



## Internal Memo

**To:** All RCSI Staff & Council  
**From:** Cathal Kelly (CEO)  
**Subject:** **CEO Monthly Update**  
**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012

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Dear Colleagues,

### **SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

The School of Pharmacy is now ten years old – we congratulate **Professor Paul Gallagher** and staff of the School on the School's many achievements in education and in research – not least how they have integrated into and benefited every aspect of RCSI College life. We look forward to marking this tenth anniversary at the upcoming graduation ceremonies for this year's class, and also to wish Paul and his team the very best in their Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland Accreditation Visit which happens 27-29th November.

### **NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL**

The College was pleased to see the recent Government announcement concerning the development of the National Paediatric Hospital. While we were disappointed that it did not go to Connolly Hospital, the most important fact is that its development is again underway. For our students and staff working in Paediatrics, it is essential that we can anticipate a world-class hospital facility within which to train clinically and to conduct research. Thank you to all those who worked long hours on the project on behalf of RCSI and its teaching hospitals. We are confident the work undertaken has developed our teamwork in the interests of the Academic Health Centre of RCSI, Connolly and Beaumont Hospitals

### **GEP OPEN DAY**

Thanks to all associated with GEP and the Schools of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy, supported by our Admissions staff, who are spending time this month to run open days or evenings for intending students. It's a very important opportunity to meet graduates from other colleges who can consider coming here for a second foundation degree.

## **CONFERRING CEREMONIES**

Thank you to all those involved in exam boards and in graduation activities in the last month, particularly the staff of the Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA) Office, the Communications Office and the Porters. November 15th will be the largest conferring ever with 750 students being conferred at 4 ceremonies.

## **SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

As the RCSI representative on the High Level Group on Irish Education Cooperation with Brazil, **Dr Helen McVeigh** travelled on the recent Higher Education Trade Mission during which President Michael D Higgins signed agreements with counterparts in Brazil. This agreement includes Ireland for the first time in the 'Science without Borders' programme which fully funds Brazilian graduates to come to Ireland to complete their PhD studies. RCSI has the capacity to accommodate up to 30 of these students.

## **SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**HRB Day Surgery** project, a HRB grant application for funding related to the scheme- Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination, was successful. The grant is novel in that the collaborators include the National College of Art & Design and the National Adult Literacy Agency as well the Irish College of General Practitioners. Congratulations to **Prof S Cowman (PI)** and **Dr Georgina Gethin** who are the RCSI collaborators.

Congratulations to **Maeve Corcoran** who has been awarded a Cochrane Fellowship by the HRB, to explore the Impact of Nutrition on the Healing of Diabetic Foot Ulcers, Maeve is Supervised by **Dr. Zena Moore**, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery

**Dr Zena Moore**, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery is leading a research team exploring "Pressure ulcer prevalence and prevention strategies – a comparison between Ireland and Norway", the team have successfully received research funding from the Norwegian College of Nursing (Norsk Sykepleierforbund NSF), 2012.

**Deirdre Hyland** and **Elaine Mac Hale** from the RCSI Clinical Research Centre, with Mary McGrath, Nurse Manager of the UCD CRC in St Vincent's Hospital, co-presented a symposium on *The Evolving Roles of Clinical Research Nurses in Ireland* at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN) in Houston, Texas in October. The symposium attracted a capacity audience and was very well received, indicated by the number of questions that followed and the amount of compliments received afterwards, with a number of delegates requesting follow-up communication.

## **MCT**

Many congratulations to RCSI investigators **Raquel Domingo-Fernandez**, **Isabella Bray** and **Ray Stallings** who participated in an international study on the paediatric cancer neuroblastoma leading to an article in the high impact journal Nature Genetics. The study demonstrated how a gene called LIN28B, which blocks the processing of a family of tumour suppressor microRNAs, causes neuroblastoma to develop in a novel preclinical disease model. It is expected that interference with this molecular pathway will offer novel approaches for the treatment of this disease.

**Prof John Waddington** (MCT) has recently returned from a lecture tour of Japan under a Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He delivered lectures at Nihon University and Hoshi University, Tokyo, and at the universities of Osaka, Niigata and Nagoya.

**Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** MCT has teamed up with Dr. Jim Wilson from the University of Edinburgh and former Irish Olympic boxer, Francie Barrett, in order to trace the origins of Ireland's Travelling people. An event is being held to discuss these findings as part of the Dublin City of Science on **Sunday 18th November**. In 1996, 19 year old Francie Barrett captured the imagination of the Irish general public with his impressive performances in the Atlanta Olympics. Once forbidden to join his local boxing club because he is a Traveller, it was a defining moment in Traveller history when Francie was nominated to carry the Irish flag at the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Now 16 years on, in the same year that fellow traveller John Joe Nevin won silver medal in boxing at the London games, this new research hopes to shed light on the history of the Travelling Community in Ireland.

#### **PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**

A graphic of a Perspective by Dr Declan Gaynor (RCSI MUB) and Dr Darren Griffith (Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, RCSI) has appeared on the cover sheet of Dalton Transactions, 2012, Vol 41(43), one of the world's most prestigious journals in inorganic chemistry. Perspectives are written by invitation of the editor on areas of significant current interest and Declan and Darren's article was on 'The prevalence of metal-based drugs as therapeutic or diagnostic agents: beyond platinum'. This joint RCSI MUB/RCSI research collaboration is on-going and is a most welcome development.

#### **PHYSIOTHERAPY**

The Practice Education Team from the School of Physiotherapy recently launched a new, interactive online module in clinical teaching. 'Assessment Skills for Clinical Teachers' was developed by the **Aileen Barrett, Eric Clarke** and the team of tutors - **Fiona Daly, Anne Marie Lydon, Sarah Slattery, Mary Loughnane** and **Ruth Fewer** - from Beaumont, Galway University, Cork University, Kerry General and Waterford Regional hospitals. It was designed to provide free continuing professional development for clinical physiotherapists. Funded by the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL), the module incorporates tutorials videos and practical approaches to best-practice in assessment and feedback in clinical education. The launch was attended by the Physiotherapy and Practice Education Teams, **Dr. Catherine O'Mahony**, NAIRTL Project Manager and the President and CEO of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists."

#### **RCSI INNOVATIONS**

Thanks to all those who are contributing to the 'RCSI Innovations Exhibition'. This event is being organised by the Communication Office and will showcase research and innovations in medicine, physiotherapy, surgery and technology being used throughout the College. The exhibition will be held in the Exam Hall in RCSI (123 St. Stephens' Green, Dublin 2) on **Thursday 29th November 2012**. It will feature demonstrations our Schools of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy; as well as from the Departments of Surgery, Anatomy and Physiology & Medical Physics.

## **PERDANA UNIVERSITY - ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND (PU-RCSI)**

### **First Conference Presentation by a PU-RCSI Undergraduate Student**

PU-RCSI student **Kohgulakuhan Yogalingam** presented work he completed in RCSI Dublin as part of the PU-RCSI Summer Research Programme at the 2nd Malaysian Psychology Conference, 'Moving Psychology Forward' which was held on 20-21st October 2012 at Monash University Sunway Campus. His presentation was entitled 'Experiences of Crisis Pregnancy among Irish and Non-Irish adults living in Ireland: Findings from a nationally representative contraception and crisis pregnancy survey'. This was the first conference presentation by a PU-RCSI undergraduate and was attended by approx. 600 students, researchers and staff. Well done **Kuhan** !

### **Inaugural PU-RCSI Student Summer Research Symposium**

The inaugural PU-RCSI Student Summer Research Symposium took place in Perdana on Wednesday October 17th, 2012. The research programme was coordinated by **Dr Karen Morgan** and was attended by more than 150 PU-RCSI students and faculty. The session was chaired by **Dr Prof Dr Ammu Radhakrishnan**, Professor, Dept. of Immunology, School of Medicine, International Medical University (IMU). She was joined by a panel of judges comprising PU-RCSI academics and researchers, along with **Dr Mohammad Akira from UPM**.

Students undertook their research projects in RCSI, MARDI Research Institute, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Penang General Hospital and IMU. A total of 3 conference abstracts have been submitted, one of which was presented the 2nd Malaysian Psychology Conference on 21st October. A further two manuscripts are in preparation and another has been submitted to a peer review journal.

Best wishes

Cathal