



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**RCSI**



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This report covers RCSI's operations during the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

ON THE COVER A transformative learning experience: RCSI is committed to progressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education, research and engagement. In June, RCSI was ranked number one in the world for UNSDG3 'Good Health and Well-being' in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023.



# A year in pictures

## July

Surgical trainees undertake the 40-hour Surgical Bootcamp immersing them in the technical and non-technical skills they will need as surgeons.



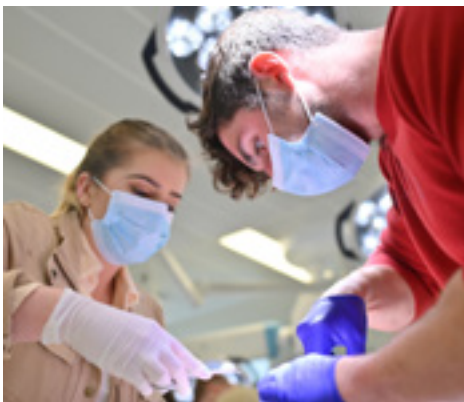
## November

RCSI celebrates a new cohort of health science graduates during the 2022 winter conferring ceremonies.



## September

RCSI School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Physiotherapy achieve Athena Swan Bronze Awards for positive gender practice in higher education.



## August

The largest ever gathering of RCSI Alumni takes place on campus in Dublin welcoming almost 500 people from more than 16 countries.



## December

RCSI unveils new artworks to celebrate two pioneering women in nursing and midwifery: Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth O'Farrell.



## October

Dr Karen DeSalvo, Google Chief Health Officer, receives the Emily Winifred Dickson Award in recognition of her outstanding impact in public health, while in Dublin to launch RCSI's new School of Population Health.





### January

The RCSI Paediatric Society welcomes more than 450 children and their teddies for check-ups at the 2023 Teddy Bear Hospital.



### March

Professor Andrew Morris, inaugural Director of Health Data Research UK, is awarded the 2023 Cameron Award for Population Health.



### May

Róisín Fay celebrates being in the top three in the Class of 2023 at RCSI Final Medicine Results Day.



### February

At Charter Day 2023, RCSI launches the *Surgery for Ireland* report proposing new networks for emergency surgery.



### April

RCSI signs the Healthy Campus Charter formally marking a commitment to embed health and well-being into campus life for staff and students.



### June

Stephen Murphy wins the 2023 RCSI Art Award for his sculptural work inspired by the premature birth of his son PJ.





Professor Laura Viani, President

This report marks the end of the first year of my Presidency of RCSI. It is an honour and privilege to be President of an institution that is playing such an important role in driving improvements in health in Ireland and around the world.

This report outlines the achievements of RCSI's community of educators, trainers, researchers, clinicians and professional staff. I am deeply impressed by their commitment to RCSI's mission which is to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.

It is the work of this community that we celebrated when RCSI was ranked number one in the world for impact on good health and well-being, the third UN Sustainable Development Goal, in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

#### The future of surgery

Throughout the year, we placed a particular focus on addressing the future of surgical care and equipping

surgical trainees and surgeons in practice with the skills they need to respond to fast-moving technological advances in surgery.

In partnership with the International Medical Robotics Academy in Melbourne, we commenced the delivery of training on the foundations of robotic surgery, giving surgical trainees the opportunity to enhance their knowledge about the fundamental theory and principles of robotic surgery.

Increasing the number of women pursuing a career in surgery is a critical objective in building the surgical workforce of the future. Ms Evelyn Murphy was awarded the 2023 PROGRESS Women in Surgery Fellowship. The prestigious bursary, awarded by RCSI and supported by Olympus Medical, promotes female participation in surgical training at Fellowship level. Ms Murphy is undertaking a Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgery in Sydney.

'Shaping the Future' was the theme of the Charter Meeting held in January 2023.

At a time of immense pressure in the Irish health services, impacting both patients and healthcare professionals, the gathering gave us the opportunity to reflect on these challenges and discuss how we can work together to shape the future of surgical care.

Key symposiums were held on the future of surgery and healthcare, including areas of technology, training, clinical audit and cancer care.

The 45th Millin Lecture was delivered by Professor Shirley Potter, Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at the Mater Hospital on 'Malignant melanoma – an unlikely poster child for personalised cancer treatment'. The annual Johnson & Johnson Lecture on 'Allies, advocates and change agents' was delivered by Dr John G. Meara from Boston Children's Hospital, who also received an RCSI Honorary Fellowship.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Colles, RCSI Professor of Surgery after whom the Colles fracture is named, and this year's esteemed Colles Lecture was delivered by Dr Luc Morris from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

#### Influencing and collaborating

During the year, we continued to influence and collaborate with the goal of improving surgical services in Ireland for the benefit of patients.

The milestone *Surgery for Ireland* report was launched by Vice President Professor Deborah McNamara at the 2023 Charter Day Meeting. The report proposes a new networked approach for emergency surgical care which would deliver a higher quality service to patients, preserve access across the



Professor Laura Viani, President, with Professor Deborah McNamara, Vice President, pictured following the College's biennial Council Elections which saw a female President and female Vice President taking up office together for the first time in RCSI's 238-year history

We commenced the National Perioperative Patient Pathway Enhancement Programme aimed at enabling more efficient and effective use of HSE theatre and procedure room resources so as to improve patient access to scheduled care and reduce waiting lists.

project. Current waiting times for surgery in Ireland remain a challenge for the health service and the expansion of elective surgical services will help improve access to timely scheduled surgical care.

Through the National Clinical Programme for Surgery, we continued to collaborate with the HSE on a range of initiatives aimed at developing standardised care pathways, clinical guidelines and models of care for the patient journey. In June 2023, we commenced the National Perioperative Patient Pathway Enhancement Programme, which is an 18-month project aimed at enabling more efficient and effective use of HSE theatre and procedure room resources so as to improve patient access to scheduled care and reduce waiting lists.

In December 2023, the College published important guidelines for patients considering travelling overseas for surgery. With greater numbers of patients making this decision, these important guidelines give patients the information they need to make informed decisions.

RCSI has a long track record of improving surgical services in Africa through training, education and research partnerships. To build on this important work, we welcomed Professor Juan Carlos Puyana to RCSI as O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery.

country to senior surgical decision-makers, and create an optimal working environment for the training, recruitment and retention of staff.

We were pleased to welcome the announcement that sites have been selected for new surgical hubs and the progress made in advancing this important



Professor Puyana will lead the University's Institute of Global Surgery in its work to improve access to high-quality, essential surgical care for underserved populations.

Professor Puyana is a renowned trauma/acute care surgeon and a global health educator. He joins us from the University of Pittsburgh where he was Director of Global Health-Surgery. I wish Professor Puyana and his team every success.

During the year, I was pleased to lead a delegation including RCSI Fellows and colleagues to Namibia to support the exams, graduation and scientific conference of RCSI's long-term partner, the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). RCSI is proud to have played a role in

COSECSA's success story. The College has grown to be the largest single contributor to the surgical workforce in the East, Central and Southern Africa region, with training programmes in 20 countries addressing the needs of vulnerable patients.

Professor Oscar Traynor, Professor of Postgraduate Surgical Education at RCSI, was inducted into the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, an honorary distinction that recognises surgeon educators who have devoted their careers to surgical education and are considered premiere leaders in their respective fields. As a result of Professor Traynor's innovations in surgical training, Ireland is now world-renowned for training surgeons of the highest quality. As a member of the Academy, Professor Traynor will influence

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Pictured at the launch of the safe surgery e-learning module in RCSI's simulation suite are (l-r) Professor Deborah McNamara, Vice President and Co-Lead for NCPS; Aileen O'Brien, Nurse Lead for NCPA; and Professor Laura Viani, President





Pictured (l-r) Professor Richard Irving, Dr Maria Doyle and Dr John G. Meara, who were conferred with Honorary Fellowships of RCSI at the 2023 Charter Dinner

surgical education globally and we wish him every success with this important work.

#### Engaging with Fellows and Members

We deeply value our relationship with Fellows, Members and Alumni, based all over the world, and we are proud of their dedication to delivering excellence in patient care.

Our hope is that we provide them with a life-long home that supports them throughout their professional lives. I am very grateful to the experienced Fellows and Members who volunteer to serve on Council and Committees, and as examiners, teachers, mentors and contributors to publications and events.

We were delighted to be able to spend more time this year meeting Fellows, Members and Alumni in person. While we continue to use virtual channels of engagement, these in-person opportunities to meet are so important. We held a number of regional meetings in Ireland and met the RCSI North American Chapter of Fellows during the ACS Clinical Congress.

It was wonderful to welcome almost 800 alumni and guests for the Alumni Gathering in August 2022, the first in-person class reunions since 2019.

#### Thank you

I was proud to be awarded Honorary Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons in October 2022 and I wish to thank the College for this great honour.

At the end of the first year of my term, I wish to acknowledge the pride I feel in the RCSI community. As President, it is an enormous privilege to work alongside these extraordinary people.

I am grateful to Vice President Professor Deborah McNamara, and the elected members of Council, for their ongoing support and to the Fellows and Members of the College for their engagement.

I would also like to thank the Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive/Registrar, Professor Cathal Kelly; the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor Hannah McGee; the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Professor Fergal O'Brien; and each member of the Senior Management Team for their hard work during the year, and to congratulate them on leading RCSI so successfully.

Finally, I thank Professor P. Ronan O'Connell, my predecessor, for his generous help, guidance and support, and for making the transition from his Presidency to mine so seamless.



# Council members



**Professor Laura Viani**  
President, RCSI; Consultant Otolaryngologist/Neuro-otologist; Director of The National Hearing Implant and Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital/RCSI



**Professor Deborah McNamara**  
Vice President, RCSI; Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal), Beaumont Hospital and Co-Lead National Clinical Programme in Surgery



**Professor Ronan Cahill**  
Professor of Surgery, UCD; Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal), Mater Misericordiae University Hospital



**Mr John Caird**  
Consultant Surgeon (Paediatric Neurosurgery), Beaumont Hospital and CHI Temple Street



**Professor Camilla Carroll**  
Consultant Surgeon (Otolaryngology/Head and Neck), RVEEH Dublin; Clinical Associate Professor, TCD School of Medicine



**Professor Calvin Coffey**  
Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal), University of Limerick Hospitals Group



**Professor Kevin Conlon**  
Professor of Surgery, TCD; Consultant Surgeon (General/HPB), St Vincent's University Hospital and Tallaght University Hospital



**Professor K. Simon Cross**  
Retired Consultant Surgeon (Vascular/General), University Hospital Waterford



**Ms Bridget Egan**  
Consultant Surgeon (Vascular), Tallaght University Hospital



**Mr James Geraghty**  
Consultant Surgeon (General/Breast), St Vincent's University Hospital; Associate Professor in Surgery, UCD



**Professor David Healy**  
Associate Clinical Professor, Consultant Surgeon (Cardiothoracic/Transplant), St Vincent's University Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital



**Mr Sean Johnston**  
Consultant Surgeon (General), Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore



**The Hon. Mr Justice Peter Kelly**  
Retired President of the High Court



**Mr Paddy Kenny**  
Consultant Surgeon (Orthopaedic), Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown and The National Orthopaedic Hospital at Cappagh



**Professor Michael J. Kerin**  
Professor of Surgery, NUIG; Consultant Surgeon (Breast/Endocrine/General), Galway University Hospital; Director, Cancer Managed Clinical Academic Network, Saolta



**Professor Thomas H. Lynch**  
Consultant Surgeon (Urology), St James's Hospital and Blackrock Clinic



**Mr David Moore**  
Consultant Surgeon (Trauma and Orthopaedics), Children's Health Ireland, Crumlin, Tallaght University Hospital and Blackrock Clinic



**Ms Margaret O'Donnell**  
Consultant Surgeon (Plastic/Reconstructive/Aesthetic), Blackrock Clinic and St Vincent's Private Hospital; Group Clinical Director, Blackrock Healthcare Group



**Professor John Quinlan**  
Consultant Surgeon (Trauma and Orthopaedics), Tallaght University Hospital



**Professor Paul Ridgway**  
Associate Professor of Surgery, TCD; Consultant Surgeon (General), Tallaght University Hospital, National Clinical Advisor in General Surgery at the NCPS



**Roderick Ryan**  
Chartered Accountant



**Mr Keith Synnott**  
Consultant Surgeon (Trauma/Orthopaedic), Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; National Clinical Lead for Trauma Services



**Professor Kilian Walsh**  
Consultant Surgeon (Urology), University Hospital Galway and Bon Secours Hospital Galway



# A year in numbers



**30,000\***  
**ALUMNI IN 96**  
**COUNTRIES**

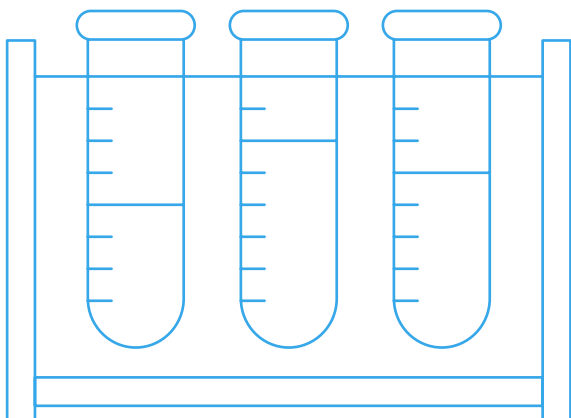
**11,200**   
Fellows and Members  
in **96** countries



**STAFF**  
**1,324**

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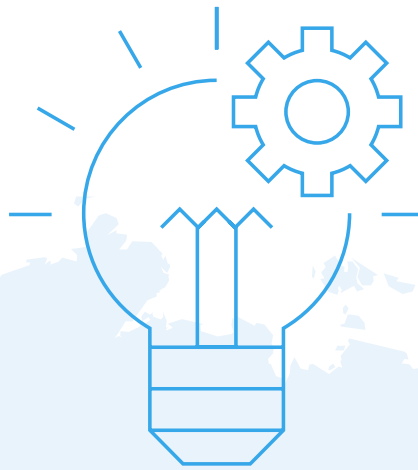
**564** **SURGICAL AND**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**  
**TRAINEES**



**RESEARCH**  
**€34.6M** grant income\*\*\*  
**1,663** PubMed indexed  
articles published\*\*\*  
**102,000** citations\*\*  
**67%** Open Access articles\*\*

# INNOVATION\*\*\*

**7** patents filed  
**2** spin-out companies created  
**37** industry collaborative agreements



**TOP 50 FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023

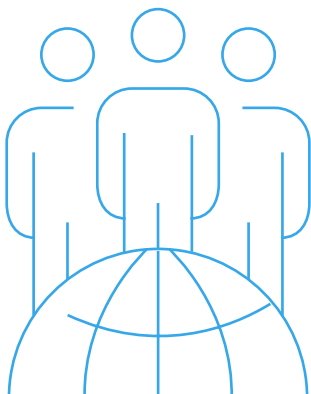
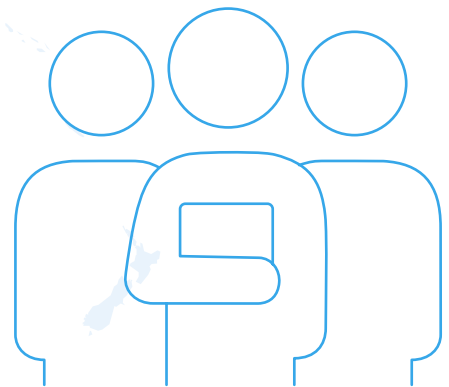


**ASPIRE**  
International Recognition of Excellence in Medical Education

**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE AWARD for Student Engagement joint winner 2022**

# STUDENTS

**4,833** registered students  
**2,596** undergraduate (medicine, physio, pharmacy, ATT)  
**1,247** postgraduate (masters, MD, PhD)



**101** NATIONALITIES OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**4 OVERSEAS OPERATIONS** MALAYSIA (2), BAHRAIN AND DUBAI

Note: figures are for RCSI in Ireland for the reporting period 1 July 2022–30 June 2023 unless otherwise specified  
\* Across five international operations, \*\* Bibliometric: 2018-2022, \*\*\* full year 2022



Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive/Registrar

This report on activity during 2022/2023 provides me with an opportunity to acknowledge what RCSI has achieved over the past year thanks to the extraordinary efforts and dedication of the RCSI community.

#### Global impact

As a university with a mission to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health, I was incredibly proud when in June this year, we were ranked number one in the world for UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 'Good Health and Well-being' in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023. This achievement embodies who we are as Ireland's only university solely focused on education, training and research in health sciences.

We are driven by our long-term commitment to the UN SDGs as a framework for measuring and demonstrating our impact on global health and well-being. This is the second time we have achieved this number one position, reflecting the remarkable commitment of our staff and students to driving improvements in human health.

Critical initiatives over the past year that have contributed to our world-leading position, included the launch of a new School of Population Health, leading a programme to embed sustainability and climate health into Ireland's medical curriculum and the university's unique collaboration with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa to address inequalities in surgical access.

#### A new School of Population Health

In October 2022, we launched a new School of Population Health aimed at better understanding and addressing the complex and ever-changing barriers to better health in Ireland and globally through education and multi-disciplinary research. The School builds on the university's legacy of impact in population and public health, which can be traced back to the 1840s when Sir Charles Cameron, former RCSI President, campaigned to improve public health in Dublin.

#### 118 St Stephen's Green

One of the benefits of our return to a vibrant campus life post-pandemic is being able to witness the daily progress being made on RCSI's new €95 million building at 118 St Stephen's Green, the next phase of RCSI's campus development in Dublin's city centre.

This exciting development, which is on target for completion in 2025, will become the new 'front door' of the University and will be home to the new School of Population Health, the Graduate School of Healthcare Management, a virtual reality training space for the National Surgical Training Centre, and a new public space where people will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with scientists and clinicians about how to live long and healthy lives.

#### Connolly Hospital Education and Research Centre

Construction is also progressing on our new Education and Research Centre at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin, which will open early in 2024 and will be the University's second clinical centre of excellence in Ireland.

#### Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre

The Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre – a pioneering cancer care collaboration between Beaumont Hospital, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences and St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network – marked one year of Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) accreditation with a special event to celebrate patients, partnerships and progress in May.

#### Accolades and awards

We are delighted to be ranked as one of the top 250 universities worldwide and one of the top 50 for 'International Outlook' in the Times Higher Education



Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre leadership at an event to mark the Centre's one year of OECl accreditation (l-r) Patrick Clerkin, Interim Chief Executive, Beaumont Hospital; Professor Clare Faul, St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network; Professor Leonie Young, Scientific Director; Professor Patrick Morris, Medical Director; Claire Noonan, OECl Cancer Accreditation Lead; and Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor

World University Rankings 2023. This ranking, at a time of increasing global competition in higher education, signifies the quality of RCSI's education and research.

In further recognition of excellence at RCSI, our School of Medicine was named joint winner of the 2022 ASPIRE to Excellence Award for Student Engagement recognising our commitment to meaningful student engagement and partnership.

The University's School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Physiotherapy received Athena Swan accreditation, acknowledging good practices in the advancement of gender equality and representation in higher education.

### Education

The 2022/23 academic year saw the University successfully launch its groundbreaking THEP (Transforming Healthcare Education Programme) undergraduate medicine curriculum.

The revised curriculum delivers an unrivalled student experience, integrating clinical and communication skills with knowledge acquisition and the formation of a professional identity. Students are part of learning communities and benefit from ongoing feedback and tailored support. The themes of professionalism, resilience and leadership are embedded in the programme from the first semester. I am delighted to report that student and staff feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

In June 2023, the University hosted the first in-person International Education Forum (IEF) since 2019. The theme 'Looking Back, Looking Forward' gave us an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the RCSI Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and look to the future.

In planning for the needs of our health service in the future, we continued to work with the Department of Health and the HSE to expand student numbers in our MSc in Physician Associate Studies. Physician Associates are a valuable resource in patient care and will play a vital role in the delivery of healthcare services in the future.

In a further example of innovation at RCSI, the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences launched a new BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, which fuses digital technology with traditional science and is designed to develop the next generation of scientists capable of delivering groundbreaking therapeutic technologies.

In July 2022, we celebrated the conferring of the first cohort of students to complete a new Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine which is aimed at giving students evidence-based knowledge and practical strategies to instil healthy lifestyle behaviours in themselves and their future patients. 127 students from the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy completed the optional Certificate, in parallel with their degree studies, which is one of the first of its kind in the world.

### Sustainability

On Earth Day in May 2023, the School of Medicine was ranked as the top-performing medical school in Ireland in the Planetary Health Report Card 2023, a global initiative led by the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA). The Report Card tracks institutional change and is intended to inspire higher education institutions to prioritise planetary health in their curricula and institutional practices.

### Research and innovation

It has been an exceptional year for RCSI researchers in terms of publications, grant funding and innovation.

Professor Edward Gregg, Head of the School of Population Health, was awarded €4.3 million from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to harness population data to tackle chronic diseases, while Professor Killian Hurley, Department of Medicine, was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to conduct innovative research into treatments for pulmonary fibrosis.

Research led by Professor Annette Byrne, Department of Physiology, uncovered new subtypes of glioblastoma which could help to identify new therapies.



Dr Susan Byrne, Department of Paediatrics and FutureNeuro, and Professor Jonathan Hourihane, Department of Paediatrics, led a study demonstrating that the social communication skills of babies born during COVID-19 may have been impeded.

Professor Richard Costello, Department of Medicine, led the Inhaler Adherence in Severe Unstable Asthma (INCA-SUn) programme, examining the effectiveness of using information from a digital device to manage uncontrolled asthma.

In a study supported by the IRFU Charitable Trust and SFI AMBER Centre, Professor Fergal O'Brien, Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine, developed a new graphene-based biomaterial with potential for spinal cord tissue regeneration.

A study led by Professor James O'Donnell, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences and Irish Centre for Vascular Biology, showed for the first time that the blood clotting protein, von Willebrand Factor (VWF) also plays an important role in regulating immune responses at sites of blood vessel injury.

Professor Annie Curtis, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, led a study examining the changes taking place in the mitochondria of a key immune cell involved in the vaccine response at different times of the day.

In 2022, the University exceeded its knowledge transfer targets as set by Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) and industry engagement exceeded targets by 48%.

Five new spin-out companies were approved, and the University ranks joint first for spin-out company formation in Ireland. Our most recently approved spin-out company is OncoLize, led by Professor Helena Kelly, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences.

OncoLize is developing a thermoresponsive drug delivery platform for the treatment of pancreatic cancer and closed a seed funding round of \$1.7 million.

In the calendar year 2022, the University secured external research funding of €34.6 million.

### Supporting healthcare and society

RCSI is committed to enhancing human health and education by building reciprocal partnerships between the University's staff and students and our local and national communities.

Our new building at 118 St Stephen's Green will help foster greater engagement between the University and the public, patients and policymakers so that, together, we can help improve health and well-being. The development will build on established public engagement initiatives including the RCSI MyHealth series which attracted more than 17,000 viewers over the past year.

During the year, an RCSI team embarked on the SURG-Water Project with the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences to improve access to safe water for patients in maternity wards. SURG-Water is funded by SFI and Irish Aid.

The Institute of Global Surgery (IGS) continued its work in collaboration with partners to improve the access of underserved populations to high-quality surgical care, a prerequisite for the achievement of UNSDG 3.

Household air pollution is the world's largest environmental source of ill health. The Smokeless Village Project is a collaboration between the University's Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, and the University of Nottingham, UK, which is working with one community in Malawi to find a sustainable solution to this public health challenge.

### Thank you

As Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of RCSI, I am extraordinarily proud to work with a community of academics, researchers and clinicians who every day show their dedication to leading the world to better health.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff and clinicians, the commitment of our students who are the healthcare leaders of the future and the patients who are central to everything we do.

I am particularly grateful for the support of President Professor Laura Viani and the RCSI Council throughout the year. I also thank RCSI's Senior Management Team for their leadership and collegiality.

RCSI is committed to enhancing human health and education by building reciprocal partnerships between the University's staff and students and our local and national communities.



# Senior Management Team



**Professor Cathal Kelly**  
Vice Chancellor and  
Chief Executive/Registrar



**Professor Hannah McGee**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for  
Academic Affairs



**Professor Fergal O'Brien**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for  
Research and Innovation



**Jennifer Cullinane**  
Director of Finance



**Eunan Friel**  
Managing Director of Healthcare  
Management



**Aine Gibbons**  
Director of Development, Alumni  
Relations, Fellows and Members



**Barry Holmes**  
Director of Human Resources



**Abi Kelly**  
Director of International  
Engagement and External  
Relations



**Michael McGrail**  
Director of Corporate Strategy



**Justin Ralph**  
Chief Technology Officer



**Kieran Ryan**  
Managing Director of Surgical  
Affairs





“ It is inspiring to see increased female participation and overall diversity in the practice of surgery, and this award highlights the importance of continued inclusion. ”

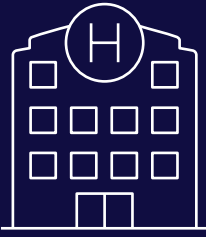
*Ms Evelyn Murphy, recipient of the 2023 PROGRESS  
Women in Surgery Fellowship*



# 01

Surgery

**36**



**ACCREDITED  
SURGICAL TRAINING  
HOSPITALS**

**157**

**CORE  
SURGICAL  
TRAINEES**



**268**

**HIGHER  
SURGICAL  
TRAINEES**



**935**

**CONTINUOUS  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUPPORT SCHEME  
PARTICIPANTS**



**75**

**CORE  
SPECIALTY  
EMERGENCY  
MEDICINE TRAINEES**



**64**

**ADVANCED  
SPECIALTY  
EMERGENCY  
MEDICINE TRAINEES**



# Surgery



**Kieran Ryan**  
Managing Director, Surgical Affairs

## In Surgical Affairs, the focus for the year was managing how we emerged from COVID-19.

We looked at how trainees and training had been impacted and at future workforce requirements given the shortfall in healthcare workers highlighted by the pandemic. With increased demand from our health services, planning for an expansion in training numbers has become a priority.

We focused on how RCSI will support the new trauma network outlined in the report *A Trauma System for Ireland*. We looked at increasing waiting lists for procedures across our health services and how we can meet that demand through workforce planning and service design. We worked with our colleagues in the National Clinical Programmes in Surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedics, and Emergency Medicine, on models of care and innovative clinical pathways to see how we can manage patients better and faster.

### Postgraduate and continuing education

Our role is to support the professional and academic development of surgeons and we achieve this through innovative postgraduate and continuous professional development programmes.

We added new modules to our master's programmes and increased capacity in terms of student numbers in our continuous professional development programmes. The HSE supports us with a range of education and training opportunities to meet the professional competence requirements for surgeons practising in Ireland. The College's Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD-SS) enrolled over 900 participants.

I thank our Education Team, led by Paula Mansell, and all of the lecturers, who delivered excellent, relevant courses.

Alongside the College's Master of Surgery (MCh) for early career surgeons, led by Programme Director Professor John O'Byrne, RCSI offers the interdisciplinary online MSc in Human Factors and Patient Safety, led by Professor Eva Doherty, which focuses on the importance of communications, teamwork and culture in providing a safe care environment.

The MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice, also led by Professor John O'Byrne, is a taught modular programme offering a pathway for Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) to enrol in RCSI. We continue to deliver Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP), Advanced Trauma and Life Support (ATLS) training, and other professional courses.

### National Surgical Training Programme

Thanks to past investment in an electronic logbook and in IT systems to support training, we had access to data allowing us to see the impact of the pandemic on training across all specialties and stages of trainees in all training sites.

With increased demand from our health services, planning for an expansion in training numbers has become a priority.





Surgical trainees Dr Claire O'Connell and Dr John O'Kelly take part in RCSI's first-ever robotic-assisted surgery training programme, run in collaboration with Intuitive

Our analysis showed trainees had been supported very well by our trainers, and there was minimal impact on their training during COVID-19. Impact varied according to specialty but, for the vast majority of trainees in Ireland, training remained on track.

Workforce planning involves ensuring we are training sufficient numbers of people to meet the workforce projections of the HSE and the Department of Health, without any diminution in the quality of training. Our core surgical training intake remains at 80 places; we have 160 core surgical trainees on our two-year core training programme at any one time.

The faculty team in Surgical Affairs delivered an excellent Surgical Bootcamp to the 80 new trainees over a three-week period in June.

We appointed 54 specialist registrars to the specialty training programmes, an increase of ten on the previous year. We will be engaging with specialties and trainers to increase capacity for higher specialty training to meet HSE published surgical workforce requirements.

Robotic surgery is a priority for RCSI and this year we collaborated with Intuitive, manufacturer of the da Vinci robot, to host a robotic platform in our National Surgical and Clinical Skills Centre. Dr Dara O'Keeffe, Simulation Lead in Postgraduate Surgical Education,

leads the development of robotic training courses at RCSI with input from various specialties. We have worked closely with Honorary Fellow, Professor Tony Costello, a pioneer of robotic surgery in Australia and the head of the International Medical Robotics Academy (IMRA) in Melbourne. In partnership with IMRA, we have launched an introductory course, Foundations of Robotic Surgery, to our trainees. This is a first step towards a more structured approach to robotic training within the training curriculum.

The 2023 PROGRESS Women in Surgery Fellowship, supported by Olympus Medical, was awarded to Ms Evelyn Murphy who is undertaking a Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgery in Sydney, Australia. Across our training programmes we have a 60:40 male-to-female ratio, showing improvement in terms of gender balance over recent years. The ratio varies across different specialties and we continue to work to make improvements.

I wish to extend my thanks to Caroline McGuinness, Associate Director of Postgraduate Training; Professor Kevin Barry, Director of the National Surgical Training Programmes; Mr Dara Kavanagh, Chair of our Core Surgical Training Committee; and all the team in Surgical and Emergency Medicine Training for a successful year.

# Robotic surgery is a priority for RCSI and this year we collaborated with Intuitive, manufacturer of the da Vinci robot, to host a robotic platform in our National Surgical and Clinical Skills Centre.

## Surgical practice

With the planned rollout of Ireland's new trauma network, developing a more structured approach to trauma training is a priority. Professor Paul Balfe, General Surgery Training Committee Education Lead, considered the type of trauma training required for general surgeons working in each of the new centres, and has designed a new Major Trauma Skills course to be delivered in the College. We collaborated with our colleagues in the ASSERT Centre at UCC to deliver advanced cadaveric trauma training for senior trainees and consultants.

Since the publication of the *Career Development and Support Programme for Non-Training Scheme Doctors* report in 2022, the College has followed through on its commitment to support doctors not in the national speciality training scheme in terms of training, education and career development. All doctors working in the HSE can access the CPD-SS, with funding support from the HSE, and we continue to work with the HSE's National Doctors Training and Planning Unit on how best to support doctors not on the national training schemes. The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, changed the policy in relation to the Stamp 4 visa and this has had a positive impact on the number of non-EU doctors eligible to apply for positions on national training schemes.

We encourage all medical students and doctors with an interest in surgery working in Ireland, whether in structured training posts or not, to become Affiliate Members of the College in order to access a wide range of supports, guidance, materials and education programmes, and to be in direct communication with the College. Being part of a



## Dr Dara O'Keeffe, Simulation Lead in Postgraduate Surgical Education

Innovation is at the centre of RCSI's approach to surgical training and we are committed to working with our specialties to ensure that trainees acquire the skills necessary to safely and competently perform surgery.

There has been an explosion of technology in surgery in recent years, and part of our remit at RCSI is to give surgeons a chance to become familiar with new technologies before they perform procedures on patients. This year, our surgical trainees took part in RCSI's first-ever robotic-assisted surgery (RAS) training. Robotic surgery is minimally invasive and allows for easier access and greater dexterity for certain procedures compared to traditional approaches.

The training programmes took place at our National Surgical and Clinical Skills Centre and allowed trainees to participate in hands-on practice and instruction from experienced consultants. This was facilitated by Intuitive, who provided the da Vinci Xi surgical system.

RCSI plans to develop an established centre for RAS in the future, with access to multiple RAS platforms for trainees and consultants in practice. The inclusion of robotic training is among several innovative initiatives that we are introducing to enhance the surgical skills and competency training delivered for surgical trainees.



## The report proposes new networks for emergency surgery and sets out recommendations aimed at ensuring equitable regional access to high-quality emergency surgical services

wider community of surgeons helps map out a career pathway that can progress from Affiliate Membership to Membership and on towards Fellowship.

### Guidance for patients travelling abroad

The College published guidelines on *Surgery Abroad Information For Patients* in response to concerns regarding reports of side effects and adverse outcomes for patients travelling abroad for medical procedures. Those who choose to travel abroad for

an operation have to manage additional risk so these guidelines give members of the public guidance on the safety considerations they should take into account when making these decisions.

### Emergency surgery

Professor Deborah McNamara, RCSI Vice President, chaired a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) on the Provision of Emergency Surgery which produced the *Surgery for Ireland* report. The report proposes new networks for emergency surgery and sets out recommendations aimed at ensuring equitable regional access to high-quality emergency surgical services while ensuring smoother transitions of care for those who require complex emergency surgery.

RCSI also published the report of the SLWG on Breast and General Surgery looking at the changes affecting these surgical specialties and how they impact on the provision of surgical services.

RCSI President, Professor Laura Viani, set up a number of other SLWGs including one on future technology for surgical practice, chaired by Professor Ronan Cahill, one on sustainable surgery and the wider green agenda for surgery chaired by Professor Camilla Carroll and another looking at the late stage career for a surgeon, chaired by Professor Thomas Lynch.

In June 2023, Dr Colm Henry, HSE Chief Clinical Officer, and RCSI jointly launched the National Perioperative Patient Pathway Enhancement Programme (NPPPEP), a data-driven programme to bring together knowledge and insights from frontline theatre staff and surgical departments across Ireland. A collaborative initiative between the HSE Clinical, Strategy and Planning, and Operations functions; RCSI; the National Clinical Programme for Surgery (NCPS); the National Clinical Programme for Anaesthesia (NCPA); and participating hospital groups and hospitals, NPPPEP aims to improve operating theatre access and flow. RCSI, led by Charlie Dineen, is the technical partner for this programme.

The National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS) was awarded core funding of €1.2 million towards a national osteoarthritis hip and knee care pathway. This will pilot a new way of managing patients in order to accelerate access to care and decision-making and improve the management of waiting lists.

### National Surgical Research Support Centre

The National Surgical Research Support Centre (NSRSC), led by Professor Stuart Walsh and Dr



Professor Laura Viani, President with Professor Shirley Potter who delivered the 45th Millin Lecture in February 2023 on the topic "Melanoma - An Unlikely Poster Child for Personalised Cancer Treatment"





Trainee Debola Shomoye at the 2023 Surgical Bootcamp at the National Surgical and Clinical Skills Centre at RCSI's 26 York Street

Ann-Marie Byrne, RCSI Clinical Trial Programme Manager, established the National Forum for Surgical Research. The aim is to establish a national clinical trials network, develop studies with different principal investigators, and secure Health Research Board funding for a network grant to support the delivery of important trials.

#### International activities

For the first time since COVID-19, we were able to reactivate all of our examination centres for face-to-face examinations. The online delivery of the Part A Membership Examination developed during the pandemic has enabled us to run examinations in territories such as Australia, where many young Irish doctors who may be contemplating a surgical career back in Ireland work after internship.

We delivered the international Part B Membership Examinations in Bahrain and Malaysia, and announced the establishment of a new examination centre in Cairo, with our first examination to be delivered there in September 2023.

I am grateful to Emma Scally, Postgraduate Examinations Manager, and her team for their excellent work in running our international and national surgical examinations, and to Mr Eamon Mackle, Professor Peter Gillen and all our examiners for their huge support in examining the next generation of surgeons.

Our international Surgical Fellowship Programme continues to expand, enabling more overseas specialists to come to Ireland to obtain experience in specific clinical or subspecialty areas. We thank our colleagues in Irish hospitals and our trainers for supporting the programme.

I must acknowledge the hard work, professionalism and dedication of the Surgical Affairs team. I am particularly grateful to Padraig Kelly, Associate Director for Operations and Planning. Our trainees, students, trainers, Fellows and Members are fortunate to have such a diligent team to look after their professional, educational and training needs. I want to thank all Fellows, Members, trainees and associate colleagues who assist in the delivery of our teaching, training, assessments and examinations, the Council of RCSI for their ongoing support of the activities of Surgical Affairs, and my colleagues on the senior management team and across RCSI.

>>> Read about the Institute of Global Surgery on page 60

>>> For RCSI Postgraduate Surgical Awards, see page 94



“ Through a blend of technology and traditional science, I'm learning about cutting-edge drug development, precision medicine and the future of innovation in healthcare. ”

*Stephen Kenny, one of the first cohort of students in the BSc Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences*



A transformative  
learning experience

02

A  
transformative  
learning  
experience

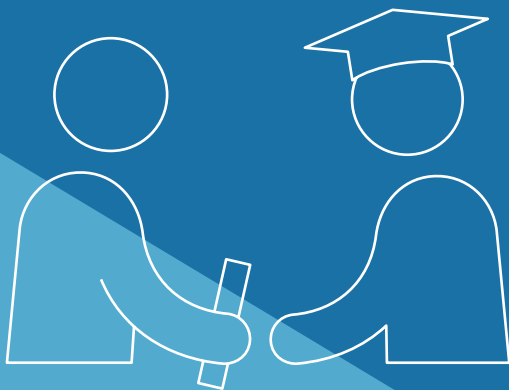


**12<sup>th</sup>** ANNUAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION FORUM



**624**

STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATING  
IN ELECTIVES  
AND ERASMUS  
PROGRAMMES



**298**

GRADUATES OF DIPLOMA  
IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
EDUCATION (2015-2022)

**35,000**

HOURS OF TEACHING  
SUPPORTED BY RCSI SIM



**486**

PARTICIPANTS IN  
LIFESTYLE MEDICINE  
CERTIFICATE

# A transformative learning experience



**Professor Hannah McGee**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

After four years in development, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences launched its groundbreaking THEP (Transforming Healthcare Education Programme) undergraduate medicine curriculum at the start of the academic year 2022/2023.

Developed with international benchmarking, THEP is designed to deliver an unrivalled student experience. Increased student teamwork is scaffolded by sophisticated digital feedback and course management technology, and the course includes a novel Personal and Professional Identity pillar with education on professionalism, resilience and leadership built in from the first semester.

June 2023 saw the end of a successful Year 1 of THEP for 564 students in both Dublin and Bahrain. Congratulations to team leaders Professors Arnie Hill, Gerry McElvaney and Dr Gozie Offiah (Dublin) and to Professors Alf Nicholson and Naji Alamudin (Bahrain).

In October 2022, Dr Karen DeSalvo, Google Chief Health Officer, launched our new School

of Population Health with Professor Philip Nolan, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), in attendance. In development since before the COVID-19 pandemic, the School builds on the legacy of Sir Charles Cameron, a 19th-century President of RCSI, who was RCSI Chair of Hygiene and Political Medicine and Chief Medical Officer of the City of Dublin during the Spanish Flu.

The new School incorporates the expertise of five existing units: the Departments of Health Psychology and of Public Health and Epidemiology; the Data Science Centre; the Health Outcomes Research Centre; and the Institute for Global Surgery.

The inaugural Chair of Population Health, Professor Edward Gregg, is an internationally renowned epidemiologist focusing on diabetes prevention. He has been awarded €4.1 million by SFI to enhance his expertise in the modelling of chronic disease trajectories.

RCSI publications in education have significantly increased in recent years with the work of the Health Professions Education Centre led by Professor Jan Illing, where more than 400 RCSI personnel have now completed diplomas. We generate more than 60 international publications on our educational activities annually and highlight innovations at RCSI through active social media accounts such as @RCSI\_Educate and @RCSI\_SIM.

Dr Michael Daly, Clinical Lecturer in Cardiology at RCSI, won the 'Most Innovative Teacher of the Year Award' in the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards

The School builds on the legacy of Sir Charles Cameron, a 19th-century President of RCSI, who was RCSI Chair of Hygiene and Political Medicine and Chief Medical Officer of the City of Dublin



2022 for 'DON the Vest', a technology and allied simulated cardiology programme he developed during COVID-19. Dr Daly worked with the RCSI SIM team to develop a novel wearable vest to simulate the clinical signs of patients with valvular heart disease.

In a student-led evaluation, RCSI was ranked as the top-performing medical school in Ireland in the Planetary Health Report Card 2023, as part of a global initiative led by the Planetary Health Alliance, which assesses the extent to which higher education institutions are promoting and supporting planetary health.

RCSI's leadership in this important initiative was spearheaded by Professor Debbi Stanistreet and colleagues in the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology at our School of Population Health.

Student engagement and partnership are key to achieving our mission to transform healthcare education. We have strengthened student representation on all relevant RCSI committees with two initiatives – a transparent open call system to recruit students into committees and a new Student Leadership Development Programme.

In the newly-created role of Deputy Dean for Student Engagement, Professor Celine Marmion has established the Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Programme to foster a university-wide culture of empowering staff and students to work with and learn from each other, and have equal influence on decision-making.

As a benchmark for our student engagement, we applied for the prestigious Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) ASPIRE to Excellence Award for Student Engagement. This international prize has only been awarded to 11 medical schools in Europe since its inception. RCSI School of Medicine was named joint winner of the 2022 ASPIRE Award, recognising the University's commitment to ensuring that the student voice is consistently heard and valued, with students as equal partners in RCSI's key decision-making processes.

In June 2023, the 12th RCSI International Education Forum (IEF) on the theme 'Looking Back, Looking Forward' was held in person for the first time since 2019, with colleagues from Bahrain and Malaysia joining us in Dublin. Over a busy three days, we had an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the RCSI Strategic Plan 2018–2022 and plan for the next five years.

## Honorary Doctorates

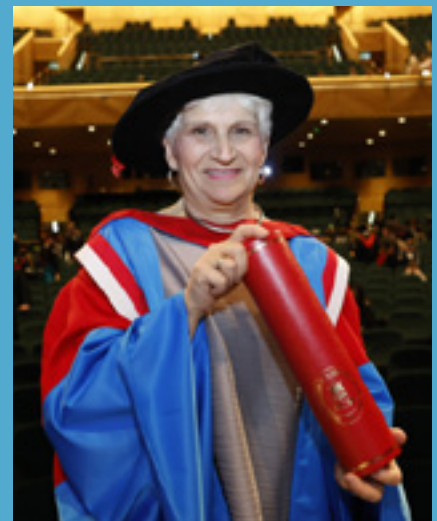
RCSI Honorary Doctorates are awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to society. Awardees conferred during the year who addressed RCSI conferring ceremonies to inspire our new graduates were:



**Dr David Donoghue**, Former senior Irish diplomat; Co-facilitator of the Sustainable Development Goals and other UN agreements; Distinguished Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute, at the Postgraduate Awards Degree conferring ceremony in November.



**Professor Rose Anne Kenny**, Regius Professor of Physic; Professor of Medical Gerontology Trinity College Dublin and Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing, St James's Hospital Dublin, at the Postgraduate Awards Degree conferring ceremony in November.



**Professor Dame Clare Gerada**, DBE, PRCGP, FRCPsych, FRCP (Hons), President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, at the School of Medicine conferring ceremony in May.



**Professor Arnold Hill**  
Dean of Medical Programmes

## Medical Programmes

The Dean of Medical Programmes is responsible for overseeing the Schools of Medicine in Dublin, Bahrain, Perdana University in Kuala Lumpur and our shared school in Penang, Malaysia, as well as the University's new MSc in Physician Associate Studies, the only physician associate programme in Ireland.

Currently, 10–15 physician associates graduate from our two-year course each year. We are working with the Department of Health and the HSE to plan to expand that number. We know from our pilot programme at Beaumont Hospital that physician associates are a valuable resource for doctors and make them more efficient; they are going to be an important part of the health service of the future.

There are currently around 50 physician associates working in the Irish health system between public and private hospitals, in comparison to 100,000 in the US and 10,000 in the UK. It is a priority to expand the number here in Ireland and we are currently waiting for regulatory clarification.

The University supports the stated ambition of the Higher Education Authority and the Department of Health to expand medical school places for EU students and is working with both to progress this.

This year the School of Medicine successfully delivered the first year of our Transforming Healthcare Education Programme (THEP) to first-year medical students in Dublin and Bahrain. This cohort of students will follow THEP through to graduation. Successful delivery of the same programme and the same assessment in both locations was a testament to the strength of the programme delivery.

Thanks to collaborative teamwork and huge efforts by everyone involved, THEP has been well received by staff. It has also been warmly welcomed by students. One of the key benefits of THEP is that students are learning clinical material in the early years of the programme.

THEP is based on three pillars: knowledge, skills, and personal and professional identity (PPI), all of which are assessed programmatically during the course of the year rather than by major examinations at year-end. PPI is a key part of assessment and something which will change the type of doctor we are creating. THEP is designed to encourage the doctors of the future to focus on being caring and understanding.



Graduates of Physician Associate Studies (l-r) Ruth Murphy and Heather Ryan





**Professor Gerry McElvaney**  
Head of School of Medicine

## School of Medicine

The central development in the School of Medicine this year has been the implementation of the Transforming Healthcare Education Programme (THEP) for our medical students.

The feedback from students on the new programme has been overwhelmingly positive. There had been concern that students might find the large number of assessments involved a challenge but in fact, they have welcomed the hands-on approach taken by staff. Students appreciate that they can measure how their performance compares to that of their peers at any given time and they benefit from a personal tutor with whom they can discuss their progress. Good communication between staff and students is key to this successful programme.

In introducing THEP, we have learned about the advantages and disadvantages of progress testing, where students are given similar questions in Year One to those they will get in Year Five. The idea is that they will become more adept at answering them over time.

The School owes a huge debt to the people who deliver the programme. 'Teamwork' is an overused term, but we have a fantastic cadre of tutors and lecturers on staff, supplemented by others who step up to the mark and teach for us on a pro bono basis. Without them, we could not run the programme.

Many of our students from the US and Canada wish to return to North America upon graduation. Dr Ann Hopkins, Senior Lecturer and Director of the International Electives Programme, has done fantastic work in fostering our links with institutions in North America and Noel O'Callaghan, Head of Student Development and Well-being at RCSI's Centre for Mastery: Personal, Professional & Academic Success (CoMPPAS), builds on this to help students achieve their ambitions. We have found that when our students undertake electives in North America they do very well and go on to match in extremely competitive programmes. The striking match rate for this year's graduates is a matter of great pride for us and a strong endorsement of the University.

In addition, a change in UK policy has dramatically improved the postgraduate opportunities for our graduates who want to work there.



Pictured at their conferring ceremony are (l-r) Dr Róisín Fay, Dr Dabhóg Boyle and Dr Jelizaveta Cvetkova, top three students in the RCSI School of Medicine Class of 2023

The School of Medicine 2023 conferring ceremony in the Convention Centre was a very happy occasion. It was an opportunity for the whole class to be there as one and for their parents and loved ones to see them achieve something momentous. For our staff, it was a chance to witness the fruition of their hard work over the years and for the students themselves to thank the people who have helped and supported them along the way.





**Professor Tracy Robson**  
Head of School of Pharmacy  
and Biomolecular Sciences

## School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

The School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences (PBS) has maintained its planned growth trajectory facilitating diversification across both education and research.

Since 2015, the School has been responsible for the delivery of the MPharm programme, and contributing to RCSI's medical, nursing, physiotherapy and physician associate programmes. This year saw the launch of a revised MPharm curriculum. The School also launched RCSI's first new BSc in 20 years and welcomed a second intake of students on the MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine. The latter programmes were facilitated through the award of a €7.8 million Higher Education Authority (HEA) grant, allowing the expansion of our programmes with a specific focus on emerging and future pharmaceutical technologies, addressing skills gaps in the pharma industry.

### New BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies

PBS officially welcomed the inaugural class of the BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies (ATT), a future-focused programme with 47 students enrolling in the first year. The programme is designed to deal with the rapid acceleration of healthcare-related knowledge, fusing digital technologies with traditional science. We will train the next generation of scientists to have extensive scientific knowledge and technical skills in addition to transversal competencies to address current and future global healthcare needs.

### MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine (TAPM)

This innovative programme aims to provide skills centred around technologies and analytics in precision medicine. Our second year has been hugely successful with students registered on both a full-time and part-time basis.

### New micro-credentials

The MSc TAPM programme launched seven micro-credentials (each bearing five ECTS), which are bite-size modules running over four weeks with the aim of enhancing knowledge and upskilling individuals

across a range of topics. These include Bioinformatics/Biostatistics; Human Genetics/Genomics; Connected Healthcare; AI/Machine Learning in Healthcare; Innovation – Translating the Concept; Leadership Development; and Contemporary Issues in Healthcare. Once stacked, these micro-credentials will enable the awarding of a postgraduate certificate or diploma.

### MPharm curriculum re-design

Following the completion of the first five-year MPharm programme cycle in 2020, the programme was the subject of a detailed curriculum review. The revised curriculum, underpinned by innovative pedagogical approaches and technology, was launched to 84 students.

### The first international 'university to university' partnership for RCSI

We continue to collaborate with Soochow University, China, through the delivery of our international Clinical Pharmacy programme and our joint 2+2 PhD programme, which sees scholars spend two years at each institution as they complete their PhD. This year we also collaborated on a new venture - the development of a new, 1,200-student joint education institution (JEI) with Soochow University. The Ministry of Education in China approved our proposal in April 2023 and we aim to roll out three programmes in the JEI in September 2024: BSc Pharmacy, BSc Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, and MSc by research programme.

### Research environment

As a highly research-intensive School, we have exceeded expectations with 44 new grants totalling €6.5 million, 165 publications, four patents granted and three spin-out companies: Inthelia Therapeutics; OncoLize; and ProBMet. We successfully graduated 15 PhD students and one MD student.

In line with these achievements, we are currently placed in the 201–250 category in the QS World University Rankings by subject.





**Professor Suzanne McDonough**  
Head of School of Physiotherapy

## School of Physiotherapy

RCSI School of Physiotherapy, established 25 years ago to deliver pre-registration physiotherapy education (BSc Physiotherapy programme), has expanded its educational offerings to include postgraduate education at Diploma/MSc Neurology and Gerontology; Masters by Research and PhD levels.

Our aim is to build an internationally recognised School at the forefront of physiotherapy education, research and innovation, that is responsive to local, national and international priorities, and whose students, graduates and staff are global ambassadors for the School and for RCSI.

### Simulation-based learning

The School is leading the way in Ireland in simulation-based learning as a pedagogic approach to expand clinical training opportunities in our undergraduate programme. We recently published our first paper in this area in the International Journal of Healthcare Simulation and have invested funding in a PhD student over the next four years to develop research in simulation-based learning in the School.

The module aims to contribute to the National Physical Activity Plan to increase the number of people in Ireland meeting the physical activity guidelines by 1% annually.

### Curriculum review

Over the last three years, the School has undertaken a four-stage redesign process of the undergraduate programme. We are approaching the final stages of this process with the aim to roll out the new programme once it has gone through approval processes.

### Postgraduate developments

For the first time this year, the School offered a Level 9 module (10 ECTS) titled Physical Activity and Health Behaviour Change in Clinical Populations, both as an optional module on the MSc Neurology and Gerontology and as a standalone microcredit. Twelve qualified physiotherapists and occupational therapists completed the module, and we also look forward to welcoming applications from nurses in 2024.

This exciting module is a unique collaboration between physiotherapy and psychology in RCSI. It is designed to meet the growing demands for healthcare professionals to not only manage individual health conditions but also to play a key role in protecting and promoting the health of these populations.

The module aims to build clinicians' knowledge, skills and confidence to support people with health conditions to make healthier lifestyle choices around their physical activity levels; and to contribute to the National Physical Activity Plan to increase the number of people in Ireland meeting the physical activity guidelines by 1% annually. Feedback from students has been extremely positive with a participant commenting: "The information contained is so engaging and really well-presented and creates an immediate connection with the content and work/life etc".



**Professor Zena Moore**  
Head of School of Nursing  
and Midwifery

## School of Nursing and Midwifery

RCSI's School of Nursing and Midwifery is a dynamic department, focused on education and research nationally and internationally.

### Education programmes

Our education programmes are exclusively postgraduate, and our key goal is to develop the clinical practice, educational and research capabilities of practicing nurses and midwives. In doing this, our students are enabled to make a true difference to the lives of the patients they care for. These students are ambassadors for RCSI and play a key role in leading the world to better health.

The School has a staff of 27, including academic, research and professional support personnel. This year, more than 900 students registered for one of our 28 educational programmes including bachelor's degrees, postgraduate certificates, postgraduate diplomas and

master's degrees. The work of this year's graduates was acknowledged in a conferring ceremony at the Convention Centre in November 2022. We are grateful to the RCSI Conferences and Events team for their huge commitment and support, and to the wider RCSI team, who always give so generously of their time to mark this significant milestone for our graduates.

### Skin Wounds and Trauma (SWaT) Research Centre

Our research, based in the Skin Wounds and Trauma (SWaT) Research Centre, continues to grow and we are immensely proud of our staff and students who collectively contributed to over 34 publications and 637 citations this year. These outputs have resulted in the team at the SWaT Research Centre being ranked in the top 0.02% of experts in our field of research.

Our PhD students are key to our success in translating evidence into contemporary clinical decision-making to provide a platform for outcome-focused healthcare practice. We were excited to welcome six professional doctoral students to our existing team of 14 PhD students; such a large body of students opens up the possibility to expand and grow the contribution of nursing and midwifery research to the health agenda. We are immensely appreciative of the School of Postgraduate Studies for their ongoing support and guidance.

Thank you to all the students and staff, who have journeyed together with us this year, it has been humbling to share this journey with you.



Pictured at the School of Nursing and Midwifery conferring ceremony in November are (l-r) Raye Angeli Waban, Ma Vernadette Edaniol, Venus Jayne Felix and Maristel Anne Carioso





First and second year MSc Physician Associate Studies students and faculty

## Physician Associate Studies

Physician Associates are highly skilled healthcare professionals who provide a wide range of medical services in a wide variety of workplaces. In June 2023, the eighth cohort of Physician Associate Studies graduates was conferred by RCSI. To date, RCSI has graduated 62 Physician Associates (PAs) who are working across the public and private sectors in primary and secondary care, in medical and surgical posts.

The supply of Physician Associate graduates has not met demand over the past few years, with a number of

advertised posts remaining unfilled. In particular, posts outside of Dublin have not been filled because most of the student cohort has been from the Dublin region. To expand enrolment onto the programme and to address the financial challenges faced by students, in January 2023, RCSI began a hybrid offering for candidates from outside Dublin. This model allows students to live at home and attend RCSI twice a month for anatomy and clinical teaching. Clinical placements are arranged in hospitals and primary care settings close to their localities. The feedback on this offering has been very positive to date.

The 2024 Physician Associate Studies intake will continue using the hybrid model format with the likelihood of increased representation from students based across Ireland. Facilitating students across a variety of counties means that, once graduated, they will be available to work locally and will address recruitment challenges in these counties. Applicants who secure a place on the 2024 programme will be offered a scholarship towards their fees.

Following the Minister for Health's public acknowledgment of the profession, faculty at RCSI have been working closely with the Department of Health and the HSE to progress recognition and some funding support of Physician Associates as part of the HSE workforce, in their workforce plans.



## Ramisha Arora, medical student and participant in the 'Death Café'

I was one of 25 first-year medical students who took part in 'Death, Dying and Bereavement', a week-long, optional module run as part of RCSI's new medical curriculum. The aim of the module, which was curated by RCSI staff member Eric Clarke, senior cycle student

Meghan Gipson and Valerie Smith of the Irish Hospital Foundation, was to prepare us for a topic that many would rather avoid, while also reflecting on our own mortality.

When I saw "Death Café" on my class schedule, I thought it was a metaphor for something else. To my surprise, it was exactly what it sounded like – a heartfelt discussion about death, alongside coffee, teas and pastries, expertly facilitated by the Irish Hospice Foundation. We candidly contemplated how we would like to die and be commemorated and learned about death and funerary practices from other cultures and religions. We also discussed how in the future, we are likely to be confronted with death, not just as an abstract concept, but in real-life clinical settings too.

In the field of surgical oncology that I aspire to pursue, death will be inevitable part, which is why the Death Café was a real highlight of this module. As medical students, we will walk the fine line between life and death more frequently than most and this was a profound lesson in empathy and preparedness for each one of us. It taught us how more dialogue and preparation for death and bereavement are not just virtues but essential tools for becoming compassionate, well-equipped and informed clinicians.



**Professor  
Darran O'Connor**  
Head of School of  
Postgraduate Studies

## School of Postgraduate Studies

The School of Postgraduate Studies (SPGS) aims to be a leading centre for postgraduate education and research in medicine and health sciences. Our strategic objectives are to oversee the quality of all higher degrees, to provide a transformative learning experience and to grow postgraduate research scholar numbers.

### Achievements

The highlight of the SPGS calendar is always the conferring ceremonies. Since July 2022, we have graduated 60 scholars with higher degrees by research: 49 PhD, nine MD, and two MSc.

For the academic year 2022/23 we registered 115 new scholars for higher degrees by research: 62 PhD, 22 MD, 21 DProf and 10 MSc. This represents a 46% increase in the number of new PhD/MD scholars compared to 2021/22 and is the largest intake of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) to date.



Graduates of the StAR Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme, (l-r) Dr Eoin MacCraith, Dr Julie Martin-Grace, Dr Jorin Bejleri, Dr Razia Aslam and Dr Patrick Moloney

Thanks to our continued collaborations with Soochow University and Fulbright, we currently have 26 RCSI StAR PhDs registered. We also have 41 RCSI StAR MD scholars. These MD StAR scholarships are in partnership with the Beacon Hospital, Blackrock Health (Blackrock Clinic and Hermitage Clinic), Bon Secours, Mater Private Network, Highfield Healthcare, UPMC Whitfield Waterford and The Sports Surgery Clinic. Our 2022/23 intake includes seven additional PhD scholars from the RCSI-Soochow StAR PhD Programme, including two funded by the China Scholarships Council, two Fulbright scholars and seven PhD/MD by prior publication scholars.

In October 2022, we launched the Professional Doctorate programme in Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Positive Health. Our first cohort of 21 scholars began the programme in January 2023. We currently have scholars of 52 different nationalities registered at the school.

### Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP)

SPGS funded two StEP projects this year. The first, led by Dean Lennon and PGR scholar Celina Flocks Monaghan, Let's Talk About It: A Mental Health Seminar Series for Postgraduate Scholars, provided an educational and supportive space for PGRs to discuss and address their mental health. The second project, led by Bess McBride and PGR scholar Jennifer Donnelly, Enhancing Career Development for Postgraduate Scholars developed a Research Career Development Plan (RCDP) template for use by PGRs, which will be introduced for all new scholars in October 2023.

Lisa Maye-Gregory was also a collaborator with the REACH RCSI office on the Junior Researcher Programme funded by SFI Discover. The project engaged PGRs and postdocs in helping students from two local DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) secondary schools to prepare for their Junior Certificate 'Science in Society' investigation.





**Professor Edward Gregg**  
Head of School of Population Health

## School of Population Health

The RCSI School of Population Health was officially launched in October 2022, with the aim of transforming the way that population-level data and research platforms are deployed in Ireland to make key decisions for the prevention and reduction of the chronic disease burden.

Dr Karen DeSalvo, Chief Health Officer, Google, and Professor Philip Nolan, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), discussed the future of population health at the launch, which marked the culmination of several years of planning by the University to establish the new School.

### Highlights of the School's achievements in its first year included:

**Establishment of an effective organisational structure**, consisting of the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Department of Health Psychology, Data Science Centre, Healthcare Outcomes Research Centre, Institute of Global Surgery, Converge and SPHeRE. The School has 70 academic, research and professional staff and more than 20 PhD scholars. This first year included the appointment of key leadership positions, including

Director of Academic Programmes, Deputy Head of School for Research and the O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery.

**Initiation of a strategic planning process setting out a roadmap for the growth of the School**, continued with the development of a new School strategy. The strategy sets out a vision and programme of work across research, education and collaboration.

**Launch of the Cameron Scholars programme**, a strategic initiative intended to catalyse and sustain growth and to consolidate RCSI's position in the future of population health sciences. The Cameron Scholars programme will support the development of the School by funding a comprehensive programme of education and research growth, with a significant impact, nationally and internationally.

**Conception and initiation of the development of an inaugural MSc programme in population health.** Work is advancing well with the development of the School's educational programme, which will focus in the first instance on taught postgraduate offerings.

**Development and strengthening of the School's research programme.** Alongside the appointment of a Deputy Head of School for Research, the School initiated an internal seminar series, research proposals support programme and journal club and was awarded €7.2 million in research funding.

**Awarding of €4.3 million through the prestigious SFI Research Professorship Programme to the Head of School, Professor Ed Gregg.** The award, which comes as a joint appointment with Imperial College London, will fund a new research centre at RCSI. Converge: Centre for Chronic Disease and Population Health Research will target diabetes, obesity and other chronic diseases, and will link to HSE and Sláintecare action plans.

**The second Cameron Award for Population Health**, was conferred on Professor Andrew Morris, inaugural Director of Health Data Research UK, in March 2023. The award recognises Professor Morris' life-long commitment to promoting data and informatics in population health.

The Cameron Scholars programme will support the development of the School by funding a comprehensive programme of education and research growth



**Eunan Friel**  
Managing Director,  
Healthcare Management



**Sara McDonnell**  
Executive Director, Graduate  
School of Healthcare  
Management

## Graduate School of Healthcare Management

The Graduate School of Healthcare Management (GSM) at RCSI offers a range of postgraduate programmes to equip healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge required to excel in the dynamic and ever-evolving healthcare industry.

Our suite of programmes is designed to cater to individuals from a wide range of healthcare backgrounds, including clinicians, interdisciplinary healthcare professionals and managers, allied healthcare professionals and aspiring healthcare leaders, who wish to develop their management, leadership and professional skills and capabilities.

Our programmes offer a comprehensive curriculum that blends academic rigour with real-world practicality and application, ensuring that graduates are prepared to tackle the complex challenges faced by the healthcare sector.

One of the distinctive features of GSM is our healthcare-focused faculty team. The School boasts a diverse and experienced faculty composed of academic, sectoral and industry experts and researchers. This diverse range of expertise, knowledge and insight ensures that students receive the highest-quality education, benefiting from the wealth of knowledge and know-how each programme team brings to the classroom. In 2022/23, our team further expanded with the addition of two new lecturers and a senior lecturer, bringing with them in-depth knowledge of subject areas relevant to the current learning needs of healthcare professionals.

RCSI's commitment to research excellence is evident in its academic programme, faculty publications and the grants awarded. The School encourages and supports research activities among faculty and students, fostering an environment that promotes critical thinking and innovative problem-solving in the field of healthcare management. This year has seen growth in research funding, output and reach, with GSM faculty partnering with national and international collaborators to increase grant income, publish in top-tier health and management journals, and inform policy and debate. Dedicated research and impact clinics (which include doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers), research workshops, School-level funding and a dedicated Director of Research, have all served to support the development of the School's research activity.

Support of the healthcare system remains a critical pillar of the School's activities, and we have a deep understanding of healthcare systems and organisations globally. We are particularly proud of the powerful work undertaken with our international partners. One such partner is Johnson & Johnson, to whom we deliver an online leadership and innovation development programme for its emerging female leaders across the EMEA region. In 2023, the sixth cohort graduated, bringing the number of alumni of this programme to over 150. In the last year hospital-endorsed programmes in Saudi Arabia led to more than 50 staff members taking our Professional Diploma in Clinical Leadership.

Closer to home, in Ireland, GSM strives to support the HSE in the implementation of a complex and challenging change agenda. Our series of co-designed programmes support HSE managers, clinicians and employees to develop the essential skills to lead and manage change as the HSE implements Sláintecare nationally.



## RCSI Online

In 2021, the Graduate School of Healthcare Management (GSM) pioneered RCSI Online as a strategic asset for the University, with the mission to expand the accessibility of RCSI's postgraduate healthcare education to a global audience.

RCSI Online enables RCSI and its schools and departments to extend University expertise and resources beyond the confines of its physical campuses, so that healthcare professionals all over the world, including our valued alumni, can benefit from our renowned postgraduate healthcare programmes.

RCSI Online leverages cutting-edge technologies to create an immersive learning environment. Interactive virtual classrooms, online discussion forums and collaborative projects enable students to engage with their peers and instructors, fostering a sense of community and facilitating knowledge exchange. Additionally, access to digital libraries and learning resources empowers students to conduct research and stay up to date with the latest advancements in healthcare.

In 2023, the RCSI Online team, alongside GSM, installed RCSI's first virtual classroom in Sandyford, Dublin. This immersive virtual environment supports both faculty and students to act and react as though in the same physical classroom. The technology emulates a traditional classroom, allowing eye movements and

verbal and non-verbal cues to be picked up and responded to. In this way, students can engage in a deeper way with interpersonal tasks and collaboration, supporting more dynamic activities aligned with the constructivist teaching approach that is so important at postgraduate level. The team looks forward to seeing the virtual classroom implemented for the first time with GSM students in September and to sharing our learnings with the wider University.

Agility, flexibility and market responsiveness are hallmarks of RCSI Online. In response to market demand, and in support of a more personalised student journey, we have further extended a suite of university offerings to include a portfolio of Continuous Education courses, designed to serve the lifelong learning needs of healthcare professionals, their organisations and healthcare systems internationally. These short courses are led by industry experts and are built across a range of trending subject areas and in response to demand by our own alumni. Healthcare professionals will build their own personalised pathway as they select courses that align with their own professional goals and interests. The team is very excited to support RCSI's growth ambitions and the associated ambitions of individual schools and to respond to a growing demand for bite-size continuing education opportunities.

Collaboration with leading healthcare institutions and organisations enhances the value of RCSI Online programmes. Through partnerships with renowned healthcare providers, RCSI students gain access to real-world case studies, practical experiences and networking opportunities. This connection with industry further prepares students for the challenges they may encounter in their careers.

This year, the RCSI Online team facilitated a partnership between the RCSI School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Nursing Department at Emirates Health Services in the UAE. As part of this partnership, two professional development programmes were delivered for 60 nurses in the subjects of Wound Care and Leadership. This initiative was further evidence of the gains for the wider University and individual Schools through cross-team collaboration, support and innovation.

RCSI Online enables RCSI to extend University expertise and resources beyond the confines of its physical campuses





**Professor  
Ciaran O'Boyle**  
Director of Centre  
for Positive Health  
Sciences

## Centre for Positive Health Sciences

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the world is facing a rapidly growing and unsustainable tsunami of lifestyle-related diseases. Current approaches to healthcare are not equipped to deal with the growing impact of such diseases.

This year, after significant discussion and reflection, the name of the RCSI Centre for Positive Psychology and Health was changed to the RCSI Centre for Positive Health Sciences (CPHS).

The Centre's new name reflects the emerging delineation of the 'positive health' construct and recognises the contribution of a range of scientific disciplines and medical specialties to understanding and optimising positive health. The change also reflected the team's contribution to the positive health field through the publication of two significant new texts: *Positive Health: 100+ Research-based Positive Psychology and Lifestyle Medicine Tools to Enhance Your Wellbeing* and *The Routledge International Handbook of Positive Health*.



Pictured at the launch of Positive Health, co-authors from RCSI's Centre for Positive Health Sciences (l-r) Prof. Ciaran O'Boyle, Prof. Christian van Nieuwerburgh, Dr Trudy Meehan, Dr Jolanta Burke and Dr Padraic Dunne

The Centre added to its suite of academic programmes by launching a unique Master's degree in Positive Health Coaching, the pillars of which are lifestyle medicine, positive and health psychology and positive coaching. The programme is accredited by RCSI and the European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC). The Centre also established a new Professional Doctorate in Positive Health Science, with four scholars currently registered on the programme. These scholars together with the existing four PhD scholars bring to eight the total number of postgraduate research scholars in the Centre.

The Centre's international footprint grew this year with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the world-leading Centre for Wellbeing Science at the University of Melbourne. The Centre also hosted Fulbright scholar, Professor Ashley Duggan, Professor of Health Communication at Boston College, from January to May 2023. Professor Duggan delivered an in-person lecture to students and alumni on 'Connecting Close Relationships with Positive Health Sciences'.

This year saw a significant increase in the Centre's research activity with research projects being launched in coaching and positive health, well-being in frontline healthcare staff, positive education and childhood well-being, and positive psychology interventions for chronic disease conditions.

Dr Elaine Byrne joined the Centre as a Senior Lecturer, Dr Mary Collins was appointed Chartered Coaching Psychologist and Miriam Holden, Communications and Student Recruitment Co-ordinator. The Centre has contributed to RCSI's national and international reputation by participating in a number of RCSI MyHealth episodes and by publishing 27 bespoke articles on The Conversation news website, in addition to its academic papers and books. Future plans include the launch of Diploma and Master programmes in Leadership in Workplace Well-being and the relaunch of the Centre's popular 'Science of Health and Happiness' public programmes.





**Professor Jan Illing**  
Professor of Health Professions Education and Director of the Health Professions Education Centre

## Health Professions Education Centre

The RCSI Health Professions Education Centre (HPEC) provides healthcare professionals with a wide range of teaching, learning and educational research opportunities.

In 2022/23, HPEC implemented the second year of a five-year strategy, the overall aims being to drive excellence in education and develop educational expertise across the organisation.

This year, we continued to develop our website, doubling the number of @RCSI\_Educate Twitter followers, and increasing the number of health professions publications to 430 (over the last five years).

We have now responded to more than 300 requests for

our consultancy service and have delivered more than 50 seminars via the Educational Hub. More than 300 staff have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Professions Education, which was revised using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. For a second year, staff places have been offered to colleagues in Penang as well as to external fee-paying students. More than 250 staff have also now engaged with Peer Observation of Teaching.

We hosted the Education Innovation Award in person this year as part of the International Education Forum and feedback identified all submissions as being of a very high standard. A teaching initiative, led by the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery in the School of Population Health, to develop e-learning programmes for the surgical workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa was the overall winner.

We supported the start of the new medical curriculum via training in Case-Based Learning (CBL) and joined staff in implementing the UPenn Resilience Program with medical students. We supported RCSI Online, including the development of micro-credentials. We developed virtual patients with the School of Physiotherapy, Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit.

We set up a postgraduate support network, initiated research to evaluate the first year of CBL for staff and students, supported more PhDs in Education, submitted grant applications with other RCSI departments and universities and gained an ERASMUS grant. We visited our campuses in Bahrain and Penang to set up collaborations and research on preparation for global medical practice.



**Professor Denis Harkin**  
Chair of Medical Professionalism and Director of the Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences

## Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences

The RCSI Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences was established in 2022, with the mission 'to advance medical professionalism in research, education and practice'.

The Centre's vision is to provide global leadership in medical professionalism, achieve excellence in patient care and experience, care for those who care and promote a healthier society through innovation in research, education and practice.

This year we delivered the third RCSI Medical Professionalism Annual Conference, titled 'Professionalism: The Cost of Caring'. The conference attracted over 900 registrants from 45 countries. Keynote addresses were given by Dr Henry Marsh (neurosurgeon and best-selling author), Professor Tony Holohan (former Chief Medical Officer), Professor Colin West (Mayo Clinic), Dr Suzanne Crowe (President of the Medical Council of Ireland), Professor Yvonne Steinert (McGill University, Montreal) and Professor Johanna Westbrook (Macquarie University, Australia).

We were delighted to receive an RCSI Collaborate grant to build the Medical Professionalism Research Network with partners at Queen's University Belfast, Oxford University, McGill University, Harvard Medical School, Mayo Clinic and University of Sharjah, UAE.

Our thriving research group has particular strengths in digital professionalism, digital consent, resilience training and team-based learning. We have been awarded three RCSI StAR MD research fellowships (the VVEIN study,

SCAR study and APPEAR study) and a HEA North-South Research Programme Grant to support the cross-border PROPER Study. We published 21 peer-reviewed manuscripts and featured in articles in The Irish Times and Business Post over the last academic year.

We continue to collaborate with RCSI Educate to deliver impact. Our group placed runner-up in the prestigious RCSI Education Innovation Awards category for the 'Death Café' project on facing mortality and coping with bereavement and loss and we continue our work with the Irish Hospice Foundation. We recorded our first RCSI Professionalism podcast series, Professionalism Matters, and will publish the series in the summer of 2023.

We have notified the RCSI Awards and Qualifications Committee of our intention to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Professionalism.



Pictured at the 2023 Medical Professionalism Conference, (l-r) Eric Clarke, Lecturer in Health Informatics; Professor Hannah McGee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Orla Keegan, Irish Hospice Foundation; and Professor Dennis Harkin



**Professor Walter Eppich**  
Chair of RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research

## RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research

RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research (RCSI SIM) innovates through world-class simulation-based experiential education and research to prepare graduates for future clinical practice.

Simulation-based learning is a fundamental approach at RCSI, which enables us to educate clinicians for modern team-based healthcare. Our world-class facilities reflect our institutional commitment to healthcare simulation, preparing learners to provide outstanding and compassionate patient care. In 2022/2023, RCSI SIM delivered on key elements of its five-year strategic plan in terms of delivering transformative learning experiences and leading impactful healthcare simulation research, scholarship, and innovation.

Since RCSI SIM was named a CAE Healthcare Centre of Excellence in 2020, we have deepened our collaborative partnership to advance healthcare education, technology and research. Through collaboration with CAE Healthcare,

we seek to improve patient safety and outcomes through healthcare simulation, education and applied research.

In 2022/2023, RCSI SIM supported over 35,000 hours of learning activities with thousands of students encompassing a broad range of learners, from undergraduate training to continuing professional development (CPD) courses and postgraduate programmes. We are proud to make significant contributions that foster student engagement, striving for student-centredness and self-directed skills practice. Timely feedback and debriefing practices form a key pillar of our approach. Peer learning opportunities support social-emotional engagement and foster a sense of connectedness for our students.

Our simulated patient (SP) programme continues to evolve from strength to strength. We support an ever-increasing pool of trained SPs who support student learning by providing real opportunities for engaging and interacting with 'patients'. Given its strategic importance, in 2023 we established a new academic role in RCSI SIM and recruited a lecturer in simulation with a specific focus on the impact and development of our SP programme.

Our upward trajectory in research excellence continues, with active grants from the Irish Research Council, the Movember Foundation, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the Medical Protection Society Foundation. This funding has supported cutting-edge educational research efforts. Moreover, our simulation staff at 26 York Street have contributed to innovative simulation model development, which is both augmenting our educational offering and contributing to our scholarly output.





Students take part in International Night performance

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Student Services Office (SSO) plays a key role in helping students achieve a study/life balance in addition to supporting student engagement. From orientation to graduation, enhancing the student experience is at the heart of all we do.

This year, Fresher's 'Fortnight', hosted by our undergraduate Students' Union (SU), featured many activities to promote student engagement.

Cultural Diversity Month showcased the culture and traditions of our students' home countries, International Food Night saw students demonstrate their culinary skills and at the hugely popular International Night, guests were treated to entertainment from around the world.

### Student clubs and societies

The 87 active clubs and societies in RCSI provided many opportunities to get involved in student life, including:

- Pharmacy Society's Mysterious Masquerade Ball
- Health & Well-being Society, Association of Women Surgeons and Obs/Gyn Society's Womxn's Wellness Symposium
- Emergency Society hosted SimWars 2023 with seven Irish universities participating
- Paediatric Society's 9th annual Teddy Bear Hospital in aid of Children in Hospital Ireland
- Surgical Society's 17th Annual Intercollegiate Case Competition
- Pharmacy Society hosted a 'Brave the Shave' fundraiser for Pieta House
- Pride Society's sold-out, first-of-its-kind Drag Race
- Royal College Players (Drama Society) performance of Disney's 'High School Musical: The Musical'

RCSI Societies won six awards at the Board of Irish College Societies National Awards:

- Best Publicity Campaign – Paediatric Society's Teddy Bear Hospital
- Best Individual – Katelyn Hudak (GEM2) of the Surgical Society, Neuroscience Society and Wilderness Medicine Society
- Best Poster – Pride Society's Drag Race
- Best Intervarsity – Emergency Society's National SimWars Competition
- Best Society (Civic/Charity) – Paediatric Society
- Best Society (Departmental) – Emergency Society

RCSI Sports Clubs also had a very busy and successful year.

RCSI hosted a team of medical students from Sorbonne University; an exciting game of rugby ensued with both teams putting on valiant displays from start to finish.

RCSI students participated in the 127th Annual Boston Marathon, a longstanding tradition.

Key highlights from intervarsity competitions include:

- RCSI Men's GAA reached the final of the Fergal Maher Cup
- RCSI Badminton Club won the annual intervarsity competition in Coleraine, Derry
- RCSI Squash Club hosted the National Squash Intervarsities, which the RCSI Men's Squash Team won overall

### Self-care and leadership

The Student Leadership Development Programme saw 77 students receive their certificates of achievement. Students develop a deeper understanding of the core concepts of leadership to further support them within RCSI and in their future professional careers.

### Combating financial challenges

SSO continues to support students through the HEA Student Assistance Fund and the RCSI Alumni Hardship Fund. Both funds are an invaluable resource for RCSI students who find it difficult to make ends meet. Student applications have continued to increase due to the financial challenges caused by the cost-

of-living crisis. The generosity of alumni donors plays a crucial role in making these funds available and we acknowledge this with gratitude on behalf of the student recipients. Such support can make a real difference in the lives of students and their ability to focus on their studies without the burden of financial stress.



RCSI 127th Boston Marathon Runners

### Accommodation

One of the biggest challenges facing RCSI students is the search for suitable accommodation. The SSO and Student Recruitment Office work tirelessly to ensure no RCSI student is without a bed and the successful establishment of a number of exclusive partnerships with accommodation providers supported this essential deliverable.

### RCSI Gym

RCSI Gym was delighted to welcome its 50,000th visitor this year. New initiatives include Challenge 23, a 23-day lifestyle challenge, and Feel Good Friday events. The 2022 Veg Pledge was a great success with 150 staff and student participants. The Gym team also contributed to events including World Mental Health Day and Positive Ageing Week.

## CoMPPAS

RCSI's Centre for Mastery: Personal, Professional and Academic Success (CoMPPAS) supports students via a team of committed education, career and welfare professionals. The CoMPPAS team also helps to coordinate RCSI's orientation programme and International Citizenship Award, as well as supporting tutoring programmes.

**Throughout the year, CoMPPAS focused on the following key areas:**

### Welfare and learning support highlights

- Partnership with the Students' Union to deliver many well-being initiatives including the launch of 'Wellcast', a podcast focused on student well-being
- Partnership with the RCSI Centre for Positive Health Sciences to provide resources and techniques promoting resilience
- 'Responding to Students in Distress' workshops
- New student support platform in partnership with Spectrum Health
- Additional learning support tutors for students registered with the Learning Access and Facilitation Services (LAFS)
- Extension of the LAFS to include occupational therapy and educational psychology

## Career highlights

### Innovation

- Career framework and programme of work rolled out for all schools, underpinned by the Stanford University Designing Your Life (DYL) model
- Student choice model in the new medicine curriculum focused on career planning
- Expansion of the e-portfolio initiative developed using the CareerHub platform in 2021/2022
- Platform to enhance opportunities for hosting virtual events and leveraging reporting data
- Hosting delegations from North American internship programmes, including the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Dr Andrew Furey
- Supporting the Class of 2023 in achieving record match rates

### Engagement

- Collaborating with the Students' Union and student societies to run a series of webinars emphasising the importance of personal growth and professional development
- Presenting at the International Education Forum (IEF) and the RCSI Medical Professionalism Conference
- Assuming a leadership role in the Association of Higher Education Careers Services (AHECS) and in communities of practice with career advisors in other third-level institutions



“ Our research aims to better understand lung fibrosis and to provide improved, personalised treatments for patients so they can live normal and healthy lives. ”

Professor Killian Hurley, Principal Investigator, Department of Medicine and Tissue Engineering Research Group, who was recipient of a European Research Council Starting Grant in 2022



Leading impactful  
research

03

Leading  
impactful  
research

**58%**  
**INTERNATIONAL  
COLLABORATION  
ON ARTICLES\***



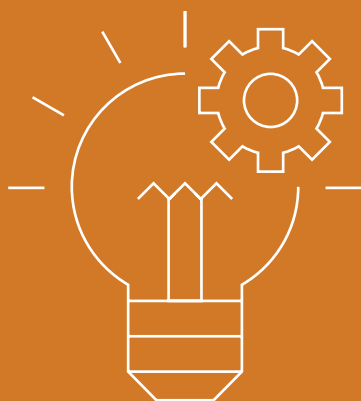
“  
**27,350**  
ALTMETRIC MENTIONS\*\*  
”



**60**  
**UNDERGRADUATE  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN RCSI STUDENT  
INNOVATION CHALLENGE  
2022**



**28** EU GRANTS  
AWARDED



**14** INVENTIONS  
DISCLOSED\*\*

\*Bibliometric: 2018-2022  
\*\* full year 2022



# Leading impactful research



**Professor Fergal O'Brien**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

RCSI is committed to solving the greatest challenges in healthcare. The Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) facilitates and promotes translational and clinical research through collaboration with clinical and industrial partners, enabling RCSI to lead impactful studies that address key national and international health challenges.

Despite an increasingly competitive environment, it has been an exceptional year for RCSI researchers in terms of publications, grant funding and innovation. The ORI continues to support our researchers in their efforts to deliver world-class, patient-centred studies which can be rapidly translated to clinical settings.

Of note among many successful awards for RCSI this year, Professor Edward Gregg (Head of the School of Population Health) was awarded €4.3 million from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) through its prestigious Research Professorship Programme to harness population data to tackle chronic diseases, and Professor Killian Hurley (Department of Medicine) was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to conduct innovative research into treatments for pulmonary fibrosis.

Our plans for the research facilities at 118 St Stephen's Green, the new Project Connect building, include an exciting public engagement space to showcase our research to the public, patients and other stakeholders.

We have set ambitious goals for the next institutional strategy, informed by a careful analysis of the impact that our previous strategy had on growing our research capacity and impact. The strategy proved critical for

RCSI in retaining our position in the top 250 universities worldwide and being ranked number one for the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 'Good Health and Well-being' in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023.

## Review of strategy 2018-2022

We have significantly enhanced our research capability, competitiveness and impact in the past five years. This is evidenced by a substantial increase in our publications and citations in high-impact journals and the generation of research income of €133 million over the last five years. The number of postgraduate researchers registrations has grown from just 30 in 2018 to 86 in 2022. To promote clinical research, we put collaboration agreements in place with Beaumont and Rotunda Hospitals; founded the Sponsorship Office to assist in establishing and running clinical trials; and extended the StAR MD programme to Hermitage, Beacon, Blackrock, Highfield Healthcare and Bon Secours Hospitals and the Irish College of General Practitioners. Professor Mark Sherlock was appointed Director of the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) and Dr Fionnuala Keane joined as Head of Operations, with ambitious plans to grow clinical studies in partnership with our hospitals.

We exceeded Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) innovation targets with five spin-out companies, 36 commercialisation agreements and 171 industry collaborative agreements. We also won three KTI Impact Awards for spin-out company formation, commercialisation and initiative of the year in addition to the 2020 SFI Industry Partnership award for Professor Fergal O'Brien's 15-year collaboration with

We have significantly enhanced our research capability, competitiveness and impact in the past five years.



Integra LifeSciences. We deepened our commitment to Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in research by joining the Health Research Board (HRB) funded PPI Ignite Network and welcomed Dr Michelle Flood (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) as the new RCSI Academic Lead for PPI in research. We continue to enhance student research opportunities such as electives, Research Summer School, the Student Innovation Challenge and Student Choice Health Care Innovation Module.

## Research highlights

Researchers at RCSI published a total of 1,663 PubMed indexed articles in 2022 and 6,600 Scopus indexed articles from 2018-2022. RCSI articles have generated more than 100,000 citations and resulted in the University being ranked joint second in Ireland in the THE World University Rankings 2023. Below are some examples of RCSI-led articles published in high-impact journals during the reporting period:

### Discovery of new brain tumour subtypes

Research led by Professor Annette Byrne (Department of Physiology) uncovered new subtypes of glioblastoma which could help to identify new therapies. Glioblastoma is the most common and aggressive form of adult primary brain cancer with no cure currently available. The research, published in *Annals of*

*Oncology*, identified that glioblastoma tumours can be placed into three distinct categories based on cells in the tumour microenvironment, opening the possibility for personalised treatment regimes.

### COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted babies' social communication skills

Dr Susan Byrne (Department of Paediatrics and FutureNeuro) and Professor Jonathan Hourihane, (Department of Paediatrics) were the lead investigators of a study which demonstrated that the social communication skills of babies born during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns may have been impeded. The findings, published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, showed that fewer communication milestones were met during the first two years of life.

### Digital device can improve patients' asthma management

The Inhaler Adherence in Severe Unstable Asthma (INCA-SUn) programme, led by Professor Richard Costello (Department of Medicine) examined the effectiveness of combining information from a digital device on a digital platform to effectively manage uncontrolled asthma. The study findings demonstrate the potential of digital medicine to help manage many chronic diseases and were published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*.



PhD students Vera Almeida (left), RCSI School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, and Elizabeth Sainsbury, Tissue Engineering Research Group, pictured at Research Day 2023

### Researchers develop new biomaterial with potential to restore lost neural function

In a study supported by the IRFU Charitable Trust and SFI AMBER Centre, Professor Fergal O'Brien (Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine) and his team developed a new graphene-based biomaterial with electroactive properties with potential for spinal cord tissue regeneration and enhancing recovery in patients with neural injuries. This biomaterial promotes neuronal growth using nanomaterials and electrical stimulation. The research was published in *Applied Materials Today*.

### A new role for blood clotting protein in triggering inflammation

A study led by Professor James O'Donnell (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) showed for the first time that the blood clotting protein, von Willebrand factor (VWF) also plays an important role in regulating immune responses at sites of blood vessel injury. Understanding this new biological role for VWF in regulating inflammatory responses may offer the opportunity to develop entirely new treatment options for patients with inflammatory and blood clotting disorders, such as von Willebrand disease, deep vein thrombosis and myocardial infarction. The results were published in *Nature Communications*.

### Circadian 24-hour body clock influences our immune response to vaccines

Professor Annie Curtis (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) led a study examining the changes taking place in the mitochondria of a key immune cell involved in the vaccine response at different times of the day. These findings, published in *Nature Communications*, could help improve the design and timing of the administration of future vaccines to maximise effectiveness.

## Innovation activity

In 2022, the growth in RCSI's knowledge transfer performance continued with RCSI again exceeding the targets set by KTI. RCSI's success is testament to the University's world-class research expertise and focus on commercial application, greatly assisted by the innovation team in the ORI led by Dr Aoife Gallagher. Industry engagement, as measured by the number of agreements, exceeded targets by 48%, demonstrating the quality of our applied research portfolio and industry support team in the ORI, led by Dr Seamus Browne.

### Spin-out companies

RCSI approved the formation of five new spin-out companies and is ranked joint first for spin-out company formation in Ireland (normalised against research expenditure). Our most recently approved spin-out company, OncoLize, led by Professor Helena Kelly (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences), is developing a thermoresponsive drug delivery platform for the treatment of pancreatic cancer and closed a seed funding round of \$1.7 million in April of this year.

### Indigenous industry engagement

In 2022, RCSI researcher engagement with both indigenous small and medium-sized enterprise and foreign direct investment multinational companies was significantly increased through projects funded by the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership programme. To date, there have been four successful applications with a total project value of over €1.3 million. Funded projects were Professor Karen Boland (GI Consultant, Beaumont Hospital) and Nualtra; Dr Shane Browne (RCSI Tissue Engineering Research Group) and Hollister UPC; Dr Sudipto Das (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) and Serosep; and Dr Rob Argent (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences)/Dr Lisa Costelloe (Neurology Consultant, Beaumont Hospital, Co-PI) and Head Diagnostics.

## Funding awards

In 2022/2023 RCSI continued its success in securing research funding from a wide range of funding bodies both national and international. The total value of external funding awarded to RCSI for the calendar year 2022 was €34.6 million.

RCSI approved the formation of five new spin-out companies and is ranked joint first for spin-out company formation in Ireland





The Pink Pathway Team led by Dr Sandra Hembrecht, winners of the Student Innovation Challenge held as part of the RCSI Research Summer School

Examples of some of the more significant RCSI-led awards in the last 12 months include:

- Professor Edward Gregg; Changing the Direction of Diabetes with Integrated, Population-Level, Data-Driven Decision-Making. SFI Research Professorship: €4.2m
- Professor Killian Hurley; STAR-TEL: Stratified Therapeutic Assessment platform for Short Telomere Related Lung Fibrosis using Patient-derived iPSC. European Research Council Starting Grant: €1.5m
- Professor David Williams; HRB Irish Clinical Academic Training II (ICAT): €3.6m
- Professor David Henshall; A Core Medium Throughput Facility with Multi-parametric Readouts for the Assessment of Functional Alterations in Single Cells and Brain Networks in Health and Disease states. SFI Research Infrastructure Award: €1.6m
- Dr Aamir Hameed; PumpinHeart, to develop an implantable heart pump to treat diastolic heart failure. Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund with Boston Scientific and Gentian Services: €3.14m with €715,000 going to RCSI
- Professor Leonie Young; Breast Cancer Ireland National Biobanking Initiative. Breast Cancer Ireland Programme Grant: €680,000
- Professor Gerard Curley; Developing an AI-driven patient monitoring platform. Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund with Novus Diagnostics: €3.2m with €664,000 going to RCSI
- Dr Jamie O'Sullivan; Examining the role of von Willebrand factor as a potential therapeutic target in triple negative breast cancer. SFI Frontiers for the Future: €622,000
- Dr Irene Oglesby; IMPROVE CF: Interrogating the role of miRNA in predicting responses to novel modulator therapies in children with Cystic Fibrosis. HRB Emerging Investigator Award: €608,000
- Dr Oran Kennedy; Osteocytes as a novel source for interleukins: Potential role in joint injury and disease. SFI Frontiers for the Future: €605,000
- Dr Tríona Ní Chonghaile; Dynamics of ageing and cancer: a multi-functional study into apoptosis, metabolism and the microenvironment - Ageing-MM. IRC Consolidator Laureate Award: €600,000
- Dr Tom Hodgkinson; Development of siRNA-activated scaffold delivery system targeting proinflammatory signalling to promote regeneration of osteoarthritic cartilage. HRB Emerging Investigator Award: €568,000
- Dr Darren Griffith; Development of Pt-based PROteolysis TArgeting Chimeras (Pt-PROTACs) as Molecular Probes for Pt-binding proteins and Next Generation Anticancer Agents. SFI Frontiers for the Future: €534,000
- Professor Jarushka Naidoo; Strengthening the screening of Lung Cancer in Europe (SOLACE). EU4Health: €513,000
- Professor David Cotter; A TRUSTworthy speech-based AI monitorINGsystem for the prediction of relapse in psychosis patients (TRUSTING). Horizon Europe Health Cluster: €508,000

## Awards and Honours

### Royal Irish Academy (RIA)

Professor James O'Donnell (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) and Professor Chris Lynch (RCSI Faculty of Dentistry) were elected Members of the Royal Irish Academy (MRIA), Ireland's foremost body of experts in the sciences and humanities.

### Pharma Industry Awards

FutureNeuro, the RCSI-led SFI-funded Research Centre was awarded the R&D Research Centre of the Year at the 2022 Irish Pharma Industry Awards.

### Research Day 2023 and Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards

The keynote John J. Ryan Lecture at this year's Research Day 'Perchance to Dream: Neuroinflammation and Sleep' was delivered by Professor Douglas R. Green from St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis Tennessee. Our thanks to the organising committee, co-ordinator Dr Christopher Byrne (ORI) and academic co-ordinator Dr Triona Ní Chonghaile (Department of Physiology).

The RCSI Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards, recognising the outstanding contribution of RCSI researchers to research commercialisation and industry engagement activity, were presented by Professor Cathal Kelly. The award winners for Commercialisation, Industry Engagement, and Clinical Engagement were Professor Leonie Young, Professor Arnold Hill and Dr Damir Vareslija, co-founders of RCSI spin-out company ProBMeT; Professor Declan Patton, Professor Zena Moore, RCSI and Professor John McDermott and Professor Seamus Sreenan, Connolly Hospital for their partnership with Spectral MD; and Professor Karen Boland for her collaboration with Nualtra, which was co-funded by Enterprise Ireland under the EI Innovation Partnership Programme.



Dr Aoife Gallagher, Professor John McDermott, Professor Zena Moore, Professor Leonie Young, Professor Karen Boland, Professor Declan Patton, Dr Damir Vareslija and Professor Fergal O'Brien, pictured after the awarding of the Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards at Research Day 2023



## Professor Helena Kelly, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, co-founder of OncoLize

My research focus is on developing new and improved ways to target drug therapies to provide optimal patient outcomes.

In 2023, I became co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer, along with Mike de Leeuw CEO, of OncoLize, an RCSI spin-out company. OncoLize is focused on the clinical translation of the patented ChemoGel technology, developed in my research group. ChemoGel is a temperature-sensitive hydrogel; a liquid at room temperature, which transitions into a soft semi-solid gel at body temperature and is intended for direct intra-tumoural injection. This direct delivery approach allows for a much higher concentration and a sustained release of the drug at the tumour site, maximising efficacy while minimising systemic toxicity. Commercial development of the technology at RCSI was supported by the ORI who filed patents and assisted with successful funding applications to Enterprise Ireland to enable key proof of concept experiments.

With the support of ORI, we negotiated a licence to the key RCSI patents and closed a US\$ 1.7 million seed investment round to progress preclinical testing in our lead clinical indication, pancreatic cancer. The OncoLize team is preparing, in conjunction with our partners at Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), to undertake pivotal preclinical efficacy and safety studies over the next 18 months.

Pancreatic cancer has some of the poorest outcomes of all cancers, with eligibility for surgery currently offering the best chance of longer-term survival. Our ambition is for ChemoGel technology to be used as a local treatment in combination with other therapies to help shrink tumours, enabling more patients to be eligible for surgery. We hope to commence clinical trials within three years, offering patients a new treatment approach that has the potential to increase overall survival.

# Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- **5,700** collaborating international research institutions worldwide (Source: SciVal 2013–2022)
- Participated in the **European Public Health Conference 2023**; Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity
- Became member of the **UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** Ireland
- RCSI **SURG-Water** team successful in the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Irish Aid SDG Challenge
- Collaborated with the **Olive Branch for Children** to send student volunteers to Tanzania
- Leading **Climate Health in Medical Education (CHIME)** Ireland to develop a planetary health curriculum for all medical programmes across the island of Ireland
- **Sustainability and Climate Health Committee** established

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- **Zero to landfill** policy for waste
- **No paper cups** available on campus
- **No plastic** in our cafés

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- 2023-2025 RCSI **Arts Strategy** launched
- RCSI/Science Foundation Ireland **Junior Researcher Programme** welcomed 70 students from local schools to encourage participation in STEM
- RCSI Library collaborated with the **Irish Men's Sheds Association** to create bespoke display cabinets for the RCSI Heritage Collections
- Awarded Heritage Council funding for a number of outreach initiatives to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Irish surgeon and anatomist **Abraham Colles**

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES




- Signed the HEA **Anti-Racism Principles** for Irish Higher Education Institutions
- Launched **pronoun badge campaign**, created by the Equality Diversity and Inclusion unit, in collaboration with the staff Pride Network and student Pride Society
- **Race Equality training** made available for all staff

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- Signatories of the **Healthy Campus Charter**
- Introduction of **SDG Champion award** as part of 2023 Vice Chancellors Awards
- Launch of new policy to **support employees affected by domestic violence**

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH




3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



- **#1** in the world in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2023
- Strong health research: **10,503** publications, **337,330** views, citations (Source: SciVal 2013-2022)
- Audience of **7,782** for RCSI MyHealth 2022/23 series
- **Supported Debunking the Myths: The Science behind Our Sexual Health** a free expert-led series of sexual health workshops for teens
- Professor Mary Cannon appointed to advisory group for **Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use**
- Professor Edward Gregg awarded **SFI funding to tackle chronic diseases**
- Professor Juan Carlos Puyana appointed as **O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery**

4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



- **13th RCSI Research Summer School**, immersing undergraduate students in the diverse RCSI research environment
- Graded A- in the 2023 **Planetary Health Report Card** measured across five key indicators: planetary health curriculum, interdisciplinary research in health and the environment, community outreach and advocacy, support for student-led initiatives and campus sustainability
- Dr Michael Daly named **Most Innovative Teacher of the Year** in 2022 Times Higher Education Awards
- **30,000** health professions alumni across 96 countries

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



- RCSI **PROGRESS Fellowship for Women in Surgery** celebrated its fifth year
- Launched **Menopause Policy** and Menopause Training for Managers
- **'BIAS: Inequality in Women's Health and Research'**, tackling biases in women's health and research, developed and implemented for Science Week 2023
- Application submitted for **renewal of Athena Swan Bronze Award**

7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



- **100% green** electricity procured
- **40% improvement in energy efficiency** (kWh/sqm) since baseline 2006
- **Short-listed for Excellence in Sustainability** at the Education Awards 2023
- RCSI Bahrain inaugurated its **Solar Farm project**, which will create approximately 65% of the annual electrical energy needed by the university



“ Through our expert-led, science-based workshops, we are transforming the landscape of sexual health education for teenagers in Ireland. ”

Dr Zara Molphy, RCSI Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Project Co-lead, 'Debunking the Myths: The Science Behind our Sexual Health'





# 04

Supporting  
healthcare  
and society



**39,542** REGISTERED FOR  
REGISTERED FOR  
'SCIENCE OF HEALTH AND  
HAPPINESS' COURSES



**778**

SPECIALIST  
SURGEONS  
GRADUATED FROM  
COSECSA (CUMULATIVE)

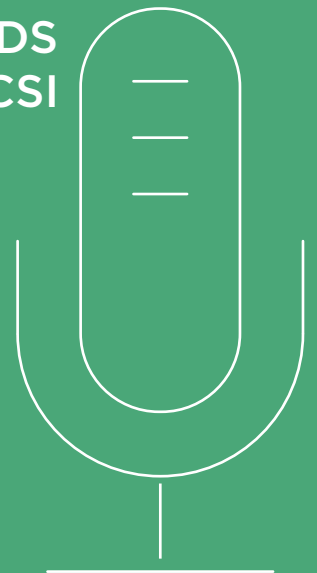


**2,612**

NATIONAL MEDIA  
MENTIONS IN 2022

**4,000+**

DOWNLOADS  
OF NEW RCSI  
MYHEALTH  
PODCAST



**17,000+**

VIEWERS OF RCSI  
MYHEALTH LECTURE  
SERIES 22/23



# Supporting healthcare and society



**Abi Kelly**  
Director of International Engagement  
and External Relations

RCSI's location in the historic heart of Dublin, on St Stephen's Green, places the University in a unique position to make a contribution to the communities that surround us.

In 2022, we undertook a major consultation exercise involving a wide range of community, patient and public stakeholders to inform the development of a dedicated engagement space in our new building at 118 St Stephen's Green, which opens in 2025. This free-to-visit events and exhibition space, devoted to health and well-being, will create a new 'front door' to our campus and help foster greater engagement between our educators, clinicians, researchers and students with the public, schools, charities and policymakers.

In addition to RCSI's focus on making our physical spaces more open to the public, we are ensuring our institutional knowledge is accessible to as wide a range of audiences as possible. Given our specific healthcare focus, we want to become a trusted source of public health information and to work in partnership with our communities so that together we can help improve the health and well-being of the nation.

We continue to build on the RCSI MyHealth public lecture series and widen its audience by offering online sessions in both video and podcast. Aimed at people who want to learn more about a range of health-related topics, the free lectures feature RCSI academics, researchers and clinicians who share their expertise to help people live longer and healthier lives.

In 2022/2023, we signed up to the Healthy Campus Charter, a Higher Education Authority (HEA)-backed programme that encourages health and well-being among university staff and students. Through the Healthy Campus initiative, we are also ensuring that our campus environment encourages and promotes healthy lifestyles among our visitors and neighbours.

A healthy environment is crucial to people's well-being. This is why RCSI is focused on embedding the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) into our research, teaching and operations. Our Sustainability and Climate Health Committee is responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight of this work, including delivery of our Net Zero Action Plan.

In addition to creating a 'green campus' for our students, staff and visitors to enjoy, we are also engaging with the public on issues related to sustainability and its impact on human health. Through this work, we are pleased to maintain our leading position in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings which measures our contribution to the UNSDGs, ranking number one in the world for SDG3 'Good Health and Well-being'.



Staff and student members of the RCSI Healthy Campus Committee celebrate the signing of the Healthy Campus Charter



# Community in Ireland

The vision of RCSI Engage is to enhance human health and education by building reciprocal partnerships between RCSI staff and students and local and national communities.

## RCSI Engage

Led by Maria Kelly, Head of RCSI Engage, the RCSI Engagement Committee is co-chaired by Abi Kelly, Director of International Engagement and External Relations, and Professor Kevin McGuigan. Cross-campus working groups have been established to strengthen our local, national and international community engagement to make a sustainable impact on education and health for all.

## Local community engagement

### REACH RCSI programme

REACH (Recreation, Education And Community Health) RCSI is RCSI's local community engagement and access programme connecting the University with our local community.

Community partnerships and involvement of RCSI students and staff through volunteering, engaged learning and staff/student partnerships are central to the reciprocal nature of the programme.

Highlights include:

### Primary school engagement

In 2022/2023, over 500 local primary school children participated in health education activities supported by RCSI staff and student volunteers.

The Paediatric Society School Visits Volunteer Programme familiarised children with healthcare professionals, helping them overcome apprehension about visiting the doctor or hospital.

The REACH RCSI Pulse Check Challenge entailed weekly visits to the RCSI Sports Hall by local primary schools. Student volunteers taught participants the skill of finding, measuring and recording their pulse rates.

### Post-primary school engagement

Funded by the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Programme and culminating during Science Week 2022, the REACH RCSI Junior Researcher Programme involved 80 first-year students from local post-primary schools, supported by volunteer mentors from across the RCSI research community. The budding researchers took part in a series of workshops, presentations and interactive lab sessions

both in school and at RCSI to experience what it's like to study and work in science and research and to understand its real impact on society.

The programme works with participating schools to support students in developing scientific literacy, preparing for Junior Certificate Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA), and building interest in STEM subjects in advance of the senior cycle.

### UNSDGs in the community

A key goal of Ireland's National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is to further incorporate sustainable development into Irish curricula and across educational settings. A new project introduced this year brings together young future leaders from RCSI and transition year students from our link post-primary schools to explore the UNSDGs.

### HEA Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH)

RCSI is a proud member of this Higher Education Authority (HEA)-funded six-college consortium to collaboratively promote and advance equality of access to higher education for under-represented groups.

Collaborative initiatives include the annual Dublin Learning City Festival, which aims to ensure that education is accessible and free to all, irrespective of age or cultural background. This year's festival in April 2023 featured a range of RCSI learning opportunities focused on health and well-being.

The Community Mentoring (CM) programme is a unique inter-institutional and community-based mentoring programme that involves RCSI Access students mentoring prospective students across Dublin City, and HEA-funded 1916 Bursaries, which support students from target groups under-represented in higher education.

The Creative Arts Summer School (CASS) took place in June 2023. Each member higher education institution hosted 60 participants from under-represented groups for a day of creativity. The theme of the RCSI day was 'Medicine Makes Life Possible; Art Makes it Worthwhile'.



Post primary school students taking part in the SFI Junior Researcher Programme developed by RCSI Engage

## National engagement

### Transition Year MiniMed programmes

The Transition Year MiniMed programme returned in-person and online in February 2023 welcoming 200 school students to campus for interactive lectures and workshops and an additional 3,600 students virtually.

Budding healthcare professionals learned what it's really like to train and work as a doctor, clinical skills training as well as practical experience in a wide range of specialties, including infectious diseases, sports medicine, surgery, paediatrics, transplants and forensic pathology.

For those interested in careers in pharmacy and physiotherapy, TY MiniPharm and TY MiniPhysio, gave students an opportunity to hear from pharmacists and physiotherapists working in a broad range of settings.

The Waterford RCSI TY MiniMed programme at University Hospital Waterford welcomed 120 students from schools in the South Eastern Region.

### Debunking the Myths

The SFI Discover-funded 'Debunking the Myths: The Science Behind our Sexual Health' is a series of interactive workshops and online engagement tools aimed at post-primary students. Developed by RCSI's Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at the Rotunda Hospital, the programme aims to provide clear and reliable evidence-based scientific information in relation to sexual health and to stimulate open discussion and curiosity around the topic. More than 5,692 students engaged in the interactive workshops in 2022 with this number set to reach 12,000 by the end of 2023.

### RCSI MyHealth lecture series

The RCSI MyHealth lecture series continued for 2022/23 demystifying common health concerns by drawing expertise and insights from our team of researchers and international health experts at the cutting-edge of medical and healthcare developments. Episodes were available in both video and podcast form for the first time this year to further amplify their reach, with more than 17,000 video views and 4,000 podcast downloads.

The autumn/winter 2022 episodes focused on topics ranging from positive ageing and retiring well to addressing stigma around obesity and supporting youth mental health. Later in the series, our experts continued discussions from the 2021/22 series with a second episode on the menopause as well as dealing with the topical issue of vaping and talking to teenagers about sexual health.

### RCSI MyHealth Expert Directory

The RCSI MyHealth Expert Directory is a resource for journalists that brings together details of RCSI experts, across a range of healthcare issues and concerns, in an online listing. Over 60 contacts are now included in the Directory divided into their specialties.

In support of the UNSDG to promote good health and well-being, these academics, clinicians and researchers are willing to engage with the media in their area of expertise so they can empower people with information that lead them to better health.

RCSI was mentioned in 2,612 media articles and segments in Ireland in 2022, driven by the contributions of these expert spokespeople.



# Global community



**Professor Juan Carlos Puyana**  
O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery

As signatories to the UN Sustainable Development Goals accord, we are committed to fostering improvements in communities globally.

## Institute of Global Surgery

The Institute of Global Surgery (IGS) in the School of Population Health works to improve underserved populations' access to high-quality surgical care. Access to surgery is a prerequisite for the achievement of the UNSDG 3 'Good Health and Well-being'. We collaborate with our partners globally on sustainable projects that will improve the lives of both patients and clinicians. Most of our current work is centred in sub-Saharan Africa where the need for access to safe surgery is the greatest.

### Education and training

The exceptional capacity-building collaboration programme between RCSI and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), supported by Irish Aid, has been one of the cornerstones of our education and training programmes. It has increased the number of trained surgeons and anaesthetists in sub-Saharan Africa and facilitated continuous professional development

for surgeons, anaesthetists and allied health professionals. It also strengthened our partners' research, learning and educational capabilities including knowledge management capacity. To date, 778 new surgeons have graduated from COSECSA's training programmes with more than 1,000 currently in training.

Our work on large-scale e-learning projects continues to grow, including:

- The UN Global Surgery Learning Hub (surghub.org), produced by the Global Surgery Foundation, UNITAR and RCSI, launched in June 2023. This ambitious open access project provides pre-service and in-service education and training opportunities to all cadres of healthcare providers delivering surgical care in low-resource settings worldwide.
- The Pan-African Paediatric Surgery E-Learning Programme, built in partnership with COSECSA and the West African College of Surgeons, has over 150 paediatric surgical trainees from 17 countries enrolled.
- Other e-learning projects support paediatric anaesthesiology and peri-operative nurse training in Africa.

### Recent events:

- Dr Ines Perić and Eric O'Flynn received the RCSI Education Innovation Award 2023 for a novel participatory curriculum design approach to online learning in surgical training.
- RCSI led a structured mentorship programme for all teams competing in the two-year Global Surgical Training Challenge supporting the creation of novel surgical training simulation modules for low-resource contexts. In January 2023 two teams shared the \$1 million top prize.
- We delivered global surgery teaching in the MCh Surgery, MSc Advanced Clinical Practice, at undergraduate level and in partners' programmes.

This ambitious open access project provides training opportunities to all cadres of healthcare providers delivering surgical care in low-resource settings worldwide.



Annually, over 17 million women in sub-Saharan Africa give birth in healthcare facilities without adequate water. Photo: Antonio Jaén Osuna / SURG-Water

Our global surgery education and training programmes are delivered through partnership, with the support of more than 100 RCSI staff, faculty and students.

### Advocacy

In November 2022, the Institute of Global Surgery, hosted the 12th Meeting of the Permanent Council of the G4 Alliance, bringing together an international surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia (SOTA) audience at RCSI's Dublin campus, with the theme of 'Building SOTA Care for All,' and had a notable multidisciplinary focus, with discussions around the representation of nursing within SOTA care. Over 200 participants attended this event. Speakers included Colm Brophy TD, Professor Eric Borgstein (COSECSA Secretary General), Dr Catherine Mohr (Intuitive Foundation), Dr Cheng-Har Yip (President, International Surgical Society) and Dr Jakub Gajewski (IGS).

### IGS research

We continue to be a leading centre for global surgery research, working to achieve scientific excellence, capacity building and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

Current initiatives include:

- This year we launched a new project, SURG-Water, which is competing in the Science Foundation Ireland SDG17 (Climate Change) Challenge. This initiative, in partnership with Professor Kevin McGuigan (Department of Physiology and Medical Physics) and Malawi University of Business and Applied Science, aims to improve access to water for expectant mothers in rural Malawi.
- The KidSURG partnership, now in its third year and sponsored by Becton Dickinson, increased our reach to an additional four hospitals in Southern Malawi. Our aim is to bring essential surgical care for children to a population of 8 million people in Malawi.
- The Akazi project launched the first-ever clinical breast examination course in Malawi. This course, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, local breast cancer specialists and other experts, was piloted with over 40 participants in view of national scale-up. We have also trained nearly 150 frontline providers in rural clinics in breast health to improve early diagnosis of breast cancer. In parallel, we have implemented a comprehensive sensitisation programme across seven sites to improve community awareness of breast health and breast cancer symptoms, including information on where to access services. Through the Akazi programme, we assured sustainability by reaching over 200 community leaders who have committed to continue this important work in their communities.

### Student and university partnerships

We also support students and early career researchers, and we implemented two StEP projects led by Dr Jakub Gajewski and Dr Chiara Pittalis. They were both awarded the 2023 RCSI Student Partnership Champion Awards for these innovative initiatives benefiting the RCSI student community. We also secured funding to strengthen our partnership with Stellenbosch University in South Africa (Erasmus+ funding), aimed at creating new international educational and research activities.



## Dr Jakub Gajewski, Programme Director (Research), RCSI Institute of Global Surgery, and co- Principal Investigator on Akazi

More than 10 million women live in Malawi, and breast cancer is the third most common cancer in Malawian women. Yet there are only two breast cancer clinics in the country, offering a mere five hours of specialist care weekly, and very few services for patients so diagnosis is often delayed resulting in poor outcomes.

This was shocking to me when these findings emerged from our research. But I am glad the Akazi project, which promotes a systematic approach to breast cancer control in Malawi and facilitates efficient utilisation of available resources, is helping to change the situation.

With local cancer specialists, the Ministry of Health and other experts, we have launched the first breast health course ever developed in Malawi. Starting in Blantyre district, Akazi trains health workers to identify breast abnormalities and make timely referrals, ultimately saving lives.

As we worked to strengthen service provision, it was also important to raise awareness of the disease in the community. With 80% of the population rural-based and low health literacy, many women have never heard of such condition. Akazi has collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders to develop contextually appropriate breast health messages. We have trained over 150 frontline health workers and 200 community leaders, who in turn will disseminate those health messages in their respective communities and inform women of when and where to seek help when symptoms occur.

As we approach the project's end, I am proud that our work has brought breast cancer higher in the Ministry of Health's agenda.



A Malawian cooking on a new Mbaula stove

## Smokeless Village Project

The Smokeless Village Project is a collaboration between RCSI's Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, (under the leadership of Professor Debbi Stanistreet), Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, and the University of Nottingham, UK.

Household air pollution (HAP) is the world's largest environmental source of ill health. Almost four million people die each year through the burning of solid fuels on traditional stoves or open fires and the use of kerosene lamps for lighting. The Smokeless Village Project has taken a community-based participatory approach to reducing HAP in a small village 25km from Blantyre, Malawi. Nsungwi village is a rural village with approximately 180 households. The project, funded by the Irish Research Council (IRC), incorporates mixed methods. We measured baseline indicators of HAP through survey methods and used qualitative methods including photovoice, focus groups and community mapping to identify community perspectives on HAP. The community then chose several interventions to implement in the community including Malawian-made 'mbaula' improved cookstoves, household solar lamps, a community solar charger and aluminium to make pot lids. In addition, the community purchased timber and hired a local carpenter to provide windows for ventilation in the kitchens and learned composting skills to use waste effectively.

Four months after providing the chosen interventions, we evaluated the impact. Maximum levels of smoke pollution had reduced, and households were continuing to use the mbaula as their main stove, citing faster cooking times, a reduction in firewood use and health benefits. In addition, most households reported using their solar lamps every day in the previous week, finding them invaluable for providing light when cooking, as well as enabling children to study in the evenings. Finally, community members also reported that being actively involved in the project had had an important impact on the longer-term sustainability of community health behaviours.



## Safe water projects - SURG-Water

Every year over 17 million women in low-to-medium-income countries give birth in healthcare facilities without adequate water and hygiene measures, putting their lives and their babies at risk of preventable infections. An RCSI team has commenced a project with the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) to improve clinical outcomes in rural clinics in Malawi by improving access to safe water for patients in maternity wards.

The SURG-Water project team consists of Professor Christabel Kambala (Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences), Professor Kevin McGuigan (Department of Physiology and Medical Physics), Dr Jakub Gajewski and Dr Chiara Pittalis (RCSI Institute of Global Surgery). The aim of SURG-Water is to pilot the use of solar-disinfected (SODIS) harvested rainwater in rural health clinics in Thekerani and Chimvu in Southern Malawi. Neither clinic has water onsite. Instead, staff, family members, and in some cases, the patients themselves, must collect water in 20 litre buckets from nearby borehole hand-pumps and carry it back to the maternity wards. This water is used for clinical procedures and personal hygiene purposes.

SURG-Water will install systems to collect rainwater from the clinic roofs, which will be remediated using solar ultraviolet energy to inactivate microbial pathogens in a 200l SODIS reactor. The water will then be piped directly to taps in the delivery room and maternity wards. This project has been co-designed in consultation with staff, patient and community stakeholders in Malawi.

SURG-Water is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Irish Aid under their SDG Challenge, Future Innovators Program. If successful, the technology developed will directly contribute to the following SDGs:

- SDG3 'Good Health and Well-being' by preventing premature death and needless suffering from preventable diseases and prioritising regions with the highest disease burden and neglected population groups
- SDG6 'Clean Water and Sanitation' by ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water
- SDG5 'Gender Equality' by targeting the specific health needs associated with pregnancy, childbirth
- SDG10 'Reduced Inequalities' by meeting the healthcare needs of expectant mothers in rural and underserved areas

## International Health and Tropical Medicine

The RCSI Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine provides medical education for all student doctors in RCSI on topics including HIV, malaria and other diseases related to travel, with collaborative teaching links to the campuses in Bahrain and Malaysia. Professor Sam McConkey, in his role as Vice Dean, is leading international curriculum development, managing a PhD student-driven project focusing on 'Improving Education Interventions to Healthcare Students to Deliver Effective, Culturally Appropriate Care'.

Dr Eoghan de Barra hosted the annual meeting of the Union of European Medical Specialists – Infectious Diseases division (UEMS-ID) at RCSI in September 2022 which explored the future of infectious diseases (ID) training across Europe. Dr de Barra was elected chair of the European ID exam board and is charged with delivering the first Europe-wide ID examination in 2024. He has also been elected as the Irish representative to the European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID).

The Department's clinical research team, based at the RCSI Clinical Research Centre (CRC), Beaumont Hospital, successfully completed two multinational clinical trials on COVID-19 therapies and has been approved and funded as a site for two Health Research Board (HRB)-funded projects, the Infectious Diseases Clinical Trials Network Ireland (ID-CTNI) and the National Irish COVID-19 Biobank. The team

has also been actively recruiting to BOOSTAVAC, an EU Commission-funded trial on optimal dosing of mRNA vaccines. In 2022, the Department was awarded a student engagement award for the support of the Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme and the successful awarding of €50,000 to an undergraduate-led project on stigma and HIV.

During late 2022 and early 2023, members of the RCSI ID team from Beaumont Hospital contributed towards the RCSI workshop series 'Debunking the Myths: The Science Behind our Sexual Health', delivering information on sexually transmitted diseases to transition year students.

In April, members of the ID team, on behalf of RCSI, attended the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) conference in Copenhagen and presented research on national trends in leptospirosis and vector-borne diseases. Professor Sam McConkey is a member of the Board of the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI), an organisation supporting the development of new vaccines for use in resource-poor settings where there are no commercial incentives for research and development.



“ Staying connected to RCSI through Alumni Relations honours our shared past, as well as fostering connections that enrich our careers and contribute to healthcare advancement. ”

*Dr Kuan Khoo, RCSI Medicine Class of 2000 and  
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland*



05

Enabling  
our vision

# Development, Alumni Relations, Fellows and Members



**Aine Gibbons**  
Director of Development, Alumni Relations, Fellows and Members

Central to the work of the RCSI Development, Alumni Relations, Fellows and Members department are the external relationships we cultivate on behalf of RCSI. These relationships with our core communities: surgeons, alumni and donors, are key to sustaining the University, now and into the future.

## **Development: Fostering relationships with alumni, donors and friends**

As a not-for-profit organisation, fundraising allows us to be innovative and undertake strategic initiatives in a faster timeframe than might otherwise be possible. Fundraising is also a means for proud RCSI alumni to support their alma mater. Alumni often tell us that their student experiences had an impact not only on their career but shaped them as a person. Therefore, they are keen to give back.

Launched in 2016, the RCSI Tomorrow campaign created a framework to provide a clear focus for fundraising. To date, €33 million has been raised across four strategic priorities that have a significant impact on the University:

- **Creating healthcare leaders of tomorrow:** funds raised contribute to our student programmes, supporting exceptional individuals who have the commitment to make a life-long difference to patient care.
- **Building healthier societies:** supporting professorial appointments that lead ambitious academic programmes at RCSI, for example, Chair of Simulation, Chair of Medical Professionalism, Chair of Global Surgery and Centre for Positive Health Sciences.

- **Advancing breakthrough research:** through philanthropic commitment to research, RCSI succeeds in leading impactful discoveries that address key national and international health challenges.
- **Forging the RCSI Med District:** funds raised support capital projects at RCSI such as 26 York Street, where all tutorial rooms, teaching, clinical and surgical spaces have been named by donors. This is an incredible achievement and this much-valued representation of alumni on campus is an important source of inspiration for students. Looking ahead, our next focus is supporting the delivery of the new 118 Stephen's Green capital development, also known as Project Connect.

Our sincere thanks to all individuals, companies and foundations who, through their philanthropic giving, have supported RCSI's mission to 'educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health'.

## **Alumni Relations: Connecting with the alumni community**

RCSI is proud of the sense of identity and community that our alumni share. These connections become even stronger when alumni attend events, engage with our communications and volunteer to support students.

Out in the world, our alumni are RCSI's greatest advocates, and we are privileged to champion their achievements.



RCSI alumni at the 2022 RCSI Alumni Gathering in August

The stand-out achievement this year was the Alumni Gathering in August 2022, with almost 800 alumni and guests returning for the first in-person class reunions since 2019. Alumni from 36 classes attended the three-day event, which gave students and staff the opportunity to welcome alumni back on campus and to update them on recent developments as well as future ambitions.

The rich tapestry of alumni experiences and stories is captured and shared via the weekly 'Alumni eNews' newsletters, alumni social media channels and the annual RCSI Alumni Magazine. In this year's magazine, over 70 alumni contributed to a wide variety of topics from the development of fertility services in Ireland to the challenges of rural medicine around the world, with alumni from the five decades of RCSI's clinical electives programme contributing their reflections to mark the 50th anniversary of the programme.

Over 200 alumni are now registered to the Alumni Volunteer Programme. As guest speakers, mentors and content creators, they generously give of their time and professional assistance.

Out in the world, our alumni are RCSI's greatest advocates, and we are privileged to champion their achievements.

#### **Fellows and Members: Supporting excellence in surgical practice**

RCSI sets the standards for surgical practice both in Ireland and internationally, empowering surgeons to deliver excellent surgical practice across the world.

We attract the best and most committed candidates to our Core Surgical Training and Specialty Training programmes. Each year, approximately 387 new Fellows and Members become Members of RCSI by examination.

This year, through our Affiliate Membership Programme, we provided dedicated resources to over 2,000 medical and surgical trainees, helping them prepare for the MRCS part A and B examinations, supporting their career development and building RCSI's reputation for quality training.

RCSI Fellows and Members are highly respected and their FRCSI and MRCSI post-nominals are a globally recognised quality mark in surgery on which Fellows and Members place the highest value. RCSI is committed to the development of the next generation of surgical trainees, nurturing their talent and enriching their learning. Experienced Fellows and Members give generously of their time to volunteering. We have over 250 volunteers serving on Council and committees, as examiners, teachers, mentors and contributors to publications and events.

We are proud of our Fellows and Members, based all over the world, and their professional achievements in delivering excellence in patient care.



# Campus development



**Michael McGrail**  
Director of Corporate Strategy

With the appointment in March 2022 of Bennett Construction Ltd as the contractor, RCSI's campus development in Dublin city centre is well under way. Demolition and enabling works are complete and substructure works are in progress.



Architectural rendering of the future building at 118 St Stephen's Green

The €95 million expansion project at 118 St Stephen's Green, also known as Project Connect, will enrich the student experience and provide vital infrastructure for pioneering health sciences research and innovation, as well as creating a space for local community engagement.

A key design element of Project Connect is its physical link to RCSI's presence at 26 York Street, significantly opening up RCSI's education space for the 3,000 students and staff who attend the campus daily for study, work and extracurricular activities. The development will be home to the new RCSI School of Population Health, the RCSI Graduate School of Healthcare Management, and a 50sqm virtual reality surgical training space for the National Surgical Training Programme. It will also enable the introduction of new concepts such as student community spaces and

provide small group teaching spaces and flexible flat-floor teaching spaces. The development will enhance RCSI's research and innovation activities, providing up to three floors of state-of-the-art laboratory, write-up and support facilities for existing and new research programmes and initiatives.

118 St Stephen's Green will reinforce RCSI's historic connection with St Stephen's Green by becoming the new 'front door' of the campus. It will include a new public engagement space for public events and exhibitions, aligning with RCSI's goal of enabling people to live long and healthy lives.

118 St Stephen's Green will open its doors to students and staff at the commencement of the 2025/2026 academic year.

# Information technology



**Justin Ralph**  
Chief Technology Officer

RCSI's objective to provide a transformative education and learning experience for students serves as the impetus behind investing in ongoing information technology (IT) projects for digital solutions across the organisation.

Through the implementation of new real-time assessment and clinical placement tools, the healthcare education setting will be transformed, greatly enhancing the student experience. These innovative tools will bring a significant leap in capabilities and user-friendliness, catering to the needs of our valued clinicians, students and staff, and enriching their educational journey.

The IT department at RCSI is dedicated to consistently enhancing organisational effectiveness through improved automation and IT service initiatives. As part of these efforts, significant IT organisational advances have been made, including the successful implementation of an online IT Support Portal, the streamlining of IT procurement processes, and a complete redesign of the system access management process, in collaboration with HR.

A new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system has enhanced student recruitment and marketing functions and has enabled RCSI to strengthen national and international collaborations. The CRM will also support a platform for the

These innovative tools will bring a significant leap in capabilities and user-friendliness, catering to the needs of our valued clinicians, students and staff, and enriching their educational journey.

Professional Competency Scheme for RCSI in line with revised Medical Council requirements, along with a front-end portal designed to develop and strengthen engagement with Alumni, Fellows and Members. The rollout of Microsoft Teams/SharePoint collaboration spaces and OneDrive continues across RCSI. This means the discontinuation of legacy network drives and content and provides a host of transformational benefits to all RCSI staff.

Collaborating with the Graduate School of Healthcare Management, leveraging the RCSI Online platform, and the Department of Surgical Affairs, the IT Digital Learning Team is actively involved in delivering a comprehensive range of continuous professional development (CPD) courses. These courses cover diverse fields such as Strategy, Finance, Cybersecurity, Digital Health, AI in Radiology, Lean QI, Clinical Leadership and Entrepreneurship. The aim is to provide a diverse and valuable set of educational opportunities for professionals seeking to enhance their skills and expertise in various areas of interest.

IT security is integrated into the management of our applications and infrastructure with regular cycles of cybersecurity reviews and action planning. We understand the significance of enhancing IT security literacy among users, which is why we have introduced new IT security awareness training in collaboration with HR. This training complements the extensive workshops, training sessions and support guides provided by IT throughout the year.

To ensure that our staff and students enjoy the advantages of new and improved system features while maintaining a secure environment, IT maintains and future-proofs RCSI applications and infrastructure. Our commitment remains steadfast in serving the current and future needs of our students, staff, researchers and other key stakeholders.



# Equality, diversity and inclusion

The goal of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) unit for 2022/23 was to build on our commitment to collaborate with staff, students, partners and civil society organisations to effect meaningful change in RCSI and make our community more inclusive.



Marking International Women's Day with a panel discussion hosted by EDI Unit and the Women's Network: (l-r) Dr Suzanne Crowe (Irish Medical Council), Professor Laura Viani, Professor Cathal Kelly, Dr Caroline Munyi (AkiDwA), Professor Jarushka Naidoo and Professor Hannah McGee

In November 2022, we marked the one-year anniversary of RCSI's Race Equality Action Plan. RCSI President, Professor Laura Viani, opened the event and Emeka Okereke, Chair of the Race Equality Forum, discussed progress made over the past year. Professor Marian Brennan shared an update on Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM)'s curriculum development review, and students presented initiatives which have contributed richly to our race equality work.

Our VisABILITY Forum marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2022 with an online event during which a current student and a recent graduate discussed their learning experiences at RCSI. Jacinta Burke (Academic Development) shared how we support students with disabilities, both seen and unseen.

We celebrated International Women's Day in March 2023 with a hybrid panel event titled 'Embracing Equity and Access in Healthcare Leadership' followed by a networking lunch.

## Collaboration

Two collaborations with student societies stood out during the year.

- In September 2022, the EDI unit ran a week-long online sexual health campaign with the student Health and Well-being Society to mark World Sexual Health Day.
- We continued our focus on gender identity and expression, launching a new pronoun badge and rainbow lanyard campaign to coincide with Pride 2023. We collaborated with our student Pride Society and staff Pride Network to show solidarity with transgender and non-binary colleagues and students.

## Athena Swan

The new term got off to a positive start with the exciting news that the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Physiotherapy both achieved Athena Swan Bronze accreditation.

## Awareness raising

Events and training specific to the equal status protected grounds were held throughout the year.

## Policy

The new Domestic Violence and Abuse Leave Policy outlines how RCSI will deal sensitively with any employee who may be experiencing domestic violence and abuse and provides guidance on the support available.

## Speak Out

Speak Out is a national anonymous reporting tool that records incidences of misconduct. From October to December 2022, we ran an awareness-raising campaign, which increased engagement by 24%. We were invited to present to the national Speak Out team, and the campaign was discussed at the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Conference. Since launching in October 2021, we have issued 81 RCSI Speak Out reports.



# International engagement



**Abi Kelly**  
Director of International Engagement  
and External Relations

Internationalisation activity happens on many levels across RCSI, through our branch campuses, international students and faculty, staff and student mobility initiatives, international events, collaborations, alliances and partnerships.

Our International Engagement Steering Group and International Engagement Framework ensure that there is support for and coordination of key activities.

In 2022/2023, we had a major focus on Europe and building partnerships across the continent to collaborate on a range of education and research projects.

As part of this, RCSI was accepted as an associate partner in the European University Alliance for Global Health (EUGLOH) along with three other medical and life sciences universities: Wroclaw Medical University in Poland, Humanitas University in Milan and the Medical University of Vienna. RCSI's inclusion in this prestigious alliance of 12 leading comprehensive universities across Europe will help to enhance our reputation in Europe and provide multiple collaborative opportunities.

University alliances go beyond shared mobility and joint degrees with a vision to achieve a fluid movement of people (both staff and students) between the universities involved. Critical to their success is that they are multilateral and support existing EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe.

Our participation in the Erasmus+ programme continues to be an important way of developing relationships with partner universities by providing reciprocal exchanges for staff and students. This year we developed a number of mobility agreements with universities including the Sorbonne University and Paris-Saclay university in France and Porto University in Portugal, which helps enhance the staff and student experience at both the sending and hosting institutions.

Relationships with Sorbonne University were further developed with the inaugural intervarsity rugby match between RCSI and Sorbonne students in February 2023. Held in honour of the memory of Sorbonne's Gilbert Berezia and RCSI's Professor Alan Johnson who started this relationship 32 years ago, this event will be an annual date in the universities' calendars.

We also grew our involvement in important European networks including the European Association of International Education (EAIE) and the European Universities Association where we are a member of the 'Green Deal' task-and-finish expert group advising on universities as drivers of climate action.

Another way we are growing our international partnerships is by hosting academic conferences at RCSI. The RCSI Collaborate Initiative, which offers funding and event support, has enabled a range of high-profile academic conferences to be held in RCSI and Dublin throughout the year. These include the inaugural cancer conference at the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre, hosting the European Graduate School of Neuroscience and academic symposia on healthcare inequalities and androgens in health and disease.

We had a major focus on Europe and building partnerships across the continent to collaborate on a range of education and research projects.



# Human resources



**Barry Holmes**  
Director of Human Resources

The strategic priority of the Human Resources (HR) team is to sustain and develop RCSI's positive culture where people are enabled, encouraged and proud to do their best work, in parallel with developing opportunities to contribute to our mission and to advance their long-term career potential.

By retaining the best of what was learned during the pandemic, we have embedded hybrid working practices that maintain our campus as a hub of social connection, learning, collaboration and vibrancy. Nurturing meaningful in-person connections is so important and we are pleased with the progress made in this regard.

Supporting open communication, we actively seek feedback at numerous touchpoints to monitor staff sentiment, experience and well-being. Key results include:

- 85% of staff feel connected to their team
- 96% satisfaction rate with RCSI among new starters
- 90% of staff would recommend RCSI as a good place to work

Aligning to our core value of scholarship, our learning and development agenda grows year-on-year, supporting staff to grow and develop skillsets and networking connections to progress their careers. Key highlights include:

- Roll out of a Career Development Programme for all our clinical educators, pairing 49 clinical educators with clinician mentors who worked with them throughout the year.
- Expansion of the positive connections mentoring programme for early career academics and the Collaborate inter-university mentoring programme.
- Sponsorship of an additional 14 participants in the Managing Through People (MTP) development programme. To date, 58 people have participated.

RCSI's workforce is predominantly female (66%), and we continue to work to promote and develop our female talent to achieve their full potential. This year we sponsored 12 participants in the Aurora Women's Leadership Development programme, bringing the number of overall participants to 87. We introduced a menopause policy with training for all staff, specialist training for line managers and established a network of Menopause Champions. We worked closely with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team on the renewal application for RCSI's Athena Swan Bronze award, with the outcome to be announced in autumn 2023.

HR expanded supports for new parents, offering 12-month post-work return supports. A key focus is to promote opportunities for male colleagues to avail of our family-friendly policies, recognising the general societal imbalance with regard to caring responsibilities.

All staff are required to complete annual Personal Development Plans (PDPs), focusing on performance-enhancing conversations rather than ratings. Completion rates continue to be high at over 90% as we evolve this important process. Recognising the University's HR support for research staff, the European Commission awarded RCSI the renewal of the HR Excellence in Research Award in September 2022. Finally, RCSI launched a new annual campaign to recognise peers and their contributions. In its inaugural year, the Vice Chancellor's Awards received over 190 nominations across five categories.

In its inaugural year, the Vice Chancellor's Awards received over 190 nominations across five categories.

# Finance



**Jennifer Cullinane**  
Director of Finance

RCSI is an independent, not-for-profit, international health sciences university and research institution. Over time, RCSI's activities have been extended to include medical and healthcare education through undergraduate and postgraduate courses, research programmes and various community outreach activities.

In December 2019, RCSI was granted university status as RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, having received designation as a statutory degree-awarding body in 2010. RCSI is also a recognised college of the National University of Ireland (NUI). Educational programmes at RCSI are accredited by various bodies including Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the Irish Medical Council (IMC).

Under the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023, RCSI is currently number one for United Nations Sustainable Development (UNSDG) Goal 3 "Good Health & Well-being".

### Key activities

As a registered charity, RCSI endeavours to further its education and research objectives through various activities in line with the mission 'to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health'. These activities encompass the three strategic pillars of education, research and society. RCSI's education, training and research activities span three continents, Europe, Asia/Middle East and Africa, from its Irish headquarters.

Postgraduate professional training programmes extend beyond those run in Ireland, with close links and common training curricula with sister Royal Surgical Colleges in England and Scotland and supporting the College of Surgeons East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) in cooperation with Irish Aid. The RCSI faculties of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists, Dentistry, Nursing and Midwifery, and Sports and Exercise Medicine provide oversight, education, and examination in their respective disciplines. The Irish Institute of Pharmacy provides continuing professional development for pharmacists throughout Ireland.

Partnership is a key tenet of RCSI's delivery model, encompassing collaboration with other Higher Education Institutions (HEI) through research studies, outreach programmes with local communities and clinical placements including the academic partnership with the RCSI Hospitals Group.

As one of Ireland's largest indigenous services exporters, RCSI makes a significant contribution annually to the Irish economy. RCSI employs more than 1,300 people in Ireland and it is estimated that approximately 2,000 additional indirect jobs across the Irish economy are supported through the expenditure of our staff and students.

### Financial management

As the governing body of the institution, the RCSI Council has responsibility for the College's financial affairs, with certain functions delegated to the Finance and Audit and Risk Committees. Overall, the organisation's financial objective is to ensure robust financial stewardship, including compliance with the Charities Governance Code and bank covenants. The College is committed to responsible investment principles and has signed up to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing as it continues to progress its UNSDGs.

RCSI operates a primarily self-funding model with approximately 17% of revenue derived from public sources. There is a strong focus on generating annually a cash surplus to ensure organisational commitments, both current and capital in nature, are met. In line with RCSI's charitable remit, all surpluses generated are reinvested for the furtherance of RCSI's education and research objectives after funding day-to-day operations, investment in campus infrastructure, and servicing of debt. Reserves are maintained to provide for continued investment to ensure the relevance of RCSI's market offering and to enable responsiveness to general environmental volatilities including inflationary pressures. Robust management of cash reserves and loan commitments continues, taking account of the rising interest rate environment.





### Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure

	2022 €m	2021 €m
<b>Revenue</b>	225	211
Operating costs	(192)	(187)
Depreciation	(13)	(12)
Interest (net)	(2)	(2)
<b>Operating surplus</b>	18	10
Unrealised non-operating gains	22	7
<b>Net surplus for financial year</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>

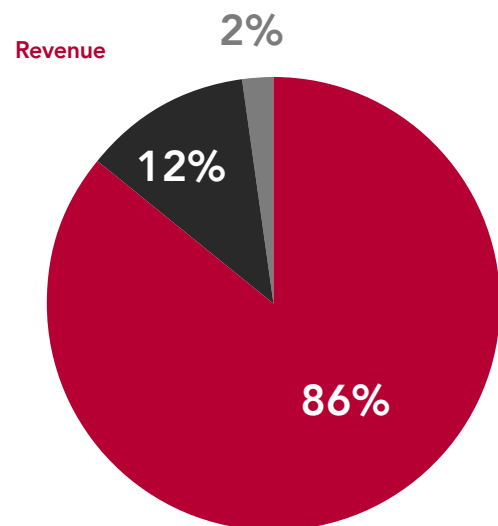
### Review of the year to 30 September 2022

In the 12 months ending 30 September 2022, RCSI delivered a solid financial performance, in line with approved plans and bank covenant requirements. We continue to be alert to the challenges that remain, including inflationary pressures, in a post-pandemic environment. Group revenues grew by 7% on 2020/21 levels, primarily due to continued growth in education and research programmes.

The majority of revenue continues to be generated from those activities that are core to RCSI's mission: degree-awarding, professional postgraduate

training activities and externally funded research, supplemented by a valuable source of ancillary revenue from an investment portfolio.

Students across RCSI represent nationalities from more than 100 countries with almost half of all students and trainees attending under a sponsorship agreement or other support.



**86% Education and training programmes**  
**12% Externally funded research**  
**2% Investment**

Staff-related and non-staff-related costs increased by 2% year-on-year. 2021/22 saw the continued rollout of initiatives under the RCSI strategic plan 2018-2022, while the post-pandemic return to on-campus activities, together with challenging global environmental impacts and substantial utilities inflation, resulted in an overall increase in costs. RCSI places significant importance on the effective use of resources, with costs closely monitored to ensure 'value for money', and the focus on continual improvement and a sustainable environment.

Unrealised valuations recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure amounted to €22 million. These include currency impacts and independent valuations of investment property and the defined benefit pension scheme, based on market conditions prevailing at the financial year-end. The value of the defined benefit pension scheme, as measured under accounting standards, was a surplus of €9 million, and in 2022 the pension scheme successfully exited the funding plan with the Irish Pensions Board following a 2012 restructure.

Significant capital expenditure projects are funded through an appropriate balance of debt and cash reserves. In July 2022 a €40 million loan was drawn down from the European Investment Bank to part fund RCSI's ambitious capital programme.

#### Balance sheet

RCSI's net asset value increased by 11% year-on-year arising from a strong financial performance and an improved defined benefit pension fund valuation. The net asset value is supported by a high-quality asset base of campus infrastructure, long-term borrowings and a low level of investment revaluations.

RCSI has a number of investments through subsidiary structures in support of its mission. In Ireland, these include a property management services company (West Green Management Company Ltd) and a travel company (RCSI Travel DAC) to support the delivery of programmes overseas. RCSI operates a medical university in Bahrain, and a joint venture with University College Dublin in Malaysia (RCSI-

#### Consolidated balance sheet

	2022 €m	2021 €m
Non-current assets	406	377
Current assets	354	290
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>667</b>
Current liabilities	167	141
Non-current liabilities	188	161
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>365</b>

UCD Malaysia Campus, formerly known as Penang Medical College).

#### Conclusion

Overall, despite the challenges currently posed in the global environment, financial performance was delivered in line with approved plans and bank covenant requirements.

The organisation continues to manage risk through a Risk Framework including the implementation of mitigation measures. The principal risks and uncertainties facing RCSI include cyber security, market competition and inflationary pressures. RCSI is fortunate to operate in a market where there continues to be a strong demand for healthcare education.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Council, external Board members and RCSI staff in the delivery of RCSI's mission 'to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health' in line with the RCSI values of respect, collaboration, scholarship and innovation. We look forward together, building on the progress made, to continue to enable the delivery of RCSI's mission in a financially sustainable manner.

We look forward together, building on the progress made, to continue to enable the delivery of RCSI's mission in a financially sustainable manner.



# Quality Enhancement Office

At RCSI, the dedicated Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) coordinates quality activities and collects the data needed to continually assure and develop the quality of our student and staff experience.

As a Designated Awarding Body, RCSI is subject to periodic institutional review by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). Preparations for the 2023 QQI review were a key focus this year. A whole-of-institution self-evaluation was undertaken, and an Institutional Profile was published on the RCSI website. Case studies outlining quality enhancement activity across the organisation were developed for this review and exhibited as part of the International Education Forum. Further engagement with QQI included participation in consultations and the submission of our Annual Quality Report. The Head of RCSI's QEO, Aisling Reast, is a member of the Steering Committee of QQI's National Academic Integrity Network.

Data gathering to support evidence-based quality improvement is a core QEO activity. The QEO collects, analyses and disseminates student and staff feedback to inform and enhance activities across RCSI. Over 300 surveys were managed by the QEO during the year. Particular value is placed on the views of learners and a quality enhancement repository was launched to support communication of the enhancements implemented as a result of student feedback. Staff surveys were undertaken to support areas including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Human Resources developments.

The QEO oversees a programme of internal quality reviews of schools, faculties, professional support units and overseas campuses. This year, a review was undertaken of the Student Services Office and preparations commenced for a joint review of RUMC with colleagues in UCD. A thematic analysis of RCSI's first 29 internal quality reviews was also completed.

The QEO provides assessment quality assurance and psychometric services to both RCSI and the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE). Recent key developments included the development of data processing/quality assurance pipelines for both the MRCS Part A and Part B assessments. This included more detailed analyses of the performance of Questions, Scenarios and Examiners and the development of college-specific feedback reports.

Events this year included a Quality Forum, which brought together staff with interest and expertise in quality from across RCSI's international sites, and a Quality Event highlighting the importance of engagement in quality activity to students.

The QEO collects, analyses and disseminates student and staff feedback to inform and enhance activities across RCSI.



Enabling our vision



“ My specialist training in Radiation Oncology will enable me to provide cutting-edge treatment and comprehensive follow-up care for cancer patients as part of a multidisciplinary team. ”

Dr Femi Walkins, Radiation Oncology Trainee,  
RCSI Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists





06

Professional  
training

Professional  
training

# Faculty of Dentistry



**Professor Chris Lynch**  
Dean, Faculty of Dentistry

The Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 1963 with the core mission of advancing the science, art and practice of dentistry by promoting education, study and research. The Faculty has approximately 5,600 Fellows, Members, Diplomates and Affiliates globally.

The Faculty offers postgraduate general dentistry and specialist fellowships examinations and provides lecture-based and hands-on courses for dentists undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) and/or structured postgraduate training.

The Faculty has longstanding specialist training collaborations with prestigious organisations overseas, including Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) in Qatar, as well as colleagues in Jordan (Jordan University and Jordan University of Science and Technology), Bahrain, and Ajman in the United Arab Emirates.

Online CPD lectures continue to be a very popular offering of the Faculty. These are pre-recorded and available to our Fellows, Members, Diplomates and Affiliates in Ireland and overseas.

In October 2022, the Faculty hosted a joint Annual Scientific Meeting in Dublin with the American Academy of Paediatric Dentistry, which was an outstanding success.

A delegation from the Faculty visited Doha as part of its collaboration with HMC Qatar in February 2023 and delivered bespoke didactic and hands-on skills training for general CPD and the Fellowship in Paediatric Dentistry programme. We also delivered a face-to-face diet of our Membership examination while present. A celebratory event was held for the successful graduates of the Paediatric Dentistry programme.

Professor Albert Leung concluded his term as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry in March 2023. The Faculty of Dentistry is very grateful to Professor Leung for his leadership. One measure of his innovative contribution was the Faculty's successful pivot to online examinations, with more than 5,500 candidates taking the Faculty's online examinations during the three years of his tenure.

The biennial Fergal Nally Lecture was held in April 2023, named after one of our most famous Fellows. This year's guest speaker was Professor Áine Hyland, who spoke on the topic 'Education – a Transformational Journey'. The event was addressed by Thomas Byrne TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education.

We look forward to conferring over 700 new Fellows, Members and Diplomates of the Faculty at the RCSI Conferring in July 2023.



Candidates at the Fellows and Members conferring ceremony in December

# Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists



**Dr Patricia Cunningham**  
Dean, Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists

The Faculty has undergone a name change to become the Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists, which is an appropriate reflection of all our constituents.

During this academic year most activities have returned to 'normal' with Faculty administrative staff working to a hybrid model. The Faculty scientific meetings returned to in-person events with the exception of our Irish Magnetic Resonance Imaging Meeting (IMRIM) which is continuing online by popular demand.

Teaching also continues online, partly due to the ongoing refurbishment of our training room. Examinations were delivered in person again over the past year. Faculty committee meetings have been conducted remotely via Zoom, while in-person board meetings will return in the next academic year.

The Faculty remains committed to highlighting radiology workplace issues at every forum available including the NDTP (National Doctors Training and Planning), HSE Acute Hospitals and the Department of Health. It is important for the Faculty as the training

body to be involved in promoting closer alignment between training and workplace requirements and to address workplace conditions for consultant trainers so that training is supported and maintained at a high level of quality. The Faculty has a role in facilitating staff recruitment and retention by raising awareness of issues including workload and working conditions that need to be resolved to encourage more trainees to return to the health service.

The Kuwait Training Programme recommenced in person for the 2022/2023 academic year. A two-year contract extension for delivery of a Part II-only programme has been negotiated. The Faculty has an agreement with the Ministry for Health in Saudi Arabia and we hope to have increased numbers of applicants in the future. This may prove a valuable source of trainees for the Faculty, as well as a new source of income.



Pictured (front l-r) Ms Fiona Bolger, CEO of Spinal Injuries Ireland, Dr Jerome Coffey, Dr Mark Knox and Dr Patricia Cunningham, (behind l-r) Dr Catherine Glynn, Professor Michael Lee, Dr Darragh Halpenny and Dr Moya Cunningham

Interventional Radiology is still pursuing specialty recognition status with the Medical Council and the Faculty is fully supportive of this. While it has proven to be a long and challenging pathway, recognition will enhance the standing of Interventional Radiology and attract the resources needed in this area.

The SpR training schemes continue to be extremely popular with junior doctors of the highest calibre. This year we had a record number of places available on the Radiology training scheme with 36 successful candidates and five Radiation Oncology trainees starting the programme in July 2023.

The Inaugural Faculty Charity Ball took place in February and raised €8,500 for our charity partner Spinal Injuries Ireland.



# Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery



**Dr Mary Boyd**  
Dean, Faculty of Nursing and  
Midwifery

The RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery (FNM) plays a pivotal role in the strategic development of the nursing and midwifery professions. Established in 1974, the Faculty has seen much change over time, and this year has been no exception.

When the FNM separated from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at RCSI in 2014, a new Executive Director, Professor Thomas Kearns was appointed to oversee new developments within the Faculty. Professor Kearns retired from his position as Executive Director in April 2023. His tenure saw the implementation of the highly successful Overseas Aptitude Test programme, increased interest in the Faculty's Fellowship awards and the launch of the new Membership of the Faculty award. On his retirement, Professor Kearns was awarded the Lifetime Daisy Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication and life's work to the compassionate care of others through nursing.

Professor Kearns' successor, Professor Mark White, assumed the position of Executive Dean at the end of April 2023 and is leading the Faculty into a new and exciting chapter. This appointment marked a key transition period for the Faculty along with the appointment of two Executive Vice Deans, a new Operations and Education Manager and a new Operations Manager.

#### Highlights from the Faculty in 2022/2023 include:

- The Annual Education and Research Conference
- Unveiling of two new sculpture commissions
- Development of the Global Leadership Innovation Academy

#### Delivering a transformative learning experience

Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, 2,593 applicants completed the RCSI FNM Aptitude Test for Overseas General Nurses. The Overseas Aptitude Test contributes significantly to workforce planning in Ireland. Also during this period, the Faculty was granted approval to roll out a new Aptitude Test for internationally educated nurses wishing to register and practice as psychiatric/mental health nurses in Ireland. Fellowship and Membership of the Faculty continues to grow, with 61 Fellows and 7 Members conferred in December 2022.

#### Leading impactful research

In February 2023, the Faculty held its 42nd Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research and Education Conference as an in-person event. Over 280 participants attended from 18 countries.

The European Centre of Excellence for Research in CPD is located at the Faculty with membership including 40 representatives from 20 countries. The Centre commenced three major European research studies in the past year. It has also secured a number of significant national grants and a large Erasmus+ grant and is collaborating on several COST Action projects.

#### Supporting healthcare and societal well-being

Professor Thomas Kearns and Professor Michael Shannon have been appointed Co-Directors of the Faculty's new Global Innovation and Leadership Academy. The newly launched academy will host and co-ordinate a range of global initiatives which currently include the Faculty's candidate WHO Collaborating Centre, WHO-funded research and academic global leadership initiatives.



Broadcaster Ray D'Arcy being awarded Honorary Fellowship by Faculty Dean Dr Mary Boyd

# Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (RCPI and RCSI)



**Dr Mick Molloy**  
Dean, Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (RCPI and RCSI)

The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (FSEM) is a joint faculty between the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and RCSI.

The Faculty is a leader in postgraduate and continual professional education in sport and exercise medicine, with an annual scientific conference, Spring Study Day, Sports and Exercise Medicine Structured Educational Programme modules, journal clubs and Grand Rounds, as well as a joint diploma in MSK Examination and Injury Management run in collaboration with the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP).

#### CPD opportunities

We continued to provide most of our continuing professional development (CPD) activities online through a variety of webinars and journal clubs. In September 2022, the 18th Annual Scientific Conference focused on 'Sports Medicine Challenges of the Thigh and Lower Leg' and was held in collaboration with the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists and Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland. The ICGP/FSEM MSK Diploma was internally reviewed in March 2023 by ICGP, and our Spring Symposium on 'Tendinopathy' was delivered in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin in March 2023 (our first post-pandemic in-person CPD event).

#### Higher Specialist Training in Sports and Exercise Medicine (HST SEM)

Following the Faculty's re-accreditation review by the

Medical Council of its training programme, the final recommendations report was received in May 2023. The Faculty is addressing the recommendations from the report and will provide an update to the Medical Council in the autumn. We have engaged with other specialties to explore designing a four-year route for SEM training in Ireland to align with EU Directive 2005/36/EC, which we plan to deliver in parallel with the two-year programme. We are finalising a matching review of the HST SEM curriculum against the UK curriculum and EU standards for postgraduate training in SEM. Earlier this year, we appointed our first female trainee to the HST SEM programme, Dr Valerie Hayes.

#### Fellows and Members

This year we introduced new subscription packages for Fellows and Members: a 'benefits' rate which includes free attendance at CPD events, online access to the British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM), and a standard reduced rate with a 'pay as you go' option for CPD events, which we hope will encourage Fellows and Members to remain engaged with the Faculty.

#### Expert advisory group and committee contributions

The Faculty appointed representatives to the new HSE Health & Well-being - Physical Activity Pathways in Healthcare Model Advisory Group and we look forward to collaborating further on this important topic.

The Faculty set up a new Exercise Medicine Committee this spring with key experts, and we look forward to increasing the number of exercise medicine teaching sessions for trainees, as well as CPD opportunities on this topic for Fellows and Members.

The Faculty is a leader in postgraduate and continual professional education in sport and exercise medicine



# Irish Institute of Pharmacy



**Dr Catriona Bradley**  
Executive Director, Irish Institute of Pharmacy

RCSI is the managing body for the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOp), as appointed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI; The Pharmacy Regulator).

The IIOp manages the statutory continuing professional development (CPD) system for pharmacists in Ireland and supports the development of pharmacy practice. During 2022/23, the IIOp continued to deliver on the Regulator's objective of assuring the quality of pharmacist CPD and the Department of Health's objective of providing pharmacists with access to high-quality resources, which support evolving pharmacy practice.

#### ePortfolio Review

The ePortfolio Review requires pharmacists to demonstrate their ongoing engagement with CPD, in line with the legislative requirements. Over 1,300 pharmacists participated in the 2022/23 review process with over 96% achieving the required standard, demonstrating the profession's commitment to CPD.

#### Practice Review

Practice Review events were held at RCSI in October 2022 and April 2023 with an average of 95% demonstrating competence in all competency areas. Individualised remediation support was provided to those requiring further review.

#### Training programmes and information resources

The IIOp continued to support pharmacy practice by delivering a variety of training programmes and resources, including 27 online training programmes and five face-to-face programmes. The live workshops covered various topics such as Managing Conflict in Pharmacy Practice, Critical Appraisal Skills, Mentoring Skills for Pharmacists, and Training for Pharmacists Appointed to HSE committees and Working Groups.

Additionally, new online training programmes on Pharmacy and Medicines Legislation, as well as Polypharmacy and Medication Review, were launched in January 2023.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IIOp established the COVID Hub in July 2020, providing pharmacists with up-to-date information. Following a review in late 2022, the recommendation was made to transition the COVID Hub into a more general Resource Hub, expanding the focus beyond COVID-related content.

The IIOp's Mentoring Programme, launched in May 2022, continued to flourish with new intakes into the programme. The programme received positive feedback, with all respondents expressing their desire to participate in future mentoring initiatives.

The popular 'In Conversation With...' webinar series continued, with over 20 different topics addressed in the 2022/23 season.

#### Engagement activities

Engagement activities included the annual Peer Support Pharmacist Development Day, featuring workshops and presentations by experienced pharmacists on the evolving requirements of Peer Support. A masterclass on 'Using Constructive Collaboration to Shape our Future' was delivered by Valerie Pierce, Adjunct Professor of Practice at Hult International Business School.

Collaborating with the HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) team, the IIOp launched the Pharmacist Antimicrobial Stewardship Network (PAMS-net) in August 2022. This network, consisting of over 350 pharmacists, aims to promote responsible use of antimicrobials and combat antimicrobial resistance.

In February 2023, the IIOp was delighted to participate in RCSI Charter Week in collaboration with the AMRIC team. The session, titled 'Empowering all Pharmacists to Deliver Antimicrobial Stewardship', involved presentations spanning policy, regulation, practice, and education and was followed by an engaging panel discussion. The IIOp was delighted to welcome colleagues from across practice back to the College for this engaging event.



Professional  
training



“ The volunteering experience was very rewarding, allowing us to experience healthcare in a low-resource setting, gain wisdom from local surgeons and learn about global surgery efforts.”

*Dr Saad Mallah, medical graduate and participant in RCSI Bahrain's international community engagement programme in Vietnam in partnership with Operation Childlife*





07

International  
campuses

International  
campuses

# International campuses

The international reach of RCSI's education and research missions is epitomised by our campuses in Bahrain and Malaysia. Our academic and professional staff continued to drive innovation in international medicine and health sciences education and research during the past 12 months.



Students at the RCSI Bahrain conferring ceremony

## RCSI Bahrain

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain, or RCSI Bahrain, is a constituent university of RCSI, and is also licensed by the Higher Education Council in Bahrain as an independent private university. It is a not-for-profit health sciences institution focused on education and research to drive positive change in all areas of human health worldwide.

With a longstanding history of educating Bahraini students, RCSI set up its own campus in Bahrain and the University officially opened its doors in 2004. Today, RCSI Bahrain is home to a student body of more than 1,300 across Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery and Postgraduate Studies and Research.

## Medical Council accreditation

RCSI Bahrain received a five-year renewal of the accreditation of its undergraduate medicine programme, valid until November 2026, from Ireland's Medical Council after a confirmatory visit to the campus and clinical sites in October 2022.

## Nursing programmes accreditation

RCSI Bahrain's nursing programmes (Bachelor of Nursing and MSc in Nursing) received accreditation from the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia. This accreditation is a significant achievement, which will provide opportunities for Saudi students to pursue their nursing education at RCSI Bahrain and contribute to the development of the nursing workforce in Saudi Arabia.



Student participants in the International Community Engagement (ICE) programme to Vietnam pictured with Professor Martin Corbally

### Collaboration expansion with American Mission Hospital

As part of the longstanding partnership between RCSI Bahrain and the American Mission Hospital, the University welcomes the opening of a new state-of-the-art teaching facility at the Hospital. Through the new collaboration agreement, an internship programme overseen by RCSI Bahrain will be launched at the Hospital. In addition, RCSI Bahrain students will be able to undertake clinical electives in the Hospital, which includes a medical innovation hub where a highly skilled medical team will train local surgeons on the use of specialised technologies in healthcare.

### Matching performance

RCSI Bahrain medical graduates were highly successful in overseas matching rounds during the year with 27 successful in the US match, six in the Canadian match and 123 matching to the UK Foundation Year programme.

### Keele nursing exchange programme

This academic year, RCSI Bahrain launched a nursing exchange programme with Keele University in the UK, allowing nursing students from both institutions to visit each other's campuses annually and participate in learning and teaching activities, as well as undertake clinical observerships in local healthcare facilities. This collaboration provides valuable opportunities for nursing students to broaden their horizons, gain international experience, learn from different healthcare systems and practices, and prepare to become competent healthcare professionals in a global context.

### Research agreement signing with Government Hospitals

The research agreement signed by His Excellency Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals and Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Bahrain, aims to avail of the expertise and capabilities of RCSI Bahrain to further develop the knowledge and expertise of Government Hospitals' executives in education, training and academic research in support of enhancing the quality of healthcare in Bahrain.

### International Community Engagement

RCSI Bahrain organised two International Community Engagement trips to Vietnam and Jordan in collaboration with Operation Childlife, the Jordan Red Crescent Society and Bahrain Red Crescent Society. A team of medicine and nursing students accompanied by healthcare professionals participated in the trips, which were focused on engaging with underserved communities and gaining valuable experience in providing healthcare services in challenging environments.





RCSI Bahrain's Solar Project will cover approximately 65% of the university's annual electricity needs

#### **New electives agreements**

This academic year, RCSI Bahrain signed new medical electives agreements with George Washington University in Washington DC, Eisenhower Medical Center in California, and University of Tennessee Health Science Center, as well as a nursing electives agreement with Regis College in Massachusetts. All 20 electives agreements already in place have been successfully renewed with prestigious institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Yale University, McMaster, Ontario, and Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi.

#### **WHO 'Healthy University' certification**

RCSI Bahrain was certified as a 'Healthy University' by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO). This certification signifies that the University has met

the criteria for creating a healthy and supportive environment for students, staff and the wider community, and recognises our commitment to promoting health and well-being through various initiatives and programmes implemented on campus and nationally.

#### **Inauguration of solar project**

At RCSI Bahrain, we are proud to be one of the early adopters of solar power in Bahrain and thrilled with our contribution toward the environmental sustainability of Bahrain and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 'Affordable and Clean Energy'. The 2.72MW solar project, officially inaugurated in May, produces 3.664 million kWh of electricity annually, which represents between 60% and 65% of the University's annual electricity needs.

This certification recognises our commitment to promoting health and well-being through various initiatives and programmes implemented on campus and nationally.

## RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC)

RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC), formerly Penang Medical College (PMC), was established to fulfil the need for a medical institution in the northern region of Malaysia. RUMC is a collaboration between two leading universities in Ireland – RCSI and University College Dublin (UCD). In 2018, RUMC received University status from the Malaysian Ministry of Education and was recognised as a Foreign University Branch Campus – one of the highest levels for a foreign-owned institution in Malaysia.

This year, clinical teaching resumed on-site at the various Ministry of Health hospitals and primary care sites. In-person lectures, practical skills, tutorials, Foundation in Science, and hands-on lab sessions were resumed at RUMC or at the Clinical Skills Facility at the Allied Healthcare Centre of Excellence (AHCoE).

Professor Karen Morgan was appointed as RUMC President and will commence the role in September 2023. Professor Morgan will move to RUMC from the position of Director, Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine (PU-RCSI) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

It was a pleasure to have colleagues from RCSI, UCD and the National University of Ireland come together in June for the Class of 2023 conferring ceremony when 80 students were conferred.

Plans for a new BSc in Health Informatics degree programme, which have been approved internally, are based on healthcare workforce needs. The programme is scheduled to start in the 2024/25 academic year.



RUMC students pictured at the White Coat ceremony in January 2023

The staff at RUMC are research active and their activity continues to grow and have an impact, with the focus on the Cochrane Centre for all of Malaysia (established in 2014 and hosted at RUMC); membership of the Malaysian One Health University Network (MyOHUN); membership of the newly established Bioethics Centre; the creation of a new Junior Research Fellowship at RUMC; and opportunities for undergraduate students through summer Research Awards at RCSI and UCD.

The Malaysia–Ireland Training Programme for Family Medicine (MInTFM) was established through RUMC, in association with the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and iHeed (an Irish online education platform) five years ago. Already there are over 300 Family Medicine trainees in the four-year registration programme. MInTFM is operated through RUMC and is seen as a significant success in contributing to Malaysian society, thus raising RUMC's profile with the relevant state bodies.

## PU-RCSI School of Medicine

Perdana University RCSI School of Medicine (PU-RCSI) is a collaboration between RCSI and Perdana University. Through this partnership, the RCSI five-year undergraduate medicine programme is delivered in Malaysia. The programme is currently in a teach-out phase with two remaining cohorts to graduate in 2023 and 2024. The Class of 2024 began its final year (Senior Cycle 2) in August 2023 while the Class of 2023 will graduate in December 2023.

The Conferring in December 2022 was the first in-person graduation ceremony since 2019. It was a wonderful occasion attended by the Class of 2022 graduates and their families, as well as a large number of graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021.

This year also marked the first White Coat Ceremony since 2019. It was attended by Professor Hannah McGee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at RCSI. We were delighted to welcome back the Valedictorian of the first PU-RCSI Class to graduate (2016), Dr Kohgulakuhan Yogalingam, to address students and their families.

School staff continued to produce a high number (30+) of peer-reviewed publications and secured research funding from several sources.

A number of faculty also received fellowships including from RCSI and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



# Thank you

We extend our warmest gratitude to all the alumni, corporate supporters and philanthropic partners who enable RCSI to realise its mission to *educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.*





LIBRARY

# Appendix 1

## RCSI postgraduate surgical awards 2022–2023

RCSI is committed to encouraging the acquisition of additional training and skills outside the structured programmes of the College and, to this end, provides a range of scholarships and grants in postgraduate surgery to assist surgeons-in-training and recently appointed consultant surgeons to gain additional expertise in centres of excellence overseas.

### RCSI Colles Travelling Fellowship in Surgery

- Ms Jessie A Elliott: European Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy Fellowship, Department of Surgery, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands

### RCSI Surgical Travel Grants

- Mr Thomas Aherne: Fellowship in Vascular Trauma and Vascular Oncological Surgery, Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, University of Toronto Hospital Group, Toronto, Canada
- Mr Andrew Jerome Hughes: Hospital for Special Surgery Complex Joint Reconstruction Centre Clinical Fellowship, Complex Joint Reconstruction Centre, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, USA
- Ms Brenda Murphy: International Fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota, USA
- Mr Paul Sexton: Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction, Hull University Teaching Hospitals, UK
- Mr Ciaran McDonald: Upper Extremity & Trauma Fellowship, Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Canada
- Ms Evelyn Murphy: Minimally Invasive Surgery and Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Fellowship, Dr Peter Lam Hospitals, Sydney, Australia
- Mr Matthew Lee: Fellowship in Tumour and Complex Primary & Revision Arthroplasty, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia

### RCSI Travel Grants

- Ms Evelyn Murphy: Minimally Invasive Foot and Ankle Surgery, Sydney, Australia
- Mr Fergal Gearoid Kavanagh, DOHNS: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA
- Mr Frank Reilly: Chris O'Brien Lifeline, Head and Neck Cancer Institute, University of Sydney, Australia
- Ms Jessie A Elliott: Department of Surgery, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- Mr Justin M Hintze: Mayo Clinic, Arizona, USA
- Mr Patrick Carroll, Roth McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre, St Joseph's Health Care, London, UK
- Mr Paul Sexton: Hull Teaching Hospitals, UK
- Mr Robert Kenyon: Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Mr Shane Considine: Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London, UK

### RCSI PROGRESS Women in Surgery Travelling Fellowship

- Ms Evelyn Murphy: International fellowship in Minimally Invasive Foot and Ankle Surgery, Sydney, Australia

### The RCSI/IITOS Travelling Fellowships

- Mr Ciaran McDonald: Upper Extremity Trauma Fellowship, Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Canada
- Ms Evelyn Murphy: Minimally Invasive Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Fellowship, Sydney, Australia
- Mr Fiachra Power: Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Australia

- Mr Joss Moore: Sydney Knee Specialists Joint Reconstruction Fellowship, East Sydney Private, Canterbury Hospital (additional locations), Sydney, Australia
- Mr Mark Berney: Orthopaedic Trauma/Arthroplasty/Foot and Ankle Clinical Fellowship, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Canada
- Mr Mark Curtin: Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Clinical Fellowship, St Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada
- Mr Matthew Lee: Orthopaedic Oncology/Arthroplasty Fellowship, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia

### Millin Lecture 2022

- Professor Shirley Potter: Melanoma – An Unlikely Poster Child for Personalised Cancer Treatment

### Dr Richard Steevens Fellowship for 2022

- Ms Jessie Elliot: Fellowship in Robotic Oesophagogastric Cancer Surgery, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands

# Appendix 2

## Academic staff promotions

### Promotion to Senior Lecturer

- Dr Caroline Curtin, Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine
- Dr Chanel Watson, School of Nursing and Midwifery
- Dr Fiona Boland, Data Science Centre
- Dr Grace O'Malley, School of Physiotherapy
- Dr Joan Ni Gabhann Dromgoole, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- Dr Pdraic Dunne, Centre for Positive Health Sciences
- Dr Shane Cullinan, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- Dr Simon Furney, Physiology and Medical Physics
- Dr Eman Tawash, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Bahrain
- Dr Nitya Kumar, School of Medicine, Bahrain

### Promotion to Associate Professor

- Dr Annie Curtis, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- Dr Debbi Stanistreet, Public Health and Epidemiology
- Dr Frank Doyle, Health Psychology
- Dr Helen French, School of Physiotherapy
- Dr Marian Brennan, Graduate Entry Medicine

### Promotion to Professor

- Professor Darran O'Connor, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- Professor Frances Horgan, School of Physiotherapy
- Professor Karen Morgan, Health Psychology
- Professor Sam McConkey, International Health and Tropical Medicine



# Appendix 3

## Honorary appointments and promotions

### Honorary Professor

Professor Charlie Foster, VHI  
 Professor Deepak Abraham, American Mission Hospital  
 Professor Nihal Thomas, American Mission Hospital  
 Professor Pranay Gaikwad, American Mission Hospital  
 Professor Xuechu Zhen, Soochow University

### Honorary Clinical Professor

Mr Brian Cleary, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Louise Kyne, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Temple Street

### Honorary Clinical Associate Professor

Dr Ashraf Butt, Cavan General Hospital  
 Dr Breda Hayes, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Brian O'Donoghue, St Vincent's University Hospital  
 Professor Brian O'Neill, St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network  
 Dr Claire Smyth, Connolly Hospital  
 Mr Daragh Moneley, Beaumont Hospital  
 Professor Deirdre Duke, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Eavan McGovern, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Edgar Mocanu, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Emmet O'Brien, Beaumont Hospital  
 Professor Etop Akpan, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Ms Fiona Hanrahan, Rotunda Hospital  
 Mr Hannan Mullet, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Hassan Rajab, Rotunda and Beaumont Hospital  
 Professor Ian Carter, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr John Fitzsimons, CHI Temple Street  
 Dr John Keohane, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Dr Muna Sabah, Connolly Hospital  
 Mr Niall Davis, Beaumont Hospital  
 Professor Orla McArdle, Beaumont Hospital  
 Professor Peter Naughton, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Peter Widdess Walsh, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Richard Watchorn, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Sharon Cooley, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Subhasish Sengupta, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Dr Tidi Hassan, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

### Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer

Dr Abirami Subramaniam, Connolly Hospital  
 Dr Adrian Murphy, Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Andrew Hannah, Galway Clinic  
 Dr Anne Marie Liddy, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Aoife Carolan, St John of God's Hospital  
 Dr Benedict Glover, Cavan General Hospital  
 Dr Brian Christopher, Midland Regional Hospital  
 Dr Carol Traynor, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Ciana McCarthy, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Claire O'Driscoll, Blackrock Health Galway Clinic  
 Dr Daniel Cagney, Mater Private Hospital  
 Mr David Kearney, Connolly and Beaumont Hospital

Dr David Moore, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Dawn Swan, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Edward McKeever, South West Acute Hospital  
 Dr Emily O'Connor, Connolly Hospital  
 Dr Etaoin Kent, Rotunda Hospital  
 Mr Fergal O'Shaughnessy, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Filipa Aguiar, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Heidi Okkers, Office of the State Pathologist  
 Dr Judith Lyons, Connolly Hospital  
 Ms Kara Tedford, CHI Crumlin  
 Mr Kevin Cahill, Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Khalid Khan, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Dr Mark Roberts, South West Acute Hospital  
 Dr Marta Trzos-Grzybowska, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Dr Michelle O'Brien, Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Muhammad Majeed, Midlands Regional Hospital  
 Dr Neil O'Gorman, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital  
 Dr Olwyn McWeeney, Consultant  
 Mr Paddy O'Malley, Galway Clinic  
 Dr Pdraig Bambrick, University Hospital Waterford  
 Dr Patrick O'Donoghue, Connolly Hospital  
 Dr Petar Stapar, Midland Regional Hospital  
 Dr Raymond Carson, National Rehabilitation University/Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Robbie Woods, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Rory Durcan, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Rosemary Kearsley, Rotunda Hospital  
 Mr Seamus McHugh, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Stela Lefter, Beaumont and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda  
 Dr Sudha Jain, Connolly Hospital  
 Dr Vicky O'Dwyer, Rotunda Hospital

### Honorary Clinical Lecturer

Dr Alexandra Troy, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Caroline Treanor, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Caroline Walsh, National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics Ireland  
 Dr Colm Daly, Central Remedial Clinic  
 Dr Craig Lyons, Galway University Hospital  
 Dr Daniel Creegan, Connolly Hospital  
 Ms Dearbhla Murphy, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital  
 Ms Dzana Hadzic, Mater Misericordiae Hospital  
 Ms Elena Fernandez, Rotunda Hospital  
 Ms Grainne Johnston, Mater Misericordiae Hospital  
 Dr Hasnain Moosvi, Rotunda Hospital  
 Ms Hilary Ward, Beacon Hospital  
 Dr Joanne O'Brien Kelly, Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Joseph Morris, Beaumont Hospital  
 Dr Kashif Mahmood, Rotunda Hospital  
 Dr Michael Daly, Connolly Hospital  
 Ms Rachel Fox, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Roisin Vance, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Ruth McKenna, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Sadhbh Gash, Beaumont Hospital  
 Mr Seamus Dunne, Beacon Hospital



Ms Siobhan Nestor, Mater Misericordiae Hospital  
 Dr Thoshar Naidoo, Beaumont Hospital  
 Ms Virginia Murray, Letterkenny University Hospital  
 Ms Fiona Paolozzi, Beaumont Hospital

# Appendix 4

## Honorary Doctorates

- Dr David Donoghue, Former senior Irish diplomat; Co-facilitator of the Sustainable Development Goals and other UN agreements; Distinguished Fellow of Overseas Development Institute
- Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Regius Professor of Physic, Professor of Medical Gerontology Trinity College Dublin and Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing, St James's Hospital Dublin
- Professor Dame Clare Gerada, DBE, PRCGP, FRCPsych, FRCP (Hons), President of the Royal College of General Practitioners

## Honorary Fellowships

- Dr Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Ben A Reid, Sr., MD Professor and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Surgery, University of Louisville School of Medicine
- Mr Bill Whelan, Irish Composer
- Dr Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FACS, FRCSC, FSACME, MAMSE Director, Division of Education, American College of Surgeons Adjunct Professor of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- Dr Vivian McAlister, Professor Emeritus, University of Western Ontario and Adjunct Professor, Department of History, University of Western Ontario
- Dr Maria B. Majella Doyle, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S., MTS/Department of Surgery Distinguished Endowed Chair in Abdominal Transplant Professor of Surgery, Section of Abdominal Transplant Director, Liver Transplant, Barnes Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital Director, Transplant HPB Fellowship Program Director, Clinical Faculty Development Executive Vice-Chair, Department of Surgery Washington University School of Medicine
- Professor Richard Irving MD FRCS, Consultant in Otolaryngology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK
- Dr John G. Meara MD, DMD, MBA, Plastic Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Children's Hospital; Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne
- Professor Graeme M. Clark AC, Laureate Professor and Member of The Graeme Clark Institute, the University of Melbourne
- Professor Paul Brennan, Consultant Radiology, Bon Secours Hospital, Dublin
- Professor James M. Drake, Robert B. Salter Chair in Surgery, The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- Professor Patricia Joy Numann, Lloyd S Rogers Professor of Surgery Emeritus, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, New York



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