



Internal Memo

To: All RCSI Staff & Council
From: Cathal Kelly (CEO)
Subject: **CEO Monthly Update**
Date: 5th March 2012

Dear Colleague,

As you will see from this month's news, the activities and achievements in RCSI continue at great pace! It is fantastic to see the great work that happens in this College and the commitment, energy and determination with which all projects and activities are undertaken by staff from every corner of the College.

CHARTER DAY MEETINGS & DINNER

The annual Charter Day meetings took place in the College at the beginning of February. More than 50 national and international speakers gave lectures over the three day event on wide range of surgical topics. Dr. L.D Britt, Past President of the American College of Surgeons delivered the Johnson & Johnson Lecture on 'Acute Care Surgery in the 21st Century'. The 87th Abraham Colles Lecture was given by Dr. Patrick Gullane, University of Toronto, who discussed the 'Creativity & Innovation in Head and Neck Surgery: The Journey of a Lifetime'.

The event culminated with the Charter Day Dinner on Saturday 4th February. Our thanks to the Events team, led by **Cara McVeigh; Jim Sherlock** and the Porters; **Ollie O'Flanagan & John Quinlan** in Media Services as well as **Darren O'Leary** and **Billy Cahill** who all worked so hard to make the three day event such a success.

MINI MED WATERFORD

The third RCSI TY Mini-Med programme took place in Waterford last week. The participation of leading medical professionals from Waterford Regional 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. We very much appreciate the efforts of the Organising Committee which comprises **Fred Jackson, Joe O'Beirne, Riona Mulcahy**. They were ably supported by **Jennie O'Leary and Carmel Ryan** who carried out the administrative work.

RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Congratulations to **Ian Kelleher**, PhD student of Professor Mary Cannon, who has had a paper entitled "Suicidal Behaviour in Adolescents with Psychotic Symptoms" accepted for publication in the top-ranking journal Archives of General Psychiatry. Ian has now had four papers accepted for publication in four consecutive months. A new record for the Department of Psychiatry!

MOLECULAR MEDICINE

Congratulations to **Aine Nolan** (HRB PhD scholar) on winning the Sheppard Prize for Best Poster at the Annual Beaumont Hospital Scientific Meeting Aine's presentation on the 'role of novel oestrogen-sensitive microRNAs in colon carcinoma tumour promotion' is a collaborative study between Molecular Medicine and Cancer Genetics.

Stephen Keely received a Science Foundation Ireland's Technology Innovation Development Award announced by the Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock TD and Director General of SFI, Prof Mark Ferguson. The TIDA award provides financial support to research teams to enable them to progress their research from concept to market.

A research paper "Sexual dimorphism and oestrogen regulation of KCNE3 expression modulates the functional properties of KCNQ1 K⁺ channels" published by **Prof Brian Harvey** was the most viewed paper from the November 2011 issue of The Journal of Physiology during the first three months of its publication. Brian also presented this work at the International Meeting on Optimization of Mouse Models in Human Disease, held this month in Chile

MCT

Many congratulations to **Yvonne Smith** and **Sinead Toomey** (MCT) on receiving, respectively, an RCSI Alumni Award to present her work at the Cancer Symposium in Melbourne, and an SFI Travel Fellowship to visit the M D Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. These are the best reasons for our young investigators leaving behind them a significant 'carbon footprint'!

International collaboration is important for our 'global brand' so we're very pleased to see publication by Academic Press of the book *Translating Mechanisms of Orofacial Neurological Disorder*, edited by Kobayashi, Koshikawa, Iwata (Nihon University, Tokyo) and Waddington (MCT); this reflects the long-standing collaboration between Nihon University and RCSI.

GRADUATE ENTRY PROGRAMME (GEP)

Congratulations to **Seamus Sreenan**, **Tom Farrell** and all of the **GEP-involved staff** in Sandyford, Stephens Green and Connolly Hospital for full Medical Council accreditation until 2017 of the Graduate Entry Programme.

RCSI DEBATING TRIUMPH

As you may know the Irish Times Debate 2012 concluded with the RCSI being crowned the teams victors. The RCSI team comprising **Eoin Kelleher** and **Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn** supported the motion '*That this House would abolish prisons*'. We are very proud of their fantastic achievement. The last time RCSI won this debate was in 1963 when Desmond King won the individual prize.

Our thanks also to the RCSI staff – particularly **Margie Morgan, Corriena Brien, Orna Tighe, the Porters** – and the many others who support students in their extra-curricular activities in the evenings and weekends. This support is often less visible and acknowledged than the formal academic support given to students, but just as important in making student life round, worthwhile and successful.

NURSING & MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE

The 31st Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Conference took place in the College on 23rd February. Approximately 170 nurses and midwives attended the conference entitled '*Nursing and Midwifery Practice in a Global Community: Collaborating and Networking for the Future*'.

A lot of hard work goes in to organising this conference every year by the Faculty and congratulations in particular to **Geralyn Hynes, James Hayes** and the Nursing committee for organising another outstanding conference.

RCSI BAHRAIN

Congratulations to **Fatima Al Hannan** who earlier this month was awarded a Masters in Science from RCSI for her work on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) and obesity; the first higher degree to be awarded in laboratory-based research in RCSI Bahrain.

Best wishes

Cathal