

Internal Memo



To: All RCSI Staff & Council
From: Cathal Kelly (CEO)
Subject: **CEO Monthly Update**
Date: 11th September 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have found time over the summer months to take a well deserved break and enjoy time with your families.

It's good to be back and embarking on a new Academic year. In Ireland, the whole higher education sector faces a challenging year. We can expect re-alignments, rationalization in the public sector and new important strategic alliances. Most Institutions now see their international activities, as being critically important. We at RCSI, with our international focus, our ethos, our strong sense of community, team spirit, hard work and determination, are well placed, to thrive in this environment. As we embark on the new academic year and continue to maintain our emphasis on the quality of our programmes and the student experience, we can expect a very successful year.

SARA

While many enjoy a quieter time during the month of August this was not so for our team in **Academic Affairs, HR and Estates**. Many of you will be aware that, as part of our successful degree awarding status accreditation in 2010, the College was tasked with establishing a central Registry function to manage and coordinate all activities relating to our students' academic life. Over the past number of months the process has been led by **Judith Gilroy** with the support of Dr **Claire Condron**, **Grainne Mc Donagh**, **Gary Brady**, **Maeve Fallon** and **Judith Ni Mhuircheartaigh**. They have worked to define the scope, shape and processes for this new function, which will be called Student, Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA). SARA will encompass current activities from within the Examinations Office, Student Affairs and Faculty Centre offices in St Stephen's Green and Beaumont, as well as delivering additional academic support through the establishment of a dedicated Regulations & Records team, and a new Curriculum Innovation function. All the staff in these areas have been actively involved in this exciting change and I want to extend my thanks to them for all their hard work in delivering on this project which will no doubt make a significant positive impact on the student experience

The SSG SARA team has now just moved into their newly refurbished offices in the location of the old examinations office. In addition, great credit to **Colin Stewart**, **Colm Murray**, **Darren O'Leary**

and others from the Estate team who worked hard over the summer months to ensure the SARA office would be up and running in time for the new academic year.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE - IRELAND & BAHRAIN

Teams in the Admissions Office (both in Ireland & Bahrain) have also had a busy period. As well as the considerable administrative workload, I know the phone never stops ringing with endless questions from students and their parents. These demands are handled with the utmost efficiency and patience. I would like to thank the team, led by **Philip Curtis** and **Celeste Golden**, for all their hard work at this time.

I would also like to particularly acknowledge our colleagues looking after Admissions in Bahrain. I am happy to say, that numbers are looking good again this year. I will have the exact figures next month. The group, in Bahrain, has worked very hard on this, special thanks to **Jovi Mallonga** and **Elaine Cabrey**, who have led this effort, through the summer break.

HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARD

The College awarded Professor **Fr. Michael Kelly**, Jesuit and internationally renowned expert on HIV / AIDS the second Honorary Doctorate of RCSI at the conferring ceremony earlier this summer. The Honorary Doctorate Award was established in 2011 to recognise excellence and to provide an inspiration to our students on their graduation day. The awardees will be exceptional people who have made a difference to the world through education, research or service.

The Medicine & Health Science's Board will shortly consider candidates for our 2013 Conferring. I would invite you to recommend suitable candidates.

NAIRTL - NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Congratulations to **Professor Kevin Nolan** on his successful nomination for a National Award for Excellence in Teaching. The awards ceremony will take place in Dublin Castle on September 17th. Well done to Kevin on this great success. We are very proud of this achievement.

Professor John Waddington has been awarded a Fellowship by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science to visit Japan so as to foster ongoing collaborations; from a base with his long-standing collaborators at Nihon University, Tokyo, he will undertake a lecture tour to Nagoya, Niigata and Osaka Universities in late October.

Congratulations to **Professors David Henshall** and **Jochen Prehn** and their collaborating teams who hosted the **7th Annual Neuroscience Ireland conference** and 'Neurons Under Stress' EU Marie Curie linked conference respectively in RCSI – with over 150 attendees - in Early September.

Well done also to **Cara McVeigh** and **Aoife Congdon** in Events. They managed the organisation of both these events, from registration to co-ordination of the scientific programme and all associated arrangements.

REACH RCSI'S Primary Science Teachers Initiative (PSTI)

Congratulations to the RCSI PSTI team **Ms Maria Kelly**, **Dr Marc DeVocelle**, **Dr Jacqueline Daly**, **Dr Maria Morgan** and **Dr Kenny Winser** who ran the 3rd RCSI Primary Science initiative earlier this summer. This initiative is a component of the **REACH RCSI** programme which promotes Recreation, Education and Community Health. Teachers from around Ireland participated in the 'Come to your Senses Summer Course' The course used the theme of the human senses to enable primary school teachers to develop their interest and enthusiasm for teaching science with direct relevance to the primary science curriculum for Social Environmental and Science Education (SESE). The course is a novel way for teachers to develop their science teaching skills, giving them the confidence and

enthusiasm to conduct hands-on activities and experiments in the classroom which will inspire children to develop an interest in science.

DUBLIN CITY OF SCIENCE 2012

As most of you will know, Dublin recently hosted the City of Science 2012 'Science in the City' public engagement festival in association with the 5 day Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2012 conference. We're pleased to congratulate **Maria Morgan** (MCT), **Maria Kelly** (REACH), **Yvonne Smith** (MCT), **Marc Devocelle** (Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry) and RCSI medical students **Sean Egan**, **Elizabeth Ahern-Flynn** and **Allan Jenkinson**, who ran a science workshop for 40 local children aged 7-12. This *Small Science, Big Ideas* programme involved workshops designed specifically for younger children, introducing them to ways scientists work and allowing them to conduct simple experiments. This is an important investment in enthusing the next generation of scientists, so very well done to all concerned.

MERCER'S MEDICAL CENTRE

Led by **Dr. Kilian McGrogan** the Mercer's Medical centre recently provided free medical checks for over 50 members of the local community. The medical check screened for a range of illnesses including diabetes and high cholesterol, as well as checking BMI and blood pressure. The initiative is part of RCSI's REACH programme which promotes Recreation, Education and Community Health. It is hoped an initiative such as this will encourage people to see their doctor more regularly for health check ups as disease prevention and early intervention encourages people to take a more active interest in their health and can make a positive difference.

Well done to **Kilian** and his team in the Mercer Medical Centre for this really worthwhile contribution to our local community.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Consistent with our desire to develop the best HR services for our employees, the College is now offering a new confidential counselling and information service for all staff (an Employee Assistance Programme), which will be provided by VHI Corporate Solutions.

Through the EAP service, free professional counselling and information services will be available to you and your family. You will be able to talk to a counsellor on the phone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can also see a counsellor locally for face-to-face counselling. Please be assured that any contact you have with the EAP service is strictly confidential.

Well done to the team in HR for this welcome development for the benefit of all our staff.

MOLECULAR MEDICINE

Congratulations to **Raphael Rapetti-Mauss** (PhD scholar) on winning a prize for the Best Oral Presentation at the Physiology 2012 Meeting in Edinburgh. In his presentation '17 β -estradiol rapidly induces KCNQ1 internalization and post-endocytic trafficking in HT29 colonic epithelial cells' Raphael presented the findings of a collaborative project between RCSI and the National Children's Research Centre, Crumlin Hospital.

Congratulations also to HRB Scholar **Aine Nolan** who was awarded a prize for her poster presentation 'Novel oestradiol-sensitive microRNAs may contribute to colon carcinoma tumour promotion after loss of oestrogen receptor beta' in the Metabolism & Endocrinology Theme at Physiology 2012 in Edinburgh. This is a collaborative project between Molecular Medicine and Cancer Genetics.

RCSI, IT TRALEE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMME (IMCP) RECEIVES NUI ACCREDITATION

The International Medical Commencement Programme (IMCP), jointly delivered by the RCSI and the Institute of Technology Tralee, has been successfully accredited by the NUI as a Certificate in Biomedical Sciences, Special Purpose Award. The IMCP is an integrated, streamlined and innovative approach to the provision of health sciences education for international students. It is designed to enhance the technical language and communication skills of those international students whose first language is not English. In addition, the programme has been specifically tailored to provide students with the appropriate knowledge in science as well as attitudes (including cultural awareness) and skills for entry into the RCSI undergraduate programmes in medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy. Congratulations to **Dr. Celine Marmion**, Vice Dean and Director of the Foundation Year and International Medical Commencement Programmes for her work on this truly successful collaboration between the RCSI and IT Tralee at a time when the HEA is calling for more collaborative initiatives across the third level sector.

RCSI BAHRAIN

I am delighted to inform you that earlier this summer RCSI Bahrain was notified of the successful outcome of the QAAET review of the School of Medicine.

I would like to congratulate **Professor Tom Collins** and all the staff of RCSI Bahrain on this achievement and to thank everybody for their input into the process. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the **David Croke** and his team in the Quality Enhancement Office for their critical input into the process.

DATA ENCRYPTION AT RCSI

Under the Data Protection Act (1988/2003), the Data Protection Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that people's rights are respected, and that the persons who keep personal information on computer or in manual format meet their responsibilities.

In order to be in compliance with the Act and to ensure no embarrassing public scandals arise out of our failure to protect personal and confidential information, RCSI has implemented the following:

- Encryption of all RCSI staff laptops
- All USB devices that are connected to an RCSI computer are encrypted.

I would ask you to please ensure that when transmitting information over a public network (e.g. external Email) that:

- Any word, excel, power point files that contain personal or confidential information is encrypted.
- Any Email attachment that contains personal or confidential information is encrypted. Text in a body of an Email must not contain personal or confidential information as it will not be encrypted.

What you need to know

Further information on Data Encryption is available on the RCSI Staff Portal including an introductory video (5 minutes), two step by step tutorials (5 minutes each) and an advice manual to show you the few simple steps that need to be taken to ensure we are meeting our legal requirements.

Best wishes

Cathal Kelly
CEO