

METR NEWS

Welcome

The increased pace of change and developments within the Medical Education, Training and Research areas is such that the HSE has decided to publish a periodical newsletter from its **Medical Education, Training and Research Unit**. The primary purpose is to ensure that all stakeholders and interested parties are kept fully aware of developments within our system. **Welcome to the first edition.**

Education, Training and Research Committee established

Update:

- Post of Director of Medical Education & Training advertised
- €1.8m in revenue grants for training bodies
- Capital grants awarded
- Dr. Richard Steevens' scholarship — 11 awards made
- New PhD Fellowship launched



Pictured at the inaugural meeting of the ETR Committee on November 5th were: [Front LtoR] Arthur Tanner, Muiris Fitzgerald, Martin McDonald, [middle] Gerry O'Dwyer, Juliette Hussey, Bernie Quillinan, Siobhan O'Halloran, [back] Gerry McTaggart, Brian Murphy and Enda Connolly.

The HSE's newly established Committee on Education, Training and Research held its inaugural meeting on November 5th. The establishment of the committee is a significant step towards implementing HSE Board policy for the integration of education, training and research throughout the HSE.

The Committee brings together representatives from across the HSE as well as representatives of the HSE's key partners involved in the education and training of health professionals and in health research.

The aim of the Committee is to coordinate the alignment of all education, training and research

functions to ensure the delivery of the highest quality education, training and research relevant to the needs of the health service. The Committee will act as a vehicle for communication, discussion, collaboration and exchange of information and learning on a multidisciplinary basis in the areas of education, training and research.

The Committee is chaired by Professor Muiris X. FitzGerald, a former Dean of the medical school in UCD and a retired consultant respiratory physician. Full details of the current membership are provided below:

ETR Committee membership

Prof. Muiris FitzGerald, *Chairman*
 Prof. Peter Cantillon, *Professor of Primary Care, NUIG*
 Mr. Enda Connolly, *CEO, Health Research Board*
 Dr. Davida De la Harpe, *Health Intelligence, HSE*
 Dr. Juliette Hussey, *Head of School of Physiotherapy, TCD*
 Mr. Martin McDonald, *Head of Workforce Planning & Professional Education, HSE*
 Mr. Gerry McTaggart, *Institutes of Technology Ireland (Dundalk IT)*
 Mr. Brian Murphy, *Primary, Community & Continuing Care, HSE*
 Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, *National Hospitals Office, HSE*
 Dr. Siobhán O'Halloran, *Nursing Services Director, HSE*
 Ms. Bernie Quillinan, *Head of Nursing & Midwifery Dept., UL*
 Mr. Alan Smith, *SKILLS Project, HSE*
 Prof. Arthur Tanner, *Director of Surgical Affairs, RCSI*

Inside this issue:

Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarship	2
New Career Path for Doctors	2
Training Grants	2
Capital Developments	3
National SHO/Registrar Audit	3
Other Developments	3
Profile: METR Unit	4
Profile: NCMET	

Academic Clinician Post Initiative

Arising from recommendations in the "Fottrell Report", *Medical Education in Ireland: A New Direction* (2006), an additional 25 new academic clinician posts are being developed and implemented. These posts are being funded jointly by HSE's Medical Education, Training and Research Unit and the Higher Education Authority. All six medical schools are involved in this initiative in conjunction with their partner clinical sites. Some of the

Specialty areas covered by the new academic clinician posts include:

- Primary Care & General Practice
- Palliative medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Microbiology
- Neurology
- Psychiatry
- Accident & Emergency Medicine
- Critical Care / Anaesthesia
- Paediatrics
- Respiratory Medicine
- Medical Education

specific specialties targeted are shown opposite.

The major requirement for all posts is academic clinical excellence. Each post will have a national leadership role in curriculum reform and development, research network co-ordination and administrative links in their particular field of specialisation.

Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarships awarded

The HSE's Medical Education, Training and Research Unit has awarded eight scholarships and three bursaries under the Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarship. The Scholarship, which is for trainee doctors at Specialist Registrar level, rewards trainees that have demonstrated considerable potential and a proven track record of achievement, by funding a period of up to twelve months' training abroad.

The programme builds on the strong tradition of Irish doctors travelling overseas to gain the knowledge and expertise available in major centres of excellence abroad. The programme is aimed at training in novel areas of medicine and patient care which will enrich the Irish health service and for which training is limited or unavailable in Ireland.

Scholarship Topics

- Colorectal Cancer Surgery
- Maternal Foetal Medicine
- Endovascular Surgery
- Stroke Medicine
- Palliative Medicine
- Inflammatory Muscle Disease
- Disaster Medicine
- Laparoscopic Surgery
- Spinal Surgery

Funding has been made available by Government as a result of the implementation of the Buttimer Report. The programme has been developed in close cooperation with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.

Awards are made on the basis of advice received from a HSE-convened expert panel.

Four scholarships and three bursaries were awarded in 2007; a further four scholarships were awarded in 2008. Applications for the 2009 round of funding have recently closed. Awards for July 2009 will be made in late 2008. Recipients of the scholarships have studied in a range of centres in the USA, Canada, UK, France, Sweden and Australia. Some of the fellowship topics are listed in the panel to the left.

New Career Path for Doctors in Training

The HSE's Medical Education, Training and Research Unit has launched the new National SpR/SR Academic Fellowship Programme. The objective of the programme is to train the academic clinicians and academic scientists of the future. The Fellowship is a significant step in the development of translational, "bench to bedside" research,

by integrating clinical training and research.

This innovative and exciting programme is aimed at new specialist/senior registrars and those in the early stages of higher specialist training. For the

first time, it allows SpRs to undertake an integrated training and career pathway leading, at successful conclusion, to the award of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Training (CSCT) and a PhD. Previously, trainees have had to pause their clinical training in order to undertake a PhD.

The Fellowships are being jointly funded by the HSE and the Health Research Board. The programme has been developed in conjunction with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies (Forum) and the university academic medical departments.

An expert panel will be convened to adjudicate on applications; research proposals will be subject to international peer review. It is

expected that awards will be made in March 2009. The programme will commence in July 2009.

This programme offers an exciting new opportunity to doctors with a real interest in research to complete their clinical training and PhD in an integrated manner.

Pending the development of the integrated fellowship programme, METR awarded funding for two PhDs entitled (i) "*Mesenchymal stem cells and gene therapy in inflammatory arthritis*" and (ii) "*Rational datamining of ultrasound parameters and metabolomic biomarkers of prognostic value in Intra Uterine Growth Restriction*".

"For the first time, doctors can enter an integrated training pathway leading to the award of CSCT and PhD"

METR allocates €1.8m in revenue grants for medical training

The Medical Education, Training and Research Unit has allocated €1.8million in revenue grants to the recognised medical training bodies in 2008.

The METR Unit has worked closely with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies (Forum) to make awards for the development of medical training in specific areas identified in the Buttimer Report.

Projects supported in 2008 include e-logbooks, online education, clinical governance, clinical

skills developments, careers seminars, teaching and mentoring courses for trainers and generic skills courses for trainees, such as communications and interview skills. Training bodies are required to submit proposals for projects which are then assessed. Evaluation reports of each programme must be submitted annually by training bodies.

Allocations made in 2008 are shown in the table opposite. It is expected that projects for support in 2009 will be submitted to the HSE shortly.

Training Body	Allocation
Forum	€60,000
RCPI	€428,000
RCSI	€850,000
College of Anaesthetists	€230,000
Faculty of Pathology	€47,000
Irish College of GPs	€75,000
Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists	€20,000
Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine	€80,000
Faculty of Public Health Medicine	€20,000

Capital Developments

During the course of 2007, an extensive audit of medical education and training facilities on clinical sites was undertaken and completed by the HSE's Medical Education, Training and Research Capital Team. This was conducted parallel to an audit by the Higher Education Authority of facilities in the educational sector on academic sites. The results of these audits was the development of a proposed multi-annual capital investment programme in educational infrastructure on clinical and academic sites to underpin the implementation of the national medical education and training reform programme. The combined audits and their recommendations were accepted by the Interdepartmental Steering Group in Medical Education and Training. The HSE was advised by the respective Departments that this matter will be considered by Government.

Parallel to this process, during the course of 2007/8, the METR Unit, working in

conjunction with HSE Estates, has provided significant capital funding to clinical sites and medical postgraduate training bodies to upgrade, enhance and expand existing educational facilities including those at Tallaght, Connolly, Mater, Temple Street, Crumlin, St. James's, Rotunda, Holles St., Coombe, Naas, Sligo, Letterkenny, Galway, Portiuncula, Kerry, CUH, Limerick Maternity, Cavan, Drogheda, RCSI and RCPI.

Additionally, arising from the Audit, HSE-METR has prioritised a number of hospital sites for the development of multi-disciplinary education and training centres. These include the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick, Cork University Hospital, St. Luke's Kilkenny, Mayo General Hospital, South Tipperary General Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, St. Vincent's and the Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar.

National SHO/Registrar Audit published

An extensive and in-depth review of all SHO and Registrar posts in Ireland was commissioned and funded by the HSE's Medical Education, Training and Research Unit. The Audit, which was published in April of this year, provides comprehensive information on SHO and Registrar posts nationally. The project was managed by the Royal College of Physicians. The project was guided and overseen by a Steering Committee, including representatives from the HSE, all postgraduate medical training bodies, the Department of Health and Children, the Medical Council, the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board and the Irish Medical Organisation. The Audit involved extensive information collection and collation on posts from individual training bodies, hospital medical manpower managers and through interviews with incumbents.

The Audit identified 3,417 active posts, with a response rate of 95% (with the exception of psychiatry).

The review raises a number of challenges, including the number of posts not accredited

for training, the number stand-alone training posts, the need for re-training and re-entry schemes for doctors in long-term posts and the alignment of training and service delivery requirements.

Arising from the Audit, work is now underway

"THE AUDIT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON SHO AND REGISTRAR POSTS NATIONALLY"

to develop and implement a national NCHD database which can be used as a local and national management tool by all key stakeholders. A Change Implementation Group, chaired by the HSE and representative of all key stakeholders, is being established to address in a collaborative and co-ordinated manner the key issues and challenges identified by the Audit.

Other Developments

Post of Director of Medical Education & Training advertised

A new post of Director of Medical Education and Training was recently advertised. The appointee will provide professional leadership for the development of medical education & training on a national basis and lead the delivery of the HSE's statutory and policy responsibilities in medical education and training. The appointment of a Director of MET was a key recommendation of the HSE's Strategy on Medical Education and Training.

Transfer of the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board

The Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board is a statutory body which was established under the Medical Practitioners Act 1978. Its principal function is to promote the development of postgraduate medical and dental education and training and to co-ordinate such developments.

Section 12 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 provides for the dissolution of the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board and the transfer of appropriate functions to the HSE and Medical Council. The HSE is working closely and collaboratively with the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board and the Department of Health and Children to ensure a smooth transition of both functions and staff. It is envisaged that this section of the Act will be commenced at the end of 2008 and that staff and appropriate functions will transfer to the HSE on the date of commencement.

Research Ethics

The HSE commissioned a review of research ethics in Ireland in 2006. The report was presented to the Medical Education, Training and Research Unit in early 2008. The review provides valuable information on research ethics committees (RECs) in Ireland which will be of benefit to all those involved in health services research and research ethics processes in Ireland. There are currently 57 RECs in Ireland. The review has been forwarded for the consideration of the Interdepartmental Health Research Group.

We would welcome your views

Contact us:

Medical Education, Training and Research

E-mail: metr@hse.ie

Health Service Executive, Room 1.24,
Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 6352500

For METR Publications
Visit:

[www.hse.ie/eng/Publications/
Medical_Education](http://www.hse.ie/eng/Publications/Medical_Education)

Targeted investment funding is provided to the HSE for the purposes of supporting and developing medical education, training and research initiatives as part of the HSE's annual allocation, arising from Government investment directly related to Government policy in this area.

Profile: METR Unit

The Medical Education, Training and Research (METR) Unit was established in response to the HSE's statutory role under the **Health Act 2004** and the **Medical Practitioners Act 2007** and to provide a mechanism for the implementation of Government policy (principally the "Fottrell Report", *Medical Education in Ireland: A New Direction*, the "Buttimer Report", *Preparing Ireland's Doctors to meet the Health Needs of the 21st Century* and Government strategies on research) and **HSE Board policy** in relation to the integration of education, training and research across the HSE.

In order to determine the appropriate approach to meet the HSE's statutory and operational responsibilities in this area, Prof. Brendan Drumm, CEO, established a Committee, which produced the **HSE's Strategy for METR** in October 2007, following an extensive consultation process with partner organisations. While focused on *medical* education, training and research, the Committee worked within the overall context of the need for an integrated and coordinated approach to all education, training and research across the health service. An implementation plan for the integration of Education, Training and Research in the HSE was subsequently produced and is being implemented.

The METR Unit lies within the Professional Education function of the HSE. The Unit has responsibility for a broad range of initiatives in the areas of education, training and research, some of which have been outlined in this newsletter, and for ensuring the appropriate allocation of targeted investment funding from Government. The success of many of the initiatives has been greatly influenced by the positive, collaborative approach adopted with the various partner organisations involved in education, training and research. Close links have been established with various organisations in order to progress, in a coordinated and concerted manner, programmes of mutual interest for the benefit of the health service and its users.

Profile: National Committee on Medical Education & Training

The National Committee on Medical Education and Training was established by the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Education and Science in February 2007. The Committee reports to the Interdepartmental Steering Group on Medical Education and Training.

The Committee is chaired by Mr. John Malone, former Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture. The membership of the Committee is representative of the organisations and interests involved in medical education and training listed in the table opposite. The HSE is represented on the Committee by Prof. Muiris Fitzgerald and Mr. Martin McDonald.

The aim of the Committee is to oversee and contribute to the integrated implementation of Government policy on medical education and training arising from the Buttimer and Fottrell Reports.

In particular, the Committee is charged with providing advice in relation to the implementation of recommendations from these reports, cross-cutting issues for the

improved integration of undergraduate and postgraduate education and training resources as well as providing advice on related areas such as curriculum reform, clinical placements, capital infrastructure requirements and medical workforce requirements.

The Committee has, to date, established three sub-committees, on (i) undergraduate medical education and training, (ii) the intern year and (iii) postgraduate medical education and training. The Intern Sub-Committee recently presented its report to the Interdepartmental Steering Group. The report makes a series of recommendations for the reform of the intern year, including a new modular structure, greater variety of available specialties and a centralised application system. The HSE will be working with stakeholders in the months ahead to advance the recommendations of the report.

The HSE and HEA jointly provide the Secretariat to the National Committee on Medical Education and Training.

Organisations represented on NCMET	
Dept. of Health & Children	Dept. of Education & Science
Health Service Executive	Higher Education Authority
Medical Council	Health Research Board
Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board	
Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies	
Deans of Medical Schools (UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG, UL, RCSI)	
Irish Patients Association	Union of Students of Ireland
College of Anaesthetists	Faculty of Pathology
Faculty of Radiologists	Faculty of Paediatrics
Fac. of Occupational Medicine	Fac. of Public Health Medicine
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland	
Irish College of General Practitioners	
Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists	
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Irish College of Ophthalmologists
Irish Psychiatric Training Committee	
Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine	
IMO	IHCA