



Internal Memo

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

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are settling back into the new Academic year. There is a fantastic buzz about the place after the quieter summer period. This week we welcomed 477 new students to the College to study Medicine, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy. Well done to the teams in Admissions, Student Services, Porters, Events and the IT departments for all their hard work in making the various events throughout the week such a success.

Great Pink Run Team

Well done to **Aisling Hurley** and **Samantha McGregor** for their organisation of the Great Pink Run in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland. Over €110,000 was raised for Breast Cancer Ireland in support of pioneering breast cancer research programmes, and the provision of more personalised treatment plans for patients diagnosed. The sun shone on over 3,000 participants and their families. The Point Village venue was a sea of Pink with balloon modellers, stilt walkers and face painters galore amidst the amusements, refreshments and the sound of 98FM's Big Red!

The British Pharmacological Society Undergraduate Prize in Clinical Pharmacology 2012, award to the best students in the 2012 medical class in participating colleges, has gone to **Dr Peter de la Harpe** and **Dr Mary Flanagan**. Congratulations to them both on this great achievement. They will be presented with their prize at the annual BPS Winter meeting, to be held in London at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. Professor David Williams manages the awards for RCSI. Congratulations to all involved in these awards.

RCSI ALUMNI WEEKEND

More than 300 people, including 230 alumni from the classes of 1952, '62 and '72, attended this year's Alumni Weekend from September 13th-15th. Building on the success of previous Alumni Weekends, this year's attendance proved to be a record.

Beginning with a welcome reception held in the Board Room, alumni took part in a variety of activities over the weekend, including a Whistle Stop Tour to Kildare, a Golf Outing at the Glen of the Downs, Viking Splash Tour and a Sea Safari of Dublin Bay.

A scientific meeting included presentations by alumni on a range of topics as well as a presentation on present and future plans for the College, which gave alumni a good picture of the research, education, diversity, international activity and overall development of their alma mater. Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences also gave a speech on the importance of educating today's medical students to be tomorrow's leaders.

Well done to **Louise Sherwin** on the organisation of this event for our much valued Alumni.

HR TEAM at RCSI supporting Barretstown Camp

The HR Team participated in the Annual Eversheds Charity Sports Day for Barretstown on Thursday 13th September. The HR Team, playing under the pseudo name 'Scrubs' showcased their sporting prowess for old favourites such as the egg-and-spoon race; three- legged race; obstacle course and spacing hopping. The Team came in third place over eighteen teams who competed on the day. The event was held to raise funds for a specially-designed camp which will provide therapeutic recreation programmes for children suffering from serious illnesses and their families.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK (UHN) & MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

For the first time 11 RCSI students were placed in UHN to undertake research electives over the summer period. This successful initiative, managed by **Alice McGarvey**, was possible through one of our alumni **Professor Kieran Murphy**, Acting Chief of Radiology, UHN Mt Sinai and we are most grateful. Feedback from the students has been fantastic and they proved terrific ambassadors of the College. We look forward to continued partnership with UNH.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Congratulations to RCSI student, Karen Jordan who has been named as a winner in the 2012 Undergraduate Awards – an international academic awards programme that identifies top students across the globe through their innovative undergraduate research. The award will be presented by the President of Ireland, Michael Higgins, on November 9th. Well done to **Paul Gallagher** and all in the school of Pharmacy. Congratulations to **Dr. Garry Duffy** and **Dr. Helena Kelly** who worked with Karen on the project. Also, well done to the SC1 module co-ordinators : **Drs. Marc Devocelle, Fiona O Brien** and **Steve Kerrigan**.

I'm also delighted to announce that **William White** was short listed in the same category, (research supervisor **Dr Marc Devocelle**), and he will also receive his certificate from President Higgins.

ANATOMY DEPARTMENT

Jane Holland, Lecturer in Anatomy, has successfully defended her PhD thesis 'Bone microstructure, turnover and periarticular osteopathies' . As a member of staff, she had two External Examiners – one from Aberdeen and one from Queen's Belfast – as well as an Internal Examiner. Congratulations to Jane on her achievement – she hopes to be conferred in November.

RCSI @ Higher Options 2012

Well done to **Celeste Golden** and her team, for the excellent representation at the higher options exhibition. While it is very hard to capture the success of these activities, we hear all the time from students of the persuasive power of personal contact in making their choices about colleges to attend. Just as important for those who don't choose RCSI, or the health professional courses in any campus, is to see RCSI in that public space with all of the other Irish HEIs. Thanks to those who gave of their time to represent RCSI at the exhibition: **Siofra Neary; Stephen Joseph White; Stefan Eckhardt; Terence Smeaton; Stephen Garry; Kenneth Patterson; Benedict Ryan; Michelle Flood; Gianpiero Cavalleri; Robert Thomas Brady; Mary Clarke; Caroline Herron; Marian Brennan (MCT); Maria Morgan; Kevin McGuigan**

RETIREMENT ALEC ELLIOT

This month saw the retirement of our much esteemed colleague **Alec Elliott**. I would like to acknowledge Alec's commitment, endeavour and enormous contribution to the College over the past 39 years. I wish him and his wife, Joan, the very best for the future'. Characteristically, Alec chose not to have a large farewell reception and I (also a former student of Alec's!) made a presentation of a dedicated College print to Alec, joined by his wife Joan and sister Deirdre at the event. Colleagues from the Anatomy Department and Foundation Year said farewell to Alec at a small reception.

NOCA Inaugural Governance Board

The first board meeting of the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) took place on Thursday 20th September. The NOCA Governance Board is an independent voluntary board which has been convened to guide the clinical decision making and strategic direction of NOCA. The meeting was chaired by RCSI President **Professor Patrick Broe** with **Professor Sean Tierney**, Director of Professional Development and Practice; **Mr Ken Mealy**, Council Member and NOCA Clinical Director; and **Fiona Cahill**, NOCA Manager, also representing RCSI at the meeting.

i360medical

i360medical, a spin-out company from RCSI, where it was formerly known as The Centre for Innovation in Surgical Technology (RCSI-CIST), was launched by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 20th September. The company taps into Ireland's growing medical device expertise will generate and commercialise new world-class healthcare technology solutions. CIST began at RCSI in 2008 and established relations with leading education and research institutions worldwide including Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Synecor and St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. i360medical will continue a strong

partnership with RCSI and a number of Irish universities. **Derek Young**, formerly head of CIST is now CEO of i360 medical and was joined at the launch by former colleagues from the Department of Surgical Affairs including **Eunan Friel**, Managing Director of Surgical Affairs and **Professor Oscar Traynor**, Director of the National Surgical Training Centre.

RCSI BAHRAIN

NEW LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

A new Learning Resource Centre was recently opened in RCSI Bahrain. The new facility has forty per cent more study space than the previous area and it adds a total of 1,500 additional square meters to the campus.

New additions to the LRC include a lounge for staff and healthcare professionals, a room for postgraduate students and a teaching lab for Information literacy and other module integrated teaching, and IT Express with 10 new laptops connected to the internet. This sanctum for learning is now referred to as “the Oasis of Knowledge”.

Thanks to careful management by **Mohammed Abdulla**, the project was progressed to completion before the start of the new academic year. **Evelyn Anand**, LRC Manager and her team **Dr. Bindu Nair**, **Reena Barakat**, **Sami Abid**, **Fatima Al Arabi** and **Azeez Temitayo** all made the move and setup possible.

RCSI BAHRAIN PRESIDENT

As part of the RCSI Bahrain’s Community Engagement strategy, the President of the University, Thomas Collins addressed more than 100 special guests and members at the Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF) monthly luncheon held on the 17th of September at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Bahrain.

In a presentation entitled: “Pre-requisites for a Quality Education System in Bahrain with specific reference to the higher education system” Professor Collins drew from his experience as an educationalist in Ireland where he was formerly Professor of Education in National University of Ireland Maynooth. Tom observed that in the 1960’s, the then Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch used to say that “it is not the case that Ireland is too poor to invest in education, but rather that we are too poor not to do so”.

Finally, just to remind you, if there is any information you would like to include in the monthly memo, please feel free to email me.

Best wishes

Cathal

