



## Dean's Staff Awards Presented to Kevin McGuigan and Paola Della Porta

Dr. Kevin McGuigan in Physiology and Medical Physics and Dr. Paola Della Porta in the Research Office were named as this year's winners of the Dean's Award.

They were each presented with a commemorative plaque and a cash prize of €1000 by Professor Cathal Kelly, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the annual Medical Faculty Dinner, which took place on Friday, 2nd October.

Introduced in 2008, the Dean's Award is a scheme that recognises the diverse contributions and achievements made by RCSI staff. The awards honour members of the College who have shown an outstanding commitment to developing and supporting the work of the College.

Professor Cathal Kelly, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences said "One of the great pleasures of these awards is that we get to recognise excellent RCSI people, who exemplify our noble purpose – Endeavour, Innovation, Collaboration and Service. Both Kevin and Paola are talented and remarkably able people, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to present them with these awards."

He continued "Paola is a remarkably hard working lady and talented individual and the best linguist in the place, while Kevin is something of a renaissance man – a great teacher, supportive colleague, runs one of our best outreach programmes, and has brought science to the developing world."

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## RCSI-Bahrain Celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This month, RCSI Bahrain is celebrating its 5th anniversary. The past five years have represented a huge success for the university since its official opening on 13th October 2004.

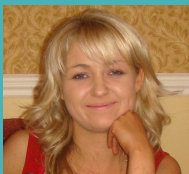
With an initial intake of 28 medical students representing seven different countries in October 2004, RCSI Bahrain now has more than 700 undergraduate students from 35 countries worldwide. It has 75 full time staff and a mixture of both Irish and Arabic professionals. In February 2009, a new purpose built university, was officially opened by

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President Mary McAleese, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Bahrain. The state of the art campus, with a capacity for 2,000 students, caters for the growing number of students from Bahrain, the Gulf region and beyond, providing undergraduate courses in Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery and Postgraduate studies in Nursing, Healthcare Ethics and Law.

Founding President Professor Kevin O'Malley said "Those of us who have worked on the Bahrain project are privileged to have contributed to a bold exercise in healthcare education. It has been a challenging endeavour mainly because of the demanding time frame we set ourselves. We will graduate doctors, nurses and masters degree holders in June 2010, a mere six years after our foundation in 2004. The unanimity of purpose exhibited by our staff, coupled with the wonderful support of our RCSI Dublin colleagues, have proved to be a powerful combination in achieving our success to date."

## TEN MINUTES WITH...



Leila Wilson,  
Surgical Training

1. **What is your favourite film?**  
The Lord of the Rings trilogy
2. **What career might you have chosen if you weren't in your current one?**  
A Journalist or maybe an illustrator/cartoonist
3. **What is your favourite way to relax?**  
Reading
4. **What is the trait you most admire in yourself?**  
My sense of humour
5. **What kind of music do you like?**  
Not sure where to start with this one..... The Beatles, The Kinks, The Rolling Stones, The Smiths, The Cure, Bob Dylan, U2, Fleetwood Mac, Eric Clapton
6. **What book are you reading now?**  
'Rhino What You Did Last Summer' by Ross O'Carroll Kelly
7. **Who or what makes you laugh?** My 5 year old son Aaron makes me laugh every single day
8. **Where is your favourite holiday destination in Ireland / abroad?**  
Kerry/South of Spain
9. **What world figure do you most admire?**  
Does Morrissey count?
10. **Are you a sports fan?** No, sorry!

## RCSI Appoints New Sports Coordinator

Aidan Kavanagh has been appointed as the new Sports Coordinator at RCSI. Originally from Greystones in Co. Wicklow, Aidan studied in the UK for his BSc Hons in Sport Health and Exercise. Since completing his degree in 2007, Aidan spent a number of years working in student unions and university sports departments in the UK helping to promote competition and fair play as well as increasing participation throughout the institutions. He is also a qualified coach in a number of sports including football and rugby.

Speaking about being appointed to his new position, Aidan said "I am delighted to be here at RCSI and look forward to the challenges ahead and working with a number of different people and departments. My main aim is to help promote health and well being as well as physical fitness. I believe being physically active can help to improve study and concentration as well as reducing stress, and in a high intensity college like RCSI, every little can help."

He added "I do not see the role restricted to just the student cohort but to also include the staff. I am passionate about athlete centred coaching and developing the performances of all our sports teams to ensure we are as competitive as possible in all competitions. I hope to promote the name of RCSI through sport as well as undertaking a number of fundraising events."



If you have any questions, queries or suggestions about the gym, sports teams or any sporting event then please do not hesitate to contact Aidan on 8534 or [aidankavanagh@rcsi.ie](mailto:aidankavanagh@rcsi.ie)

## Date for your Diary

### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November

The Sports and Social club are organising tickets for the world premiere of The Birds in the Gate Theatre. Tickets cost €15 for members and €30 for non members. Please contact Patricia Lyons at [pylons@rcsi.ie](mailto:pylons@rcsi.ie).

### Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December

The S&S club are organising tickets for the Giuseppe Verdi opera 'Aida' in the Gaiety Theatre. Tickets cost €47.50 for members

Please contact Key McKeon at [kmckeon@rcsi.ie](mailto:kmckeon@rcsi.ie)



### Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of January

The Sports and Social are organising tickets to see Christy Moore, in Vicar Street. Tickets cost €24.25 for members and €49.50 for non-members. Please contact Graeme Kelly at [graemekelly@rcsi.ie](mailto:graemekelly@rcsi.ie).

## Recent Appointments

Welcome to this months' new recruits including Melinda Ivanka, Admisssions; Henry Osborne, Erica Tierney, Orlan Haydon, Amos Matsiko, Anatomy; Rory Casey, Biology; Patrick Byrne, Building Services; Joanna Fay, Cancer Genetics; Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Clinical Microbiology; Anna Awor, Epidemiology; Eoin Keith, IT; Catherine McGowan, Kevin O'Donovan, Library; Barbara Coffey, MCT; Martin White, Neonatal; Elaine O'Brien, Pathology; Aoife O'Connor, Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry; Maria Delgado, Angela Farrelly, Judith Rauen, Franziska Walter and Bettina Baumann, Physiology; Ciana Maher and Lisa Mellon, Psychology; Vijay Kumar, Ben Ryan, Catherine McCarthy and Dorothea Tilley, School of Pharmacy.

# Dean's Staff Awards (continued from page 1)

## **Dr. Kevin McGuigan – Academic Award Winner**

Kevin, a senior lecturer in the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics, has worked with RCSI for just over 18 years. During this time he has devoted himself to excellence in teaching and research. Kevin's research into the area of solar disinfection of drinking water has had a direct impact on 2.5 million people in over 35 developing countries.

Kevin is also the Director of the RCSI Mini-Med School programme which he has helped run in the College for the past seven years. He received funding through the RCSI Stepping Stones Initiative to establish a Mini-Med School Road Show in cities outside Dublin (the first of which took place in Waterford in September 2008).

From the very beginning of his career with RCSI, Kevin has developed a tireless interest in biomedical-related physics and is active in the teaching of biophysics to undergraduate students in medicine, physiotherapy and pharmacy. He also plays a key role in the postgraduate training and development of the College's post-doctoral fellows, PhD and MSc students.



**Kevin in Harare, Zimbabwe on one of his SODISWATER project visits**

Kevin said "I was taken completely by surprise when Cathal Kelly announced my name at the Faculty Dinner. I was so dumbstruck that I almost had a Sally Field/Gwyneth Paltrow moment when I accepted the award. Of course it was only once I had sat down that I realised that I should have thanked my wife and daughter for their support and patience during the many times my research has taken me abroad; my colleagues who nominated me and the other SODISWATER, MiniMed School and Foundation Year team members who did most of the work and deserve most of the credit.

## **Dr. Paola Della Porta – Support Award Winner**

Paola, Associate Director of Research at the RCSI Research Institute started working with the College in 2002. She has played an integral part in international scientific collaborations with the University of Naples. This collaboration has resulted in a successful post-doctoral mobility programme between RCSI and Naples, and a Drug Discovery Programme between RCSI, DCU, Montpellier, Naples and Moscow. In addition, Paola has played a key role in developing the HEA PRTL Cycle 5 proposal for the establishment of the RCSI Translational Research Centre, as part of the Translational Research Hub, in collaboration with DCU and NUIM.

Paola works tirelessly to promote collaboration with the Research Institute

without departmental boundaries. She also continues to provide high-level administration support to all of RCSI's research staff and operates as a liaison with EU and government funding agencies. Paola also assisted with the implementation of a new research database and electronic recruitment, grant registration and grant application system.

Speaking about her award, Paola commented "I feel very honored and fortunate for having been nominated and winning the award. I am sure there are many colleagues in RCSI that deserve the award as much or more than I do. The support to my nomination was a very kind sign of appreciation from my colleagues, which once again confirms how fortunate I am to work with them in the College. This award is very meaningful to me as it is the college culture, collaboration, and service, that is providing the means and the environment for my professional development and growth and is making my everyday job challenging and enjoyable."



**Paola receiving her award from Prof Kelly**

## **September Council Minutes**

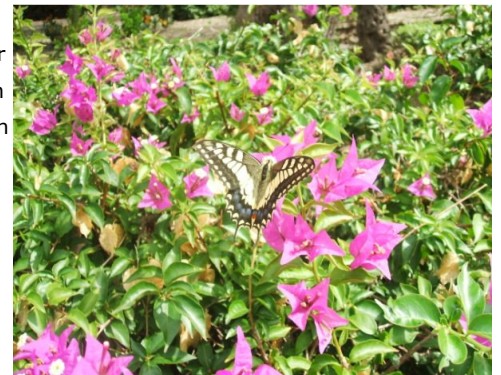
On Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Council met and discussed a number of issues including:

- **King Hamad General Hospital** Council were updated on both the Hospital and Oasis projects in Bahrain.
- **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan** - The President advised Council of a meeting held with representatives of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan and RCSI to discuss areas of co-operation between both Colleges.

## **Did you know?** *In 1940, a public air-raid shelter was constructed in the basement of RCSI.*

## **Competition Corner**

Congratulations to Ann Shannon in the Department of Microbiology who is the winner of this month's photography competition. Ann wins a €50 voucher for the St Stephens Green Shopping Centre for her photo taken of a Mediterranean butterfly which she captured while on holiday in Taormina in Sicily. To be in with a chance of winning next month's photography competition and voucher please e-mail your photo to [communications@rcsi.ie](mailto:communications@rcsi.ie) by no later than Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November.



## Doctor Rics Pics



*Farewell Deirdre*



*Congratulations Suzanne & Michael*



*Wedding Bells for Ciaran & Paula*



*Collette Bishop and Andrew Taaffe  
at Deirdre's Leaving Party*



*Married Bliss for Jim & Ellen*

# Have We Got News for You

With the winter and colder weather upon us, Dr. Rics has been keeping a close ear to the ground for news that will warm the cockles of his heart.

As mentioned last month, Dr. Rics promised to include a photo of the wedding of Ciaran Butler in IT and Paula Mansell in Surgical Training on their wedding day in Italy. Judging by this beautiful photo, it was certainly worth the wait! Dr. Rics hopes that the happy couple are settling in well to married life.

And congratulations to Suzanne Sullivan in the Institute of Leadership and Healthcare Management and her fiancé Michael McLeod. Michael popped the question on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, as they took a romantic walk along Vico Road, Dublin.

Somebody who is somewhat of a pro in

the marriage stakes is Head Porter Jim Sherlock, who recently celebrated his 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary to wife Ellen. Congratulations to both of them and wishing you many more happy years to come.

Dr. Rics had a tear in his eye, as Deirdre Lynch in the Students Fees Office waved goodbye to the Board Room at her retirement do, held in the College at the end of September. Deirdre, whose husband Denis also joined in on the party, worked at RCSI for an impressive 30 years. Dr. Rics wishes her all the best for the future.

Well, that's it until next month. As always, send all your news and photos about any department developments, sports, births, engagements etc. to [communications@rcsi.ie](mailto:communications@rcsi.ie).

## Dr Rics' Recipes

### SELECTION OF MINI BRUSCHETTAS

Serves 4

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large baguette or sour dough loaf, cut into 12 bite size slices
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- Rocket & mixed leaves

#### For the Brie Bruschetta:

- 40 g brie, sliced into 4
- 4 tsp basil pesto
- 1 tomato, sliced

#### For the Smoked Mackerel Bruschetta

- 1 fillet smoked mackerel (100 g)
- 30 half-fat crème fraiche
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 chives, finely chopped

#### For the Tomato and Mozzarella Bruschetta

- 40g fresh buffalo mozzarella, sliced into 4
- 1 tomato, sliced
- 3 leaves of fresh basil, shredded



#### Method

- Put the slices of bread on a baking tray. Mix the olive oil and crushed garlic together and drizzle on the bread. Bake in an oven at 175 degrees centigrade for 5-8 minutes until golden brown. Remove and let them cool.

- **For the smoke mackerel bruschetta:** mix the crème fraiche, lemon juice and chives together. Cut the mackerel fillet into 4 pieces and place each piece on a slice of the toasted bread. Top with the crème fraiche mix.

- **For the Brie Bruschetta:** spread the pesto evenly between 4 slices of the toasted bread. Place a slice of tomato and then a slice of brie and put under the grill until the brie begins to melt.

- **For the tomato and mozzarella bruschetta:** put a slice of tomato on each piece of bread. Top with a slice of mozzarella and put under the grill until the mozzarella begins to melt. Take out and top with a little shredded basil.

- **To plate** – Put one of each of bruschetta and serve with rocket and mixed leaf salad.