Following presentation to Academic Council**,** the Health Professions Education Centre, in conjunction with the Peer Enhancement of Teaching Steering Group, wishes to announce the launch of the RCSI Peer Observation of Teaching programme. Peer Observation of Teachingoffers a structured and supported process by which colleagues can both offer and receive feedback on their teaching practice, and share and develop their experience and skills. Nationally and internationally, this process is becoming a feature of university practice as a mode of professional development.

## During the academic year 2012/13, a Peer Enhancement of Teaching Group initiated work on the development of plans for an appropriate model of peer observation for RCSI. The Steering Group is a working group of Academic Council. Concomitantly a pilot study for the implementation of a peer observation of teaching programme was carried out by Professor Zena Moore and Ms Anne Weadick. This study aimed to establish academic staff perceptions of peer observation of teaching, to implement a pilot of peer observation of teaching and to evaluate the impact of the project, through capturing the experience of both the reviewer and the lecturer reviewed. The results of both this study and the recommendations of the working group were presented at the RCSI International Education Forum in June 2013.

Following on from the recommendations and in conjunction with the PEOT group, the Health Professions Education Centre (HPEC) will now support and facilitate the roll-out of a Peer Observation of Teaching programme across RCSI. The programme will be officially launched with an information and discussion session on **December 3rd 2013 at 1 p.m. in the Albert Lecture Theatre**. A similar event will be held in the **Education & Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital (Room TR4) on December 5th at 12 noon**

Training workshops will commence in January 2014. For further information on this and other HPEC initiatives, please visit our website <http://www.rcsi.ie/hpec>

Speaking about the launch, Professor Hannah McGee, Dean, said, “I am delighted to see that this teaching initiative has progressed from planning feasibility stages to a full roll-out in just over a year. Thanks to all those mentioned and to the staff who volunteered for the feasibility study for making this possible.

I strongly encourage all staff to take this opportunity to give and receive peer support to/from colleagues with the singular aim of striving to achieve ‘Excellence in Education’ as the first goal of our Strategy (2013-17)”.