, our Friend,
Even though we have not seen you for some time,
Now that you are gone
Your memory will remain in our hearts,
Your smile and face will never fade.
We will think of you as we go on,
The good times, we remember
The days we missed, we regret
Goodbye Haroon Docrat, our Classmate, our Friend
The RCSI Class of 1989

Class of 1988
Obituary: Dr. John A. Kelly

Professor of Medicine and Immunology, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical School, New Hampshire USA Our beloved friend and classmate, John Kelly (‘JK’), died suddenly in Hanover, New Hampshire on October 14th 2011. John was born in north Dublin on March 17th 1964, an only son to Dr. Maureen (O’Malley) and Col. John Francis Kelly. He attended primary school and subsequently completed his leaving certificate at Coláiste Mhuire in 1982, prior to enrolling in RCSI pre-Med that autumn term, where JK soon became a popular and insightful classmate. At college, John excelled in his studies and was an active hill walker and member of the college karate club for many years, graduating in 1988 to complete internship at the new Beaumont Hospital in Dublin.

In 1989 he moved to Albany NY to complete his internal medicine residency, followed by a pulmonary fellowship at MCHV in Burlington, Vermont. John pursued a critical care fellowship in Pittsburgh prior to working for a number of years at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. He subsequently moved with his young family to New Hampshire where he worked in the VA hospital at White River Junction Vermont, rising to the position of chief of the pulmonary division. John was a skilled and outstanding clinician and researcher, with a great enthusiasm for his work and empathy for his patients. He found New England resonated with his lifestyle; he was a keen skier and loved the outdoor life.

In March 1996, John married Suzanne Pembroke, the love of his life, in Kilkenny city. JK and Suzanne welcomed two children into their lives and John spent the last fifteen years as a loving husband and father to Cian (14) and Aisling (12). As an active father, John got involved in coaching both indoor and outdoor football teams for the Lightning Soccer Club in Hanover and was active on the board. He was a warm and convivial host, and never happier than when spending time with his immediate family and extended family and many friends. In addition to his wife, Suzanne, and children, JK is survived by his sisters: Mary, Ann and Margaret; and brothers-in-law: Morgan and Garrett Pembroke. John’s quiet compassion, infectious laugh and keen sense of humour touched the lives of many and his wide circle of RCSI friends sorely miss his company. To his grieving family, we offer our support.
and sincere sympathy. Cronfaimid é. A memorial service in John’s honour will be hosted at RCSI, Dublin on July 14th 2012.

After graduating Yvonne Curran, specialized in Neurology at Chicago Lake Shore Medical Associates. She completed her residency at Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Curran is currently a Professor of Neurology FSM at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and has been featured on PBS Special “The Retirement Revolution”. She is also an active medical volunteer in Haiti with Medical Wings International.


“There is greatness within everyone. There are no exceptions. The greatness within each of us is the single thing we are most afraid of.

This book is for anyone interested in accessing their greatness, for people who want to achieve beyond what is merely predictable in life. A book for those who want to achieve fantastic, awesome, unimaginable results in life.”

Bessam Farjo is a leader in the field of hair restoration surgery and collaborates with the Universities of London, Manchester and Bradford as well as world market leader Unilever plc. He recently featured in Esquire magazine which celebrated its 20th anniversary of style, wisdom and wit featuring an extensive list of celebrity men who symbolised the last 20 years as well as listing those who will shape the next 20. Bessam Farjo (88) featured alongside HRH Prince Charles, geneticist Professor David Suzuki, eco adventurer David De Rothschild and other world leaders and scientists.

Edmund Meyer-Schwickerath pictured with his wife Annkatrin, sons Paul and Leo and daughter Carla. Edmund and his family are regular visitors to Port Saloon, Donegal. Edmund says “we very much like the remote area, the friendly people, the country cooking, long walks along the beaches of Fanad Head, tours to Donegal city, Sligo or Galway, as well as reading books in front of the open fire with a hot Irish Whiskey”.

Class of 1985

Aonghus O’Donnell died unexpectedly aged 49; he was a consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Cork University Hospital. He took up his senior post in the hospital in 1996, joining his colleague Tom Aherne, and his tenure saw much needed expansion of all aspects of cardiac surgical and medical services in the region. He brought to the task energy, enthusiasm, strong administrative skills and great generosity with his time – qualities that earned him the unstinting admiration of his colleagues.

He was a natural choice for head of division, a role he agreed to on a time-limited basis soon after his arrival in the department. His colleagues encouraged him to continue in this capacity; this he did up to his untimely death.

As head, he played a pivotal role in the development of the Cardiac Renal Centre in Cork, a state-of-the-art, six-storey,
150-bed unit consolidating cardiac and renal services for the southern region, a unique development in national terms. In the month before his death, he spoke at the official opening of the unit in characteristically humble terms of the long process of planning, development and commissioning which had begun more than 10 years before.

Aonghus O’Donnell was a man of strongly held convictions, expressed with an effective combination of force and tact. Although his administrative skills were widely appreciated and put to great use, it was the delivery of a clinical service that he especially enjoyed and where he excelled. In a specialty marked by its arduous nature, he was committed to hard work and thrived particularly in undertaking challenging cases with a paramount focus on patient care; possibly the most notable quality instilled in him by his mother, Eithne, who was a strong advocate of bedside manner and patient wellbeing in her own field of nursing.

His gregarious nature and innate conviction of the importance of a multidisciplinary team approach to clinical problems made for a particularly close and harmonious relationship with medical and surgical colleagues alike. He took a lead in systematically ensuring the highest achievable quality of care within the unit, and for many years spent much time developing and maintaining an electronic register for regular internal and external audit.

Born in Dublin in 1961, Aonghus O’Donnell was the eldest of five boys born to Kevin and Eithne O’Donnell. His upbringing was imbued with a strong sense of family, impartiality and fair play, traits he upheld in his life, professional and social. He received his early education at Kilmacud National School before a family move to London in 1968, where he attended Donhead Lodge Preparatory School in Wimbledon until the family returned to Dublin in 1974. His second-level education was completed at Gonzaga College, where he sat his Leaving Certificate in 1978.

He qualified from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1985. He interned in Beaumont Hospital. His surgical orientation was evident at an early stage when he undertook a BSc degree in anatomy in UCD, received with honours in 1987. He entered formal surgical training in Dublin in 1988 and obtained his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1990.

He developed an interest in cardiothoracic surgery during basic training following a period spent in the Mater hospital and indeed paid tribute to the influential role his former trainer, mentor and friend, the late Maurice Neligan, played in encouraging him to embark on his chosen career. His training in cardiothoracic surgery began in 1990 in the Mater and St James’s hospitals. In the spring of 1992, he became the first non-US senior surgical fellow in cardiothoracic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, where he trained for a year with Dr Mortimer Buckley and colleagues. He returned to a senior registrar post at St James’s hospital in 1993. He then undertook training in paediatric cardiac surgery in Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, from July 1994 until his senior posting at Cork University Hospital.

He maintained a particular interest in training and was highly regarded by the trainees he mentored, who, along with many newly appointed younger consultant
colleagues, make mention of the care he took to help them in their careers. Until the time of his death he was the national programme director for cardiothoracic surgical training and remained active in the RCSI and in the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1991 he married Miriam, daughter of Seán and Terry McGee, whose support and devotion greatly assisted the many moves associated with his professional progression. Their first child, Aoife, was born in Boston. Four siblings followed: Cian, Niamh, Neassa and Róisín. Outside work, Aonghus loved his father Kevin’s home town of Castlegregory in Kerry. His other pursuits included fishing, shooting, cooking and supporting Munster rugby. His surgical training was evident in the way he carefully prepared for an afternoon on a lake or river bank with the latest technology including a pair of Polaroid goggles similar to the surgical microscope he wore in theatre. He amassed a large group of great friends; with some he travelled the world to fish the most isolated of rivers; with others he would shoot in winter; all counted him a special companion. His wife and children survive him, as do his father and brothers, Ciarán, Maghnus, Fiachra, Caoimhghín and their families.

*(The Irish Times - Saturday, February 12, 2011)*

**Obituary**

*Nadia KA El Gaylani*

*Consultant Cardiologist, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, 2003/10.*

Nadia reappeared after a 15 year gap when our youngest children started the same school in Solihull.

She hadn’t changed much – she still had the single-mindedness that characterised the Nadia I knew as we travelled the same path through the final MB exam in the Richmond hospital (blowing all competition away to win the Richmond Hospital prize) on opposite sides of the Medical SHO rotation in St James Hospital and preparation for the MRCPI exam. This was where the fiercely focused and ferocious competitive Nadia came to the fore – flashing eyes and stabbing forefinger when we less-able mortals didn’t live up to her expectations either in knowledge or preparation.

After the foundation gained in Dublin and higher training in Cardiology in Cork she crossed Wales to become the finished item. After a brief spell abroad, she came back to the UK as a Consultant invasive Cardiologist at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital in 2003.

The centre of Nadia’s life shifted when she had children. She was ever present at all school activities, usually at the centre of the gaggle of mothers. Indeed it was through this route we heard the tragic news of Nadia’s fatal asthma attack during a Cardiology Conference in London in 2010.

The sizable turnout of patients, medical and nursing colleagues and friends at Nadia’s internment and subsequent Fatiha at the Birmingham Central Mosque all bore witness to the exceptional person: all grieving the loss of a friend, mother, wife and cardiologist.

Nadia was survived by her mother Magda (who died shortly after) loving husband Dr Mazin Ismail and her two children, Mimo and Rima.

*Ivan Robinson*

*Class of ’85*

**Class of 1984**

*Dr Ghazali Ahmad* is a founding member of the RCSI-Malaysian Alumni Chapter. He completed a Masters Degree in Internal
Medicine in the National University of Malaysia (1991) and underwent subspecialty training in nephrology in Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. Served as the President of the Malaysian Society of Nephrology (2000-2002), council member of the Malaysian Society of Transplantation, member of the International Society of Nephrology, American Society of Nephrology, Malaysian representative to the Asia Pacific Society of Nephrology and Oceania-South East Asia committee of the of the International Society of Nephrology Global Outreach (ISN-GO) program and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Dr Ahmed currently serves as the President of the Postgraduate Renal Society of Malaysia, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Renal Registry, Malaysia, Chairman of the Nephrology Subspecialty Training Committee, Ministry of Health Malaysia, member of the National Accreditation Committee for Nephrology Subspecialty (Academy of Medicine), Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Nephrology Hospital Kuala Lumpur and National Head of the Nephrology Services, Ministry of Health, Malaysia. For his national contributions, Dr Ghazali was bestowed with a federal honour by the King of Malaysia in 2007 and 2010.

It is with deep regret that we learn that Faridah Jamlus Kassim has passed away after a short battle with acute leukaemia. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Yasmin and her husband Dr Ulf Myre at this sad time.

Class of 1983
Congratulations to Harald Sunde who has been appointed Medical Director, Finnmark Health Trust, Norway.

Martin Holt serves on the Council for British Elbow and Shoulder Society.

He is a founding member of BESS Education Committee, head of faculty for both the Master Techniques in Arthroscopic Shoulder Surgery and the cadaver based Sheffield Shoulder Arthroplasty course. He is based at University Hospitals South Manchester

Class of 1982
For the past 18 months Dale Brown was the President of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology/ Head & Neck Surgery.

Tom Browne travelled to Lusaka, Zambia to set up the Out to Africa program, designed to link the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka with the Mid Essex Hospital in Chelmsford.

This is quite a unique programme in that it includes all departments including medical, surgical, plumbing, secretarial, maintenance, and catering. It is going from strength to strength and the Zambian Department of Health have already invited the group out again. Tom has a very unique, clever way of funding this project, at absolutely no expense to any individual!!

Karthikesan Vaithilingam is a General Practitioner in Croydon and involved in NHS Urgent Care in South London. His specialist interest is in Dermatology. He also has a home in Dublin and is married to Carmel from Terenure. Their son Niall Ugen is completing his 3rd year in RCSI.

Class of 1981
KC Lim is an ENT surgeon working at a private hospital (Mahkota Hospital) in Melaka. He is married to Geraldine and they have one lovely daughter.

Serena Nga is happily married to a Paediatrician in Penang, and they have two daughters who have followed their parents into medicine.
Philip Poi is currently a Professor in Geriatric Medicine at the University Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur. He is married to a gynaecologist, and they have three boys.

Class of 1980

Chandra Sinanan-Mahabir and Noreen Ramsay in Killarney in June 2011

Tony Walsh established what is now Ireland’s biggest IVF unit over 15 years ago.

The Clinic, with a purpose built training centre has recently joined forces with the College as an official teaching site for RCSI medical students. The 25,000 square foot unit is located in Clonskeagh in Dublin and employs over fifty people including seven consultant Gynaecologists. Dr Walsh was awarded his FRCOG last year and is also visiting professor at Harvard and the University of LViv, Ukraine.

Class of 1979

James Reilly, was appointed Minister for Health in March 2011. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann for Dublin North and served as spokesperson for health and appointed Deputy Leader of the Fine Gael party in July 2010. For 25 years Dr Reilly has worked as a general practitioner in Lusk, Co Dublin and prior to his election was President of the Irish Medical Organisation.

Dick Barter practicing Emergency Medicine, in St Johns, Newfoundland. He now does part time occupational health for an off shore organization called Atlantic Offshore Medical Services. The company is owned and operated by a 1973 grad Ciaran O’Shea. Dick also wears several other hats, as a medical examiner, part owner or a microbrewery called YellowBelly Brewery and Restaurant, which is in one of the oldest buildings in St John’s and North America and as well as a spin instructor in Goodlife Fitness club. He teaches spin 3 times a week and last year had the honor of accepting the Henry Berg Award for the top fundraising gym in Canada for the Goodlife Kids Foundation. GLKF is dedicated to combating the childhood obesity pandemic in this country, by raising funds to support projects to get children active. On March 3rd this year Dick will be riding a spin bike for 8 consecutive hours during the Spin 4 Kids event that will involve 500 bikes and over 4000 from St John’s to Vancouver, he hopes to raise between $400,000 and $500,000. If any of Dicks classmates or any other grads would like to donate toward his tender bottom efforts they can do so at his Giving Page www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gpID=16024. Dick is also proud to tell us that his daughter Charlene is now in year 2 of the GEP medicine program at Limerick University.
Class of 1978
Charles Neiditz has completed 29 years of practice in Primary Care Internal Medicine in Connecticut. Having received training at St. Vincent’s Medical Centre a Yale Medical school affiliated hospital. Over the years Charles was responsible for the formation of a 90 doctor multi-specialty group private practice one of the largest fully integrated group practices in the North East of the United States, called PriMed.

In September, seeing his three children educated and becoming independent, himself and his wife moved to Marathon, in Florida Keys. He is now employed in by the Baptist Health System of South Florida to run an outpatient primary care Internal Medicine Clinic.

In 2008 Michael Stephens was appointed Associate Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery by University College Dublin and continues his practice specialising purely in foot and ankle disorders in adults and children. In 2010 his text “An Atlas of Foot & Ankle Surgery” (second edition) was translated into Chinese and he attended the launch of his book in 2011 while in Chongqing in South Western China.

In 2011 he brought a team of an orthopaedic surgeon, two nurses and an anaesthetist on a humanitarian mission to Haiti. This mission was supported by the Irish/Haiti Trust the American NGO “Partners in Health” and Air France sponsored the returned flights. The surgery was carried out in the public hospital in St. Mark’s a town 2 hours north west of Port au Prince. Twenty Five surgical procedures some very extensive were carried out during the week and residents travelled up from Port au Prince for teaching ,he also carried out a Ponsetti workshop for treatment of congenital talipes equinovarus varus. At present Mr Stephens is senior editor of the Journal “Foot & Ankle Surgery” and is past president of the Irish Orthopaedic Association and the European Foot & Ankle Society. He remains President of the Irish Foot & Ankle Society. He and his is wife, Juliet, have three children Linda, Wendy and Nigel. Linda is Surgical Registrar in Crumlin Children’s Hospital while Wendy is an artist and Nigel is a chef in London.

Class of 1977
Howard Jacobs was recently re-elected Chair of the Pain Section of the Ontario Medical Association and received an honour of Gratitude from the Canadian Academy of Pain Management for his work as a founding member and Past President of the Academy.

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Class of 1976
Micheal O Rourke retired from the NHS and formed a company specialising in mental health, mental capacity as well as Dive medicine related assessments. He was also appointed by the judiciary to hear appeals involving disability allowances.

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Class of 1973
It is with deep regret we learn Paul McCarthy, Donaghmore, Dundalk, Louth passed away on June 20th 2011. He had worked in Dundalk for the last 30 years, and passed away peacefully following a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.
Class of 1972

Congratulations to David W Kennedy, who was awarded “Clinical Excellence Award” in the US by the creators of America’s Top Doctors guide. The award recognises physicians who exemplify excellence in clinical medical practice and is part of their National Physician of the Year Award honours. Professor Kennedy is Professor of Rhinology, at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine and is a pioneer in sinus surgery in the US. His leadership in the field of otorhinolaryngology has led to new standards of patient care and advances in scientific discovery, education and clinical innovation. Professor Kennedy says that “it could not have happened without the superb clinical training and support that I received while I was at RCSI.”

Fazleh Ahmed Khan tells us he is still very active in family practice in Ladysmith in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. They are very multidisciplinary doing general surgery at the local government provincial hospital, anaesthetics at the local private hospital and he also carries out autopsies as a district surgeon [district coroner] for the state. Fazleh says “RCSI had truly provided us with an excellent basic and solid undergraduate training.”

Fazleh’s eldest daughter Humairah is an anaesthetist married to an actuary. His second daughter Safiya is doing paediatrics and married to a radiologist - all of them having qualified from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg - South Africa. His eldest son Taher tried something different – completing his degrees in biomedical engineering and electrical engineering. He is married to a pharmacist. His younger son Ridwaan is a dentist and is practicing in Ladysmith. Fazleh’s wife Rehana is also in practice with him.

Fazleh and his family had returned from Dublin to South Africa and became involved in local politics and headed the African National Congress [ANC] delegation during the transitional negotiating processes in his area. He has been an ANC town councillor in his district for the past 15 years and has also served as Chairman of the Executive and Mayoral Committee during this challenging period.

Class of 1971

Per Egil Hesla, has four children. All four have followed their parents into medicine. Three are surgeons and one is neurologist and they all have three children each. They all travel to the Cayman Islands as they have dual citizenship and keep in contact with their West Indian family. Per is still the only Norwegian neurologist with training in Sleep Disorders Medicine and has been working in Oslo in this field since 1986. He says “it is very rewarding and will not quit practise until he has to give up his license at the age of 75 years.”

Class of 1969

Zarin Kalapesi, is an attending neonatologist, in Regina, Saskatchewan Canada and she is pictured here with Paul Dhillon(09)

Henry Ooi is over 75 years old and is still practicing medicine. His daughter May, is a consultant physician in Bournemouth England and his son Adrian, a graduate of RCSI, is now a consultant cardiothoracic surgeon in Singapore National University. His passionate hobby is ballroom dancing.
and is now the President of Malaysian Dancers’ Association, Vice-President of the Asian Dance Council and Chairman of the Asian Dance Council Amateur League.

Congratulations to Aubrey Morrison who received two awards from the American College of Physicians. One of which was The American College of Physicians Award for Outstanding Work in Science as Related to Medicine.

Michael Bentley-Taylor, has been working 37 years as Cardiologist at Toronto East General Hospital and Sunnybrook Medical Centre, Toronto, Canada, Michael is partially retired and now living in Waterloo, Ontario. For the past 20 years he has been doing volunteer medical work in Yunnan Province of the Peoples Republic of China and more recently in Angola. He is father to four fabulous children and so far has 12 grandchildren. Michael’s daughter is in her last year of Obs/Gyne in Detroit USA will travel to Ethiopia to learn how to repair Recto-Vaginal and Vesical-Vaginal fistulas, which is a terrible problem in sub-Saharan Africa.

Class of 1967
Peter Hosein has written two books “Manual for Man and His Mind” and “Kingdom of Heaven”. He also conducted and is a regular speaker at a workshop in re- connective healing. Peter speaks regularly on his two books the mind and the kingdom of heaven.”

Class of 1965
Eng See Cheam and David Barnes, first met in April 1962 and since have remained in regular contact. After graduation they met in Le Pas, Mainitoba, and Smeaton, Saskatchewan, during the 1960’s while their children were young. In March 2011 they met again in Dr. Cheam’s hometown of Winnipeg after 41 years!!

Dr David Barnes, delivered the first baby of 2011 with a proud mother in Sitka, Alaska. Dr Barnes says “Sitka is a Picturesque City of Islands”. The hospital and airport island was connected by O’Connell bridge which Dr. Barnes says is “reminiscent of Dublin, Ireland, another one of my favourite island cities” Before breakfast Dr. Barnes would rise early and jog across the snow covered bridge almost touching the curious circling eagles, post partum rounds would be completed by 7.30am.

Class of 1962
Peter Docherty tells us that though he is long retired he has since commenced locum work in Shewsbury for the past four months and it has given him a fresh insight into the workings of the NHS.

In 2010 Ahmed Meer was awarded Distinction of Member Emeritus of the Alberta Medical Association, and in 2011 was awarded the Honorary Membership of the Canadian Medical Association which is one of the highest awards a Physician in Canada can receive. Ahmed is married to Evelyn, they have 2 children, Mark and Jennifer and one granddaughter Caolinn aged 19 months.

Class of 1961
Judith Doyle and her family are celebrating the birth of her newest grandchildren, twin boys born on the 11th January 2011. Judith now has 5 grandchildren with another expected in April.

It is with deep regret that we learn Sanjay Ramkissoon passed away on the 1st June. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

Class of 1960
Joan Black (nee Hannigan) husband John died December 2009. They met as students in the Meath Hospital and were married in the University Church in Stephens Green. They had an extremely happy marriage lasting nearly 50 years. Joans eldest son John was made Honorary Physician to the Queen in 2009. Joan stays in touch with Sandie Harbison and Brigid Taaffe. The three are going to Santiago de Compestela together in June. Her 5 grandchildren, aged between 15 and 6 are all very bright and very musical, but it is too early yet to know what career they will pursue when they leave school. Joan is now 18 years retired.

Class of 1959
For over 52 years Yousuf Minty has not only practiced medicine but has also made a lasting contribution in medical, cultural, social and educational upliftment of the South African Community. Even as an undergraduate he always had a keen interest in medicine as a means of community service.

He even thought post graduates free of charge because of his love of teaching and was fired for his commitment to ensure equal salaries for all doctors, irrespective of race in the 1970’s. Throughout his career as an Obstetrician and a Gynaecologist, Dr Minty demonstrated his dedication to quality healthcare, community involvement and going beyond the call of duty.

Dr Minty participated in several seminars and served on the HCPSA’s Disciplinary and Ethics committees as well as the Gynaecological Management Board. He was also involved in the construction of Lancet Clinic as well as the upgrading of St Aidans Hospital. Dr Minty was awarded the Health Professions Council of South
Dr Minty said “This is the pinnacle of my 52 year medical career and I’m naturally elated. I am also humbled and appreciative that my work has not gone un-noticed” We would like to salute Dr Minty for his exemplary commitment to quality healthcare, dedication and community involvement.

Joseph Gordon has enjoyed fifty years of happy, healthy, married life together with his wife Ann. They have two children, Andrew and Deborah who are both happily married, and given them four wonderful grandchildren who are a great joy. Joseph tells us “Retirement is much appreciated and a worthy prize after a fulfilling life as a G.P.”

Fergal Nally has written an engaging novel of burning topicality charting the daily life of a driven, self assured character who gets off too easily in a scarcely adversarial court episode. It is a novel that harmonises art and science an amalgam so essential for understanding our world. His book was reviewed in The Irish Journal of Medical Science. The Dr Nicholson Trilogy is available to buy from the Alumni Office in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, The cost is €55 including post and packaging, if you wish to purchase the trilogy please email alumni@rcsi.ie

Joseph Gordon

Saroj Ram, worked in Ibadan, Nigeria and pursued a career in anaesthesia, she moved to Nova Scotia in 1965, and specialised general practice and anaesthesia. She later completed family counselling courses. She retired in 1994, and now writes poetry and has recently published two books.

Class of 1957

Reginald [Reggie] Kneafsey passed away in August 2011, at his home in Northampton, after a prolonged illness. Reggie was born in Ballycastle Co. Mayo in 1922. He came late to a medical career following conscription into the British Army. Fortunately for him he saw little active service before the war came to an end - although he was taught to ski and survive in Arctic conditions in preparation for a northerly invasion via Norway. Although plans changed and Reggie was subsequently sent from the cold to the desert heat of Egypt and then Palestine, as part of a peace keeping force until he was de-mobbed in 1948.

Returning to Northampton, where his mother Kitty [Gordon] was in General Practice, he followed his older brother Desmond (former RCSI president) their eldest brother Gordon studied medicine at Trinity College - and subsequently
became a G.P. in Bolton England. Whilst studying in Dublin, Reggie and his brothers lived with their Aunt Alice - who was the grandmother of another college alumnus - Stephen Crowther (01).

Reggie met his wife, Mai, on an Obstetric rotation to the Rotunda Hospital. She was a midwife from Sligo and they married in 1959. After graduation they moved to Northampton, where he worked as a GP. He loved his garden, music, golfing and watching any sporting event especially rugby which he had played in his youth. Reggie was quiet and shy and had a relaxed manner and a gentle dry and whimsical sense of humor. A quiet pint with friends - and he was in his element.

People always commented how easy going he was. He was a modest man - after saving a drowning child in a local Northampton river he declined to have his identity published in the local Northampton evening paper. Reggie adored Ireland and frequently visited Mai’s family home in the village of Aclare, Co Sligo (Mai’s home village). This was a place he loved and where he was always happy.

Class of 1956
It is with deep sadness that we learn of the passing of Arthur H Smithen who died in July 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

Henry Brown retired in December 2007. He is in good health and walks one mile every morning and plays golf every Saturday. Henry is involved in fundraising for a school which he helped build, he is also on a committee that looks after a childrens camp.

Class of 1955
Cecil Moss lives in Newlands, South Africa and has been retired for many years now and says “the geriatric world is a quiet, slow, environment.”

Class of 1954
Andrzej (Andrew) Endelman, died in April 2011 he was born in Warsaw, Poland on June 6, 1928. After a happy early childhood came World War II and the Nazi occupation. Somehow Andrzej and his parents managed to survive it. In 1946 he left Poland to join his family in London, England. There he learned English and passed his matriculation exams. He was then accepted to the RCSI, where he finished his medical studies.

He and Mai had two children - Marian and Kevin. Kevin has a non medical career in Grand Cayman. Marian is now a midwife in Nottingham. The latter years saw Reggie’s health physically and mentally decline but it was imperative to the family that he should spend his time at home and Mai and Marian nursed him there. He never complained and kept his sense of humor as long as he could. Reggie passed away in August 2011 and was brought home and buried in Aclare, Co Sligo (Mai’s home village). This was a place he loved and where he was always happy.
In 1950 he married Krystyna Górska, his lifelong love and companion. On graduation from medical school, he began his internship in Dublin before coming to Vancouver to continue his training. Once he finished the internship, he and Krystyna joined his parents in Sydney, Australia. There Andrzej established a very successful general practice. Seven years later, they and their new baby returned to Vancouver. By that time Andrzej decided to specialize in internal medicine, and eventually became a gastroenterologist.

He spent a year of his specialization training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. After his stay in Detroit, he and his family returned permanently to Vancouver where he opened his practice. He was appointed by the U.B.C. Faculty of Medicine as Clinical Instructor, and later on as Assistant Clinical Professor and still later Associate Clinical Professor. In 1986, due to his ill health, he was forced to retire from both the practice and the teaching.

Andrzej leaves behind his wife Kryatyna and loving daughter Kathy, as well an extended group of close and devoted friends and honorary family members.

Class of 1953

Charlie O’Connell has retired and has two “hobbies” the first is writing short stories and memoirs, and Newfoundland’s provincial magazine “The Downhome” recently published one of Charlie’s memoirs on skiing. His second hobbie is entertaining old folks by playing piano for “sing alongs” in Nursing Homes and Seniors’ Residences.

Class of 1951

Patrick Percy Rowan, has concentrated on one of his passions, writing, he published over 200 pieces in popular magazines including a long article on the history of RCSI.

“RCSI Boxing Club, set up by Professor A.K Henry, at the British Isles Intervarsity Championships in London on 10th January 1950.” A Trip Down Memory Lane
I wish to express my appreciation of the hospitable and valorous acts of the Italian people who were responsible for saving the lives of many who served with the Allied Forces during World War II, including my own. Words could never express our true gratitude.

It was on August 1st, 1944 that my flying career as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force was rudely interrupted by German anti-aircraft fire, ten miles south-west of Bologna, and I came down from the heavens to parachute amidst a bewildered and excited crowd near the small village of San Lorenzo in Collina. Little did I realise that this precipitious appearance of a stranger was destined to cause much sorrow to many, but at the same time was the beginning of a story that has led to unbreakable bonds of mutual respect and very deep friendships.

By the time I had reached the ground the entire area was in an uproar, and the German troops were hurrying to make their capture. While this atmosphere of excitement reigned, a courageous young Italian of eighteen years, Giuseppe Bernardi by name, dashed down a hillside, at the top of which he had been working, in full view of the Germans and of the excited inhabitants, and begged me to follow him, saying “Amico, amico, partigiani!”

The area was fairly open, with hedges and rivulets dividing the pastures, and it was down one of these rivulets that we both scurried away. Our acquaintance was short-lived, however, as a German patrol cut us off at the base of a valley,
and I lost Giuseppe when I jumped into the stream and took refuge under the bank, which was substantially covered by weeds and foliage.

After three hours of intensive searching the Germans moved up to search the top of the valley. To my amazement Giuseppe reappeared on the scene and beckoned me to follow him. We retraced our steps for a few minutes and then struck off up the hillside. The lad did not seem to be in the least perturbed about the situation, and directed me in sign language to amble along as nonchalantly as possible at his side. After a good ten minutes in the open we passed a family working in a field. This turned out to be the Bernardi family. A few words were exchanged between Giuseppe and one of the band, and we then proceeded on and upwards. Not even the smallest child of the family displayed the least signs of excitement, and I thought the behaviour of all who saw me and obviously recognised me as the Allied pilot, notwithstanding my unkept and shoddy appearance after my confinement in the river, was really magnificent, as no suspicions whatever was created.

Shortly after this I was hurried into a barn, helped up a ladder, and pushed underneath the hay, while the Bernardi family carried on below with their chores as though nothing had happened. During the rest of the day food, water, and civilian clothes were brought to me, and I watched the Germans with considerable apprehension through a tiny aperture in the barn taking photographs of the remains of my plane, which had
plummeted to earth not a hundred and fifty yards up the hillside, and within two hundred yards of the German High Command of the Area.

That evening, after sunset, Giuseppe and a friend appeared, and I took my leave of the family after showering my thanks on them for their kind-hearted and extremely brave action. For the next two days, I followed Giuseppe and his friend, hiding during the hours of daylight and marching at night to the Appennines and safety amongst the Italian partisans. After handing me over to this band, Giuseppe said farewell and returned to which I thought would be his own band in San Lorenzo in Collina.

After two months I escaped through the lines with four other Allied escapees, Steve Stevenson of New Zealand, Herman Lenz of South Africa, Fred O’Hara of Canada and Michael Stewart of America. During this time we were constantly helped and sheltered by the Italians and the partisans. Hundreds of other Allied personnel received similar treatment from these very kind people.

It has been one of my greatest ambitions to return to Italy to thank the Italian people for their courageousness, and especially my rescuer Giuseppe Bernardi and his family. A few weeks ago, this ambition became reality and I sought them out having forgotten all their names and all means of contact. I received a most profound shock, when I retraced my steps to San Lorenzo as an excited but overwhelmed Bernardi family welcomed me tearfully into their small homestead, with the dreadful news that on August 7th, 1944, Giuseppe had been captured by the Germans, tortured and interrogated and then handed over to the notorious Fascist Zanarini gang of the Black Brigade and brutally murdered for having effected the escape of an Allied airman. Gallant young Giuseppe refused to open his mouth, and had given his life for a complete stranger who could neither talk his language nor thank him properly for his courageous deed. By helping me he had not only sacrificed himself, but had placed in severe jeopardy his entire family, who had sheltered me under the very noses of the German. I am happy to say that the members of the Zanarini were brought to trial a few months ago and various prison sentences were meted out. The two directly responsible for the Bernardi murder, Zambelli and Zanarini, are unfortunately still at large.

It is with great pleasure that I have lately discovered that Giuseppe’s young brother, Quinto, is at present in England under the auspices of the International Help for Children, as a token of gratitude to an Italian family which was prepared to give its all for the sake of the Allied cause.

I feel I am voicing my gratitude of thousands of men of the Allied force when I extend my profound thanks to the Italians who gave up so much in helping men like myself. They and their actions have definitely not been forgotten, and if there is anything that people like myself have the power or means to do for them to show our gratitude in future, we will surely do it.

John Anderson (1955)

Article first appeared in the British Italian magazine Rivista in the 1950’s

Anyone with information on John Anderson or his family who lived in South Africa, could you contact lsherwin@rcsi.ie
“Although a work of fiction, this book is the closest thing to an accurate account of life as an NCHD that has ever been written in Ireland. The hero of the story is a decent man trying to do his best in a health service run by incompetent administrators who belong under a circus tent. It is at times funny, at times tragic, but at all times it has the ring of sincerity. Although none of its characters are based on real people, such a fine novel could only be written by someone with experience of our dysfunctional system. Anyone thinking of becoming a Doctor in Ireland should be required read this book.” Dr. R Hanley.

Strong words from Dr. Ruairi Hanley, an occasionally controversial writer for the Irish Medical Times opened the book launch for Time to Retract at the RCSI earlier this year. The RCSI has been know for furthering the advancement of surgical and medical knowledge throughout it’s history and now it was home for another Irish first.

The idea for the book was created as a challenge between friends to write a novel at Hartigan’s Pub on Leeson Street Lower, the main character’s name, Kevin Hartigan, is based on that Pubs’ name.

The author, Paul Dhillon, is a recent graduate of the RCSI (2009) and began work on the book at the start of his Intern training at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Work continued on the book

Time to Retract
A Novel by Paul Dhillon
through his surgical Intern training in Beaumont Hospital and then during his subsequent work as a Senior House Officer in Emergency Medicine at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital in Limerick.

“Hopefully, this book will allow a window into some of the challenges faced by Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors in Ireland over the past few years, which have been difficult for a number of reasons. It’s not everyone’s experience but at least medical students can hopefully have a better idea of what awaits them after graduation. More importantly, it might be an impetus for others to write and share their experiences and improve the system.”

The title for the book, a play on the phrase ‘Time to Reflect’, was created next to the fireplace in Boherbue, Mallow, Co. Cork by General Practitioner Dr. Leonard Leader (RCSI 1974) and his wife Dr. Mary Joyce Leader (Galway 1975) whose son Dr. Frank Leader (RCSI 2008) was an influence on some of the caricatures presented in the book.

An unpublished excerpt from the book was recently awarded the Aindreas McEntee 2011 Irish Society of Medical Writers Prize which is to be presented in Cork at the Societies AGM this year.

“It was actually much more difficult to write than I had ever imagined, I have so much more respect for authors after this experience than I ever had before. I don’t know how good the writing actually is but hopefully it will have raised some money for the charities that gave me such wonderful opportunities during medical school.”

A graphic shot of an operation being conducted in Kabul, Afghanistan creates the cover image and it was taken just after September 11th, 2010 in the operating theatre of the EMERGENCY hospital, one of the charities that has received funds from the sale of the book.

Two other charities that received funds from the sale of the book are The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International through the Rotary Club of Dublin Central and Cause and Affect, a charity that uses small amounts of money to affect change directly to local community organizations around the world.

The final charity that received funds was Save a Child’s Heart (SACH). This is an Israeli-based organization, recently granted special consultative status by the United Nations, which exhibited a photo exhibition of their organizations work at the RCSI a number of years ago. The donations from the book will become part of the funds used to buy new ventilators for the organization that has performed life saving surgery on 2,600 children from over 40 countries while training a number of Palestinian physicians and conducting clinics in the area.

Work on the second follow up novel, a pre-quell of double the length, is continuing in Canada where Paul is pursuing his post-graduate training in Family and Emergency Medicine while continuing research work through the Retrieval, Emergency and Disaster medicine research and development unit research group in Limerick headed by Dr. Fergal Cummins (UCC).

Copies of the book are available by emailing the author and making a 10 Euro donation to be distributed equally to the four charities or through a 10 Euro donation to one of the four charities of the purchasers’ choice. Contact for copies is through email at paul.dhillon@gmail.com