



RCSI

# RCSI ANNUAL REPORT 24-25





This report covers RCSI's operations during the period 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025.

ON THE COVER Supporting health and societal well-being by advancing surgical and emergency medicine care:  
Surgical trainees Jennifer McGarry and Gordon Daly assist with a robotic surgery procedure as part of their training.  
Cover photo: Ray Lohan

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# A year in pictures

## July

80 new surgical trainees take part in Surgical Bootcamp, immersing them in the technical and non-technical skills they will need as surgeons.



## September

Blackrock Health is announced as lead partner for the RCSI public engagement space dedicated to health and well-being, at 118 St Stephen's Green.

## November

New pharmacy and physiotherapy graduates celebrate on St. Stephen's Green ahead of their conferring ceremony.



## August

A record 630 alumni and guests reunite for the 2024 Alumni Gathering.



## October

Graduate Entry Medicine students join more than 700 fellow new students to don their white coats for the first time at the White Coat Ceremonies.

## December

RCSI's School of Dentistry enters into an agreement with Henry Schein to provide equipment for the new Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme.





### January

More than 400 aspiring dentists, doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists and scientists get a glimpse of their future careers at the 2025 RCSI Open Day.

### March

RCSI launches its second Race Equality Action Plan, reinforcing its commitment to combat racism and promote inclusivity.



### May

Former Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald is awarded the prestigious RCSI Emily Winifred Dickson Award.



### February

Actors Brendan Gleeson and Helen Behan are awarded Honorary Fellowships of the RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.

### April

Ireland's first fully clinically integrated patient stem cell research facility opens at the RCSI Smurfit Education and Research Centre at Beaumont hospital.



### June

The winning team in the 2025 Student Innovation Challenge address a healthcare challenge on advanced chronic liver disease.

# President's review



**Professor Deborah McNamara,**  
*President*

This report comes at the close of my first year as President of RCSI. It is a privilege to be President of this institution and to work alongside the academics, researchers, clinicians and professional staff who make up the RCSI community.

I share their commitment to our mission and am inspired daily by their dedication, innovation and collegiality. This report highlights their achievements in 2024-2025, reflecting the collective strength of our community as we work together to drive improvements in health and health systems, for the benefit of patients.

## Expanding surgical training and professional development

The Surgical Affairs team is committed to delivering the highest standard of education and training to support doctors in their care of patients. I want to acknowledge the team and the many trainers and tutors whose contributions are central to our trainees' progress.

For the July 2025 intake, Core Surgical Trainees will increase from 80 to 100, bringing the total number of surgical trainees to almost 600 by the end of 2025. This growth was enabled by significant HSE investment in training equipment at RCSI and across the regions. We are grateful for their continued support.

Our Continuing Professional Support Scheme enrolled almost 1,000 participants and the College's Master's programmes in Surgery and in Human Factors and Patient Safety continued to strengthen surgeons' skills to meet the demands of their careers.

The well-being of trainees and trainers remains a key focus. A short-life working group is reviewing College supports to identify areas for improvement, while counselling resources are being expanded in partnership with RCSI's student support service. The Safe and Sound podcast also featured a range of interviews exploring human factors in healthcare and patient safety.

## Supporting early-career surgeons

The transition to independent practice is a significant milestone in a surgeon's career and the practical, and often non-clinical, changes that come with independent consultant practice require navigation. Supporting our early-career surgeons in managing these challenges is a priority for me. Launched at the 2024 Millin Meeting and led by Ms Christina Fleming and Mr Tristan Cassidy, the RCSI Early Careers Network is working to identify the needs of new surgical consultants and provide the educational, organisational and mentorship supports to help them establish their practices.



*Ms Emmeline Nugent, Professor Deborah McNamara, President, Mr Tristan Cassidy and Ms Christina Fleming mark the launch of the RCSI Early Career Surgical Network at the Millin meeting in November.*

### Building skills for robotic surgery

Reflecting the rapid adoption of robotic platforms in Irish hospitals, the New Technologies for Future Surgery group, chaired by Professor Ronan Cahill, reached consensus across surgical communities on the importance of emerging innovations such as robotic-assisted surgery, artificial intelligence and digital systems. RCSI is committed to raising awareness of these technologies and ensuring surgeons have the training to use them safely.

The 2025 Charter Week, themed *Next Generation Surgery*, showcased these advances. Delegates explored the future of robotic surgery, engaged with RCSI's first Robotic Learning Village and heard from international experts on the evolving surgical landscape.

Charter Week also saw the launch of the RCSI Robotic Surgery Clinical Governance Guidelines, developed by Professor Barry McGuire and the Robotic Surgery Advisory Group, supporting hospitals in introducing robotic-assisted surgery. Building on this, work is progressing on a national training curriculum for robotic surgery.

In September, RCSI hosted its first RoboStart and Robotic Assistants workshops, offering trainees and surgical assistants hands-on opportunities to develop skills in these technologies.

## Progressing gender balance in surgery

Advancing greater gender balance in the profession of surgery remains a priority for RCSI. The 2025 Progress Women in Surgery Fellowship, funded by Johnson & Johnson, was awarded to Ms Lauren V. O'Connell, who is undertaking a Fellowship in advanced colorectal cancer at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

## Influencing and collaborating

I was pleased to see the appointment of Ms Bridget Egan and Professor Eamon Rogers as National Co-Leads for the National Clinical Programme in Surgery (NCPS), succeeding Mr Kenneth Mealy, former President of RCSI, who served for many years as the National Co-Lead for the NCPS.

The NCPS and the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology launched *Paediatric General Surgery: A Model of Care for Ireland 2024*, a comprehensive framework to enhance surgical services for children close to where they live, ensuring access to a high standard of surgical care with clear oversight and governance.

## Advancing surgical research

The National Surgery Research Support Centre (NSRSC) continues to drive surgeons' involvement in clinical trials. It is currently supporting eight trials in areas such as appendicitis, diabetes, bariatric surgery and wound healing, alongside multinational collaborations.

More than 50 peer-reviewed papers were presented at the 2024 Millin Meeting, which also featured a series of international keynote addresses on surgical research. Dr Ayesha Noorani, CRUK Clinician Scientist and Honorary Consultant Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Cambridge University Hospital NHS Trust,

*Professor Deborah McNamara, President and Professor Barry McGuire, Professor of Postgraduate Surgical Education and Academic Development, pictured at the publication of a new RCSI framework to support the safe and effective use of robotic-assisted surgery during Charter Week in February.*



*Professor Carmel Malone, Council Member; Dr Clifford Y. Ko, Honorary Fellowship recipient; Professor Deborah McNamara, President; Professor Rowan Parks, Honorary Fellowship recipient and Ms Bridget Egan, Council Member, pictured ahead of the Honorary Fellowship conferring ceremony at the Charter Week celebrations in February.*



“The RCSI Early Careers Network is working to identify the needs of new surgical consultants and provide the educational, organisational and mentorship supports to help them establish their practices.”

highlighted the importance of achieving excellence in surgical and academic research and training. Dr Ori D. Rotstein, Vice President of Research and Innovation at Unity Health Toronto and Professor and Associate Chair of Surgery at the University of Toronto, discussed the vital role of patient and community engagement in surgical research. In September 2024, the NSRSC hosted the BOASTIC course (Bristol, Oxford and Aberdeen Surgical Trials Unit Clinical Trials) for the first time outside the UK, welcoming trainees from Ireland and the UK for three days of training in running surgical trials.

### Expanding global reach

Through communications, events and volunteering opportunities, we continue to foster strong ties with our 11,000 Fellows and Members worldwide, ensuring their voices and contributions remain integral to the College community.

Strengthening this connection remains a priority, with initiatives designed to provide both professional support and opportunities for community building. Over the past year, RCSI rolled out a dedicated online portal for Fellows and Members, offering access to publications, courses and tailored resources that enhance lifelong learning and professional development.

In-person engagement has also been a priority. Sixteen events were held globally, creating valuable opportunities for Fellows and Members to network, collaborate and reconnect with colleagues. Highlights included the inaugural Family Fun Day during Charter Week 2025, which welcomed over 70 Fellows and Members and their families, and international receptions from London to Kuala Lumpur.

Increasing numbers of candidates are choosing to undertake membership examinations with RCSI, reinforcing our global reputation and strengthening our network of Members and Fellows worldwide. Our overseas MRCS examinations continue to expand through established hubs in Cairo, Bahrain and Malaysia, and, in May, the first examinations were held at our new centre in Sabah. We remain deeply grateful to our international partners, whose collaboration and support are essential to the successful delivery of these examinations.

### Thank you

I wish to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported me during the first year of my Presidency. Thank you to Vice-President Professor Michael Kerin and our fellow elected Council members for their continued commitment and collegiality.

I am grateful to RCSI's Vice Chancellor and CEO/Registrar Professor Cathal Kelly; Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Professor Tracy Robson; Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Professor Fergal O'Brien; Managing Director of Surgical Affairs Kieran Ryan, and each member of the Senior Management Team for their continued leadership and dedication.

# A year in numbers

## Rankings and accolades



Times Higher Impact Rankings 2025

TOP 300

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025



medical school in Ireland in the Planetary Health Report Card 2025



Awards 2024

Times Higher Education Awards 2024

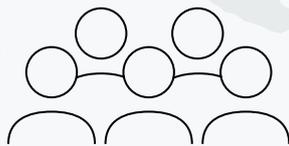
- > Most Innovative Teacher of the Year
- > Technological Innovation of the Year

EU Award for Gender Equality Champion 2025 Inclusive category

## Students, trainees and staff

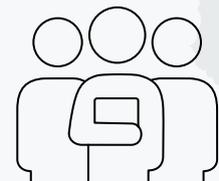
1,469

staff



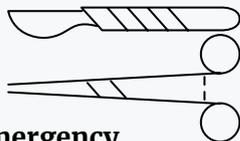
5,682

registered students



601

surgical and emergency medicine trainees



2,844

undergraduate students (medicine, physio, pharmacy, ATT)

1,511

postgraduate students (masters' MD, PhD)

Note: figures are for RCSI in Ireland for the reporting period 1 July 2024–30 June 2025 unless otherwise specified

\* full year 2024

\*\* Bibliometric: 2020–2024

\*\*\* including international operations

Global healthcare community

35,500

alumni in 108 countries\*\*\*



108

nationalities of students



10,954

Fellows and Members in 90 countries

3

overseas operations: Bahrain, Malaysia and China

#114

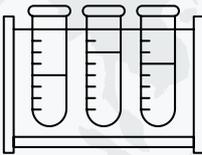
globally for International Outlook Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025



Research and innovation

€44.8m

grants awarded\*



6

spin-out companies approved since 2021



1,652

PubMed indexed articles published\*

30

collaborative agreements with industry\*



150,000

citations\*\*



8

commercialisation agreements\*



62%

Open Access articles\*\*

# Council members



**Professor Deborah McNamara**  
President, RCSI; Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal), Beaumont Hospital



**Professor Michael Kerin**  
Vice President, RCSI; Professor of Surgery, University of Galway; Consultant Surgeon (Breast/General), Galway University Hospital



**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



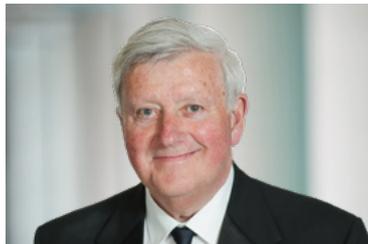
**Professor Camilla Carroll**  
Consultant Surgeon (Otolaryngology/Head and Neck), RVEEH Dublin; Clinical Associate Professor, TCD School of Medicine



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



**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



**Ms Ann Hanly**  
Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal), St Vincent's University Hospital and St Michael's Hospital Dun Laoghaire



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



**Professor Sean Johnston**  
Adjunct Clinical Professor, University of Limerick; Consultant Surgeon (General), Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore



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



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



**Professor Carmel Malone**  
 Consultant Surgeon (Breast/General), Galway  
 University Hospital



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



**Professor Micheal O'Riordain**  
 Consultant Surgeon (General/Colorectal),  
 Chair of Division of Surgery, Mercy University  
 Hospital, Cork



**Mr Barry O'Sullivan**  
 Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive  
 Surgeon, Beaumont and Connolly Hospitals,  
 Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer, RCSI



**Professor John Quinlan**  
 Consultant Surgeon (Trauma/Orthopaedic),  
 Tallaght University Hospital



**Professor Paul Ridgway**  
 Professor of Surgery, Trinity College Dublin;  
 Consultant Surgeon Tallaght University  
 Hospital; Regional Clinical Director(I) Dublin  
 and Midlands



**Roderick Ryan**  
 Chartered Accountant



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



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



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

# Vice Chancellor's review



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

This annual report gives me a welcome opportunity to share the achievements of the RCSI community during 2024/2025, during which we continued to work together in service of our mission to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.

Now in the second year of delivery of our 2023–2027 strategy, *Innovating for a Healthier Future*, our community of academics, researchers, clinicians and professional staff have made considerable progress in advancing our objectives, delivering meaningful impact for patients, learners and society. These achievements are underpinned by collaboration across disciplines and partnerships nationally and internationally.

I was delighted that this commitment was recognised when RCSI was ranked number one in the world for SDG 3 'Good Health and Well-being' in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2025, the third time we have achieved this global distinction. This recognition affirms our leadership in advancing health and well-being for all and our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## School of Dentistry

Our new School of Dentistry made significant progress in preparing for its inaugural Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) intake in September 2025. Our new Dental Education Centre at Sandford, which includes 12 clinical chairs and 55 simulation units, was completed in June, with the official opening planned for July. Construction continues on a second Centre at Connolly Hospital, and a third Centre is in advanced planning. These facilities will support a modern, patient-centred education model and expand access to care, improving oral health in underserved areas.

Student demand for the BDS programme has been strong and the School will take the full government allocation of 20 CAO places, increasing national capacity by one-third and helping

address the shortage of dentists in Ireland. Once fully up and running, we will train 375 students across the five-year programme and deliver 30,000 community dental treatments each year.

## Supporting health and well-being

We advanced our commitment to supporting health and societal well-being at local, national and global levels throughout the year, with our achievements underscoring RCSI's leadership in shaping a healthier and more sustainable society.

Our access and widening participation programmes expanded, with new scholarships and continued contributions to the national access schemes HEAR and DARE. Through initiatives like REACH RCSI, the Creative Arts Summer School and school-based STEM outreach, we strengthened pathways into higher education for underrepresented groups and inspired the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Public, patient and community engagement also deepened. Physiotherapy students delivered weekly exercise classes for older adults, and through partnerships with advocacy groups, we promoted patient involvement in research across conditions including epilepsy, cancer and Sjögren's disease.

Looking ahead, RCSI's new health gallery at 118 St Stephen's Green will create an innovative public space for dialogue on health and well-being, further embedding RCSI's role as a trusted source of accessible health information.

RCSI responded to global health challenges with practical impact, supporting humanitarian work in Gaza through field hospital collaboration and the open-access SURGHub platform which was recognised with a Times Higher Education Award for digital innovation.

Our sustainability agenda delivered major progress, including a 51.4% improvement in energy performance and My Green Lab Accreditation achieved in all research and teaching laboratories.



*Pictured at the official opening of the Education and Research Centre at Connolly Hospital in September were (l-r) Professor Tracy Robson, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor; Jack Chambers TD, Minister for Finance; Professor Deborah McNamara, President; and Professor Fergal O'Brien, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation.*

## Education

Under the leadership of Professor Tracy Robson, who assumed the role of Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in June 2024, RCSI's schools and academic departments advanced their mission to deliver innovative programmes across undergraduate and postgraduate levels, preparing students and scholars to become future leaders in healthcare and health sciences.

“RCSI was ranked number one in the world for SDG 3 ‘Good Health and Well-being’ in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2025, the third time we have achieved this global distinction. ”

The Schools of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences and Physiotherapy significantly expanded student intakes in response to the government's call to increase the number of health sciences graduates. Now in its third year, the BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies continues to work closely with industry partners to address critical skills gaps.

Our transformative medicine curriculum also continued to mature, with the introduction of a new clinical tutor system providing hands-on support for students in real clinical settings. At the same time, new offerings such as the MSc in Population Health Management and pioneering micro-credentials in nursing highlighted our responsiveness to the evolving needs of the health system.

Supporting student success remains a cornerstone of our approach. Expanded programmes in mental health, resilience and career development were complemented by strong engagement through initiatives such as the StEP programme and the RCSI CareerHub, a dynamic platform offering workshops, internships, networking opportunities and tailored career guidance for our students.

## Research and innovation

Our researchers and clinician scientists, with the support of RCSI's Office of Research and Innovation, delivered exceptional outcomes during the year, with a continued focus on translational and patient-centred research. An outstanding €44.8 million in new external grants was secured, our researchers published more than 1,650 PubMed-indexed articles, and RCSI became the first university in Ireland to achieve My Green Lab Certification across all labs. These achievements underscore RCSI's position as a leader in sustainable, translational and patient-focused research.

Clinical research flourished through the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre and the Clinical Research Centre, which expanded capacity, improved processes and tripled participant recruitment.

The Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre launched the *Beaumont RCSI Irish Cancer Society Lung Health Check*, a landmark pilot national lung cancer screening study as part of a €4.9 million programme, led by Professor Jarushka Naidoo, and the €5 million PRISM programme, led by Professor Leonie Young, which aims to improve survival and quality of life for patients with metastatic breast cancer through precision oncology approaches. These groundbreaking initiatives represent one of Ireland's most ambitious cancer research efforts and reflect RCSI's impact in advancing personalised medicine.

Research led by Professor James O'Donnell identified a new subgroup of patients with von Willebrand disease, the most common inherited bleeding disorder. These patients had normal amounts of the clotting protein but still experienced bleeding problems because the protein didn't function properly. This finding means doctors can now better diagnose the condition and ensure patients receive the right treatment.

The RCSI Tissue Engineering Research Group, led by Professor Fergal O'Brien, developed a new 3D-printed implant that carries tiny electrical signals to encourage nerve repair after spinal cord injury and Professor Jonathan Hourihane launched the FLORAL study, examining how the gut microbiome affects children's health by comparing children born during the COVID-19 pandemic with those born afterwards.

Innovation and industry engagement accelerated, with RCSI ranked third nationally for spin-out formation and first for

“I am immensely proud to work with the academics, researchers, clinicians and professional staff who, every day, demonstrate their dedication to advancing knowledge and innovating for a healthier future.”

collaborative agreements signed. Our researchers launched new spin-outs, won national start-up awards and deepened partnerships with SMEs and multinationals.

## A growing campus

At the time of this report, RCSI's €99 million development at 118 St Stephen's Green was close to completion, marking a major milestone in the university's campus evolution by creating a new “front door” and a vibrant hub for education, research and student life and reinforcing RCSI's historic connection to St Stephen's Green.

Our campus further expanded during the year with the Connolly Education and Research Centre opening.

## Positive culture

RCSI continues to foster a positive workplace culture, rooted in our values of respect, collaboration, scholarship and innovation and our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. In 2025, we were proud to be recognised as Inclusive Champion for Gender Equality by the European Commission. Our School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences secured RCSI's first Athena Swan Silver Award, with further success in Bronze renewal. We again took part in the Sunday Times Best Places to Work survey, ranking “excellent” in 2024 and 2025, with engagement scores over 10% above global benchmarks.

## Official Languages Act

RCSI remains committed to meeting its obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003. Bilingual signage around campus is increasing in use and will continue to be rolled out incrementally, thanks to the work of our Estates team.

RCSI has made substantial progress in fulfilling its advertising obligations through Irish and I would like to acknowledge the Communications and Marketing Departments for their efforts in this regard.

## Thank you

RCSI is defined by the talents of its people. I am immensely proud to work with the academics, researchers, clinicians and professional staff who, every day, demonstrate their dedication to advancing knowledge and innovating for a healthier future.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the commitment and effort of our students, who are the healthcare leaders of tomorrow and at the heart of everything we do.

I am especially grateful for the support of President Professor Deborah McNamara and the RCSI Council throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to my colleagues on RCSI's senior management team. Their vision and dedication remain a driving force behind our strategic progress. I thank them sincerely for their continued leadership and collegiality.

# Senior management team



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



**Professor Tracy Robson**  
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



“ As robotic platforms become a foundational element of modern healthcare, it’s essential that they are implemented with robust structured oversight and continuous assessment so we can uphold the highest standards of care while embracing innovation. ”

**Professor Barry McGuire**, Professor of Postgraduate Surgical Education and Academic Development.

01

Surgery

36

accredited surgical  
training hospitals



160

Core Surgical  
Trainees



294

Higher Surgical Trainees



83

Core Specialty Emergency  
Medicine Trainees



64

Advanced Specialty Emergency  
Medicine Trainees



130

online and classroom  
courses offered



# Surgery



**Kieran Ryan**  
Managing Director, Surgical Affairs

The Department of Surgical Affairs is responsible for the delivery of training programmes to produce consultants in surgery and emergency medicine for the Irish health system. We also provide a range of educational and professional development supports for doctors, surgeons and other healthcare professionals. Our vision is to deliver the highest possible standard of education and training to support doctors in their day-to-day work delivering health services to patients.

In Surgical Affairs, we are focused on growth and relevance. We work closely with the HSE's National Doctors Training and Planning unit to maximise the number of postgraduate training posts. For the July 2025 intake, we expanded the intake of Core Surgical Trainees from 80 to 100, so the CST Programme now has over 180 trainees in the system at any one time. We also recruited 64 Higher Surgical Specialty Trainees across all specialties and 24 Emergency Medicine Specialty Trainees, along with 40 Core Trainees in Emergency Medicine.

More than 960 people are registered with RCSI's CPD programmes and we run degree-awarding programmes such as the master's degrees in Surgery and Human Factors and Patient Safety.

The challenge is to accommodate the additional capacity required by this growth in numbers. In 2024, we received significant capital funding from the HSE to invest in surgical training equipment, both in RCSI and regionally, to help create additional capacity.

In growing our student and trainee numbers, we are mindful of the availability of tutors and trainers to support that growth. In working with the specialties and hospitals to identify more training posts and ensure the availability of trainers, we try to remove unnecessary administrative workload from educators, so they have as much contact time with trainees as possible.

## Surgical practice

As President, Professor Deborah McNamara has prioritised the engagement of early-career consultants with the College and in surgical training in particular. Through the RCSI Early Careers Network Group, led by Ms Christina Fleming and Mr Tristan Cassidy, the College identifies the needs of early-career surgical consultants and provides the necessary educational, organisational and mentorship supports to assist them to establish themselves in their practice, as they embark on the next phase of their relationship with the College, by ensuring they have access to leadership opportunities within the College in training, assessment and examinations.

Professor Barry McGuire, Professor of Surgical Education and Academic Development, leads the Robotic Surgery Advisory Group, made up of leading consultants in robotic-assisted surgery. In February, the group launched the Robotic Surgery Clinical Governance guidelines, based on international best practice, which enable hospitals and clinical directors to safely introduce robotic-assisted surgery into day-to-day practice. More robotic surgery platforms are being purchased by Irish hospitals and our trainees and surgeons need to be appropriately trained and familiar with these platforms so that they can get the maximum benefit from them.



*Pictured at the launch of the New Technologies for Future of Surgery in Ireland report in September were (l-r) Professor Laura Viani, Council Member who commissioned the report during her term of office as President; Professor Ronan Cahill, Council Member and Chair of the Committee on New Technologies in Surgery in Ireland; and Professor Deborah McNamara, President.*

To that end, the College is working with its industry partners, primarily Intuitive (the DaVinci Robotic platform), Medtronic and M.E.D. Surgical for the CMR Platform, who support our conferences and training programmes. Surgeons need to be competent in the use of the technology as opposed to proprietary devices and our approach to training is multi-platform. This year, we have worked to develop a robotic-assisted surgery training curriculum to launch next year.

**Postgraduate and continuing education and research**

We are grateful to Johnson & Johnson for their ongoing support of the Progress Women in Surgery Fellowship, which this year was awarded to Ms Lauren V. O’Connell, who is undertaking a Fellowship in advanced colorectal cancer at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

“The College identifies the needs of early-career surgical consultants and provides the necessary educational, organisational and mentorship supports to assist them to establish themselves.”

We continue to deliver our annual programmes, including Surgical Bootcamp, led by Dr Dara O’Keeffe, for new surgical trainees. We are grateful to Dr O’Keeffe, the team in Surgical Affairs and the trainers who give up their time to help the new intake of surgical trainees with their induction into surgical training before they deploy to the hospitals.

The Intercollegiate Surgical Skills Competition, run by the surgical societies in the six medical schools on the island, allows students who aspire to a career in surgery to get involved at an early stage.

Our work in the space of health and well-being for surgical trainees and trainers is ongoing. We have upgraded our M surgery platform, which our trainees and trainers use to access information during their training programmes, to be more intuitive. Sinead Dixon, a team leader and experienced surgical training administrator, is our health and well-being officer. She has worked closely with Patricia Malone, one of our programme managers, to develop useful and informative resources, including the Safe and Sound podcast, for trainers and trainees.

We work closely with our colleagues in RCSI CoMPPAS, the student support service, who provide counselling support for trainees. With the Irish Surgical Trainees Group, we have

“The Robotic Surgery Clinical Governance guidelines, based on international best practice, enable hospitals and clinical directors to safely introduce robotic-assisted surgery into day-to-day practice.”

developed a pilot peer-to-peer mentorship programme, with senior trainees acting as mentors for early-career trainees.

In addition to the surgical training programmes, our CPD scheme, supported by the HSE, delivers over 144 courses each year to a significant number of NCHDs in surgical and Emergency Medicine posts across the country. We have developed specific programmes geared towards individual advancement for members of this cohort. Previously, we introduced the Basic Surgical Science and Practice programme, and this year we launched the Intermediate Surgical Science and Practice programme, focusing on the advancement of more specialty-specific skills.

#### Committees and working groups

The short-life working group on New Technologies for Future Surgery in Ireland, chaired by Professor Ronan Cahill, achieved basic consensus across the various surgical communities in Ireland on the importance of emerging technologies such as robotic-assisted surgery, artificial intelligence, digital information and records, and the College’s role in making people aware of the new technologies as well as facilitating the necessary training and education for surgeons to introduce them into their practice.

Allied to this, President Deborah McNamara asked Professor Micheal O’Riordain to look at the area of artificial intelligence as it relates to educational and awareness issues to be addressed by the College.

Professor Camilla Carroll, RCSI Ambassador for Sustainable Surgery, has played a key role in updating the Green Theatre Checklist, established in 2022 by the Surgical Royal Colleges of England, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Ireland, an initiative designed to help surgical teams minimise their environmental impact. RCSI received a grant of €120,000 from the HSE to support the development of a Green Theatre accreditation programme.

President McNamara asked Professor Killian Walsh to lead a short-life working group looking at the health and well-being supports provided by the College to trainers and trainees to help identify any areas requiring improvement.

The President established another short-life working group to develop a surgical clinical governance framework under the chairmanship of Mr David Moore. This will enable the College to



#### Ms Lauren V. O’Connell, PROGRESS Fellowship recipient

I am deeply honoured to have been awarded the 2025 PROGRESS Women in Surgery Fellowship by RCSI. This recognition represents a pivotal moment in my surgical training and a meaningful opportunity to advance the care we provide to patients with complex colorectal cancers in Ireland.

As a Specialist Registrar in General and Colorectal Surgery at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, I have seen first-hand the challenges faced by patients with locally advanced and recurrent rectal cancer. Access to cutting-edge techniques and multidisciplinary care can significantly improve outcomes, but the most complex cases may still require patients to travel abroad.

With the support of this Fellowship, I will complete a period of subspecialist training at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, one of the world’s foremost centres for cancer surgery. There, I hope to refine my skills in managing highly complex disease, particularly through minimally invasive and multidisciplinary approaches.

Beyond clinical expertise, I’m also committed to equity in surgical care and training. I want to help build a future where access to advanced treatment does not depend on geography or circumstance, and one where women in surgery are empowered to lead, specialise and innovate without barriers.

The PROGRESS Fellowship embodies these values. I’m grateful to RCSI for championing this vision and for investing in the next generation of female surgical leaders. I look forward to bringing this experience back to Ireland and to making a lasting impact on patient care, surgical education and our wider health system.

provide guidance to surgeons and surgical teams on good multidisciplinary teamwork to ensure patient safety while fostering innovation in a safe and ethical way.

Professor Eamon Rogers was appointed as National Co-Lead for the National Clinical Programme in Surgery (NCPS). I wish to acknowledge the important contribution of Mr Kenneth Mealy, former President of RCSI, who served for many years as the National Co-Lead for the NCPS. RCSI, with the NCPS and the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology (NCP&N), has launched Paediatric General Surgery: A Model of Care for Ireland 2024, a comprehensive framework to enhance surgical services for children close to where they live, ensuring access to a high standard of surgical care with clear oversight and governance. The model was developed by RCSI in collaboration with the HSE, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and a national network of hospitals providing surgical care for children supported by Children’s Health Ireland.

An initiative of the RCSI National Clinical Programme for Cardiothoracic Surgery to reduce inpatient waiting times and drive improvements in outcomes for patients has been awarded HSE Spark Innovation funding. The funding will enable the

Programme to work with the four cardiac and five thoracic units in Dublin, Cork and Galway, to design and implement an innovative, patient-centred National Digital Cardiothoracic Surgery Dashboard.

The National Surgery Research Support Centre (NSRSC) continues to foster and support the involvement of surgeons in clinical trials. In September 2024, the NSRSC hosted the Bristol, Oxford and Aberdeen Surgical Trials Unit Clinical Trials (BOASTIC) course, the first time the course has been hosted outside the UK. Trainees from the UK and Ireland participated in three days of training in running surgical clinical trials.

Over 50 peer-reviewed publications were presented at the Millin Meeting. I wish to thank Professor Stewart Walsh, the Clinical Lead and Dr Ann Marie Byrne, Programme Director for the NSRSC,

“The National Surgery Research Support Centre continues to foster and support the involvement of surgeons in clinical trials.”



Robotic surgery assistants and surgical trainees across specialties, including urology, cardiothoracic surgery and general surgery, had the opportunity to enhance their skills in emerging technologies at the Multi-platform RoboStart and Robotic Assistants workshop in September.



*New surgical Fellows celebrating their conferring at the Fellows, Members and Diplomates Conferring Ceremony in July.*

for their leadership in growing the trials network. The NSRC is currently supporting eight clinical trials across areas such as appendicitis, diabetes, bariatric surgery and wound healing, and working on multinational studies.

The National Human Factors and Patient Safety Conference was hosted by Professor Eva Doherty, Director of Human Factors. Dr Helen Bevan, OBE, an international thought leader on patient safety, was the keynote speaker.

#### **International activities**

Our International Surgical Fellowship Programme, led by Professor Oscar Traynor, sees international surgical Fellows come to Ireland for subspecialty fellowship training and return to their home countries having worked in the Irish health system. The programme goes from strength to strength with over 50 Fellows participating across the two-year programme. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the specialties and trainers who host these Fellows.

Our overseas MRCS examinations continue to grow with hubs in Cairo, Bahrain and Malaysia. Professor Dr N Premnath, RCSI Director of Surgical Examinations and Education, Malaysia, has helped establish a new exam centre in Sabah, where the first exams were held in May. Growing numbers take the membership exams with RCSI, ensuring our international reputation,

membership and fellowship across the globe. We are grateful to the international partners who help us host these exams.

I thank the team in RCSI Surgical Affairs for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to all our trainees, trainers, students, Fellows and Members. Surgical and Emergency Medicine training has grown under a team led by Caroline McGuinness, Professor Kevin Barry, Mr Dara Kavanagh and Dr Gareth Quin. Pdraig Kelly, Associate Director for Operations and Planning, and Paula Mansell lead the team delivering our Academic and CPD programmes. Regulatory Affairs, Quality Assurance and Accreditation is ably led by Emeka Okereke. Professor Barry McGuire and our academic and teaching faculty deliver a huge programme of training and education to almost 2,000 scholars each year.

Finally, I wish 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, and my colleagues on the senior management team and across RCSI.

>>> *Read about the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery on page 36*

>>> *For RCSI Postgraduate Surgical Awards, see page 102*

“ Numerous studies now link adolescent cannabis use to a range of mental health issues – increased risk of depression, anxiety, and most concerning of all, a threefold increase in the risk of suicide. ”

**Professor Mary Cannon**, Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Youth Mental Health and panel member at the RCSI MyHealth live event on *Cannabis and Young Minds: What Parents and Families Should Know*.



# 02

Supporting  
Health and  
Societal  
Well-being

51%

improvement in energy performance across RCSI buildings



1,048

specialist surgeons graduated from COSESCA



23,200

viewers and listeners of RCSI MyHealth



3,350

students participating in Transition Year MiniHealthSciences online and in-person



9

National PPI Festival events hosted at RCSI



16

networking events held for Alumni, Fellows and Members



Photo: Antonio Jaén Osuna / SURG-Water

# Supporting Health and Societal Well-being



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

As we continue to deliver on the first pillar of our strategic plan, RCSI remains focused on our commitment to supporting health and societal well-being – locally, nationally and globally.

In 2024–25, we deepened our work with communities, strengthened pathways to higher education for underrepresented groups, expanded public engagement with science and health and took further steps to embed climate action into our operations and culture.

RCSI has long played an integral role in Dublin city centre, and our partnerships with schools and community groups in the south inner city have never been more important. Through initiatives such as the Creative Arts Summer School, Dublin Learning City and our partnerships with DEIS schools through REACH RCSI, our access and widening participation programme, we are raising educational aspirations for hundreds of young people. A core focus remains widening participation in STEMM subjects through targeted initiatives including TY MiniHealthSciences, the Primary Teachers' CPD Science Programme and school-based science and health engagement.

In 2024–25, four RCSI students were awarded HEA-funded 1916 Bursaries and a further eight access students were awarded RCSI alumni-funded scholarships – Aim High (Medicine and GEM), Kiran Pathak (Pharmacy) and Takeda (ATT). These awards support students from priority groups underrepresented in higher education. In total, there were 31 RCSI alumni-funded access scholars and 21 HEA 1916 scholars registered in 2024–2025.

We also maintained a strong contribution to the national HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) schemes. In 2024, we reserved a minimum of 12% of school leaver places across all undergraduate programmes – including Medicine, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy and Advanced Therapeutic Technologies – for students applying through these routes. This equates to at least 32 places annually. For a single-faculty, independent university with highly competitive entry requirements, this is a significant commitment and an important step in diversifying Ireland's future healthcare workforce.

Health equity remains at the heart of our REACH RCSI programme. This year, we expanded the 'Health in the Community' strand, using RCSI's academic and clinical expertise to improve lifelong well-being locally.

Public, patient and community engagement continues to be a key theme in our 2023–2027 Engagement Strategy. Physiotherapy students ran weekly exercise classes for older adults, while a partnership with Mercer's Medical Centre supported a singing group to promote lung health. Patient groups also played an active role in research across areas such as Sjögren's Disease, epilepsy and cancer. These collaborations enrich our academic and research activity while creating tangible health benefits for participants.

“A core focus remains widening participation in STEMM subjects through targeted initiatives.”



The RCSI My Green Lab Steering Group pictured in January to celebrate all RCSI’s research and teaching laboratories receiving My Green Lab Certification, the gold standard for laboratory sustainability practices globally.

“RCSI achieved a 51.4% improvement in energy performance, meeting our 2030 public sector target six years ahead of schedule.”

To support deeper public engagement with health, we are investing in a dedicated community-facing space within our new building at 118 St Stephen’s Green. Scheduled to open in 2026, it will be a free, interactive venue designed to foster dialogue around health and well-being through exhibitions, installations and discussions with RCSI experts.

RCSI remains a trusted source of accurate, accessible public health information at a time of increasing medical misinformation. RCSI MyHealth attracted strong engagement throughout the year, including a record in-person audience at an event on cannabis use and young minds. We also participated in the national ‘Soapbox Science’ and ‘Pint of Science’ events, bringing RCSI research into informal venues across the city.

In response to humanitarian crises, particularly the war in Gaza, RCSI is actively supporting global health in times of conflict. In

2024, we began collaborating with a medical NGO to expand emergency treatment capacity in the region, contributing to the care of up to 800 patients daily. We have also supplied medical education materials to displaced students, including our free open-access SURGHub surgical training platform, which won the Times Higher Education (THE) Award 2024 for Technological Innovation of the Year.

Finally, our commitment to planetary health continues to shape our institutional priorities. As the WHO has stated, climate change is the defining health challenge of our time. In 2024, RCSI achieved a 51.4% improvement in energy performance, meeting our 2030 public sector target six years ahead of schedule. The successful rollout of our Energy Performance Contract and a deep energy retrofit marked major progress. Further evidence of our work towards achieving the UN SDGs came through ISO 50001 certification, My Green Lab Accreditation for all of our laboratories and ranking first in the world for SDG3 ‘Good Health and Well-being’ in the THE Impact Rankings – the third year we have achieved this position.

These collective efforts reflect RCSI’s ambition to lead not only in healthcare education and research, but as an active partner in shaping a fairer, healthier and more sustainable society.

# Engagement and involvement with patients, the public and our community

At RCSI, we prioritise keeping the patient and public voice central to our mission. Public and patient involvement (PPI) is key to our 2023-2027 Strategy, *Innovating for a Healthier Future*, reflecting our commitment to integrating PPI deeply into research and education.

## PPI in research

PPI in research means that those most affected by research shape its direction, conduct and how the research results are shared. RCSI is a lead university in the National PPI Ignite Network, a €5 million initiative funded by the Health Research Board and Research Ireland. Professor Michelle Flood, PPI in Research Lead, and Programme Manager Niamh Dillon, direct efforts to increase PPI in research within RCSI and nationally.

In 2024-2025, we delivered training, workshops and public events to build PPI capacity. During the National PPI Festival in October

2024 RCSI hosted nine events, including a two-part NALA Plain English workshop for researchers. In partnership with Trinity College Dublin, the Irish Cancer Society and the National PPI Ignite Office, we attracted 260 attendees including researchers, students, patients and public.

In April, we collaborated with Crohn's and Colitis Ireland on an Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Knowledge Exchange, fostering new opportunities for PPI in pre-clinical research. At RCSI Research Day 2025, we celebrated PPI through awards, including the Public/Patient Research Partner Excellence Award, presented to Siobhán Freaney.

RCSI and University College Cork co-delivered the PPI and Engaged Research Module to 18 postgraduate students, with input from PPI contributors and patient organisations, including the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

A key milestone was Professor Flood's appointment as All-Ireland Lead for Phase 3 of the PPI Ignite Network, reinforcing RCSI's leadership in advancing PPI in research.

## PPI in education

The patient voice is central to ensuring RCSI students learn to support and care for their future patients in the best way possible. Our team of patient storytellers and simulated patients brings an



PPI contributors pictured at the PPI in Education and Research celebration event in October.

impactful experience into our teaching. These patient perspectives enable students to see the patient beyond the theory and diagnosis. The stories, in particular, are a powerful tool in the student learning journey. Through storytelling, patients bring to life the complexities of healthcare, ensuring that students see the person behind the patient. This approach enables students to understand the importance of listening, understanding and connecting on a deeper level.

Led by Michelle Kirrane Scott, the PPI in Education Committee oversees and develops these partnerships. Patients and public representatives are members of committees and school steering groups. Their voice is vital in both planning curricula and in student engagement.

Patient advocacy groups that support this work include: Diabetes Ireland, Parkinson's Association Ireland, Arthritis Ireland, Epilepsy Ireland, The Marie Keating Foundation, Breast Cancer Ireland, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Asthma Association Ireland, Sjögren's Ireland, Rotunda Maternity Hospital, MS Ireland. Irish Coalition for People with Obesity, UISCE - National Advocacy Service for People who use Drugs in Ireland, Hyperemesis Ireland, Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), Alopecia Ireland, Irish Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI).

In October 2024, we held a celebratory recognition and reward event to thank our patient and public partners for their vital

contributions to RCSI's mission in education and research. The event welcomed 80 guests to RCSI to enjoy an afternoon of student performances, storytelling and networking.

### RCSI MyHealth

In 2024/25, RCSI MyHealth continued its mission to deliver reliable, accessible and trustworthy health information to the public. Panels of RCSI researchers and international health experts addressed common healthcare concerns, sharing their insights and personal experiences to support individuals in managing their own well-being. Episodes were available online in both video and podcast form.

This year saw the reintroduction of in-person MyHealth events for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. The series' videos were viewed 19,993 times and the podcast episodes were downloaded 3,222 times, bringing the total audience to 277,220 since the series was launched in 2016.

RCSI MyHealth was developed in direct response to public feedback and concerns, aiming to demystify the most prevalent health issues affecting people today. In 2024/25, the series opened with discussions on dementia, chronic pain and an in-person event on coping strategies for living with cancer. As it continued into 2025, the programme included an in-person event on the effects of cannabis on youth mental health, diabetes and sleep health.



Panelists at the RCSI MyHealth event, “I don’t know how to feel”: coping strategies for life with cancer’, in November were (l-r) Dr Vicky Cooper Lunt, Principal Clinical Psychologist, Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre; Dr Elysha Brennan, RCSI Alumna, Paediatrics SpR and 2015 Rose of Tralee; Corrinne Hasson, Director of Services, Irish Cancer Society; Alan McGovern, patient and family advocate; Dr Maria Pertl, Lecturer in Health Psychology, School of Population Health; and panel host Dr Pádraic Dunne, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Positive Health Sciences.



*Laura Stack, who shared the tragic story of her son Johnny who died by suicide during a cannabis-induced psychosis, in conversation with host Miriam O'Callaghan as part of a panel discussion at the RCSI MyHealth 'Cannabis and young Minds' event in March.*

## RCSI Expert Directory

The RCSI 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 UN SDG 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 leads them to better health.

RCSI was mentioned in 2,296 media articles and segments in Ireland in 2024, driven by the contributions of these expert spokespeople.

## A new public engagement space

This year saw continued progress in the development of RCSI's new public engagement space, a first of its kind gallery space dedicated to health and well-being, at 118 St Stephen's Green in Dublin city centre and a cornerstone of RCSI's €95 million campus transformation. The gallery will be a free exhibition space and café in the heart of RCSI, exploring healthy futures for all. Through a rolling programme of exhibitions, events and online activities, it will be a place for everyone to join conversations about living longer, healthier and happier lives.

A feasibility study confirmed the public appetite for trusted health information and endorsed RCSI's role in this regard. Building on the success of the RCSI MyHealth series, RCSI's aim is to bridge the gap between health sciences research, professional expertise and public understanding, empowering people to make informed decisions about their health.

In September 2024, we were delighted to announce Blackrock Health as the gallery's lead partner. With the support of Blackrock Health, our academics, scientists and clinicians will pioneer new forms of health-related public engagement, encouraging individuals and communities to lead healthier lives.

Dr Alison Boyle was announced as Gallery Director in January 2025, bringing with her two decades of international experience, including the Science Museum UK and Research Ireland. She is responsible for driving the vision and potential for the gallery, through curated programme development and overseeing a small team that is being recruited from summer 2025. The gallery underscores RCSI's commitment to delivering on the third UN Sustainable Development Goal, to ensure healthy living and promote well-being for all ages.

A new, fresh and engaging name and brand identity for the space, that also builds on RCSI's long history and scholarship, is at the advanced stages of development. Curation of exhibitions is in progress, with the first full exhibition scheduled for Spring 2026.



*Transition Year (TY) students Joey Zhao and Nishim Sitoula of Synge Street CBS Dublin pictured at the RCSI TY MiniHealthSciences programme in March, which included TY MiniDentistry for the first time.*

### Transition Year MiniHealthSciences Programme

RCSI welcomed over 250 Transition Year (TY) students from across Ireland to take part in the annual RCSI MiniHealthSciences Programme.

The event offered secondary school students a unique opportunity to get hands-on experience in various healthcare professions. A further 3,100 students took part in the programme online, attending lectures, interactive workshops and live-streamed surgeries.

The programme featured a diverse range of sessions, including insights into a patient's journey, an introduction to forensic pathology, sports medicine, an overview of plastic and reconstructive surgery and medical technology. Students also received valuable guidance on looking after their own mental and physical health.

For the first time, this year's TY programme included dentistry, giving participants a preview of what is to come in September 2025, when the first cohort of undergraduate students begin their studies at RCSI's new School of Dentistry.

The RCSI MiniPharm and MiniPhysio online programmes also ran during the week, giving students the chance to explore careers in pharmacy, physiotherapy and the pharmaceutical industry.

The annual Waterford RCSI TY MiniMed programme at the RCSI Education Facility, University Hospital Waterford and South East Technological University (SETU) welcomed more than 120 students from schools in the South Eastern Region.

### RCSI Engage and REACH RCSI Programme

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

The RCSI Access and Widening Participation programme spans pre-entry programmes targeting primary and post-primary schools, entry routes and post-entry support, working collaboratively with community partners and educational institutions.

REACH (Recreation Education And Community Health) RCSI is the university's community engagement, access and widening participation programme, connecting RCSI with the local community and facilitating access to education for traditionally underrepresented groups. Community partnerships, together with students and staff volunteering, engaged learning and outreach, are central to its reciprocal approach.

Highlights during the year included:

#### Education, access and widening participation

- ~ The 11th annual summer CPD Programme for primary teachers explored 'The Senses' through a series of workshop-based practical activities facilitated by RCSI staff.
- ~ A DEIS primary school summer camp took place in RCSI's sports hall, supporting children with complex special educational needs and those at risk of educational disadvantage.

“The 11<sup>th</sup> annual summer CPD Programme for primary teachers explored ‘The Senses’ through a series of workshop-based practical activities facilitated by RCSI staff. ”

- ~ The REACH RCSI Grinds Club saw student volunteers provide free, one-to-one academic support to Leaving Certificate students from Dublin’s south inner city.
- ~ During Science Week 2024, RCSI Chemistry hosted interactive STEMM workshops for REACH RCSI DEIS post-primary students, including an aspirin synthesis lab.

#### Health education and engaged learning

- ~ RCSI student volunteers delivered health workshops in REACH RCSI link primary schools on Sleep, Sun Safety and Physical Activity, while Paediatric Society members visited junior classes to build familiarity with healthcare professionals.
- ~ Through RCSI’s partnership with The Olive Branch for Children, students contributed to the development of the physiotherapy department at the Phons and Mary PolyClinic in Tanzania.
- ~ RCSI Advanced Therapeutics Technologies students partnered with REACH link post-primary schools to explore the UN SDGs in our shared community of Dublin City Centre.

A new community engaged learning module saw physiotherapy students leading on-campus and community-based exercise classes for older people.

- ~ RCSI Engage seed funding supported two health and well-being initiatives: The ‘Mercer’s Melodies’ choir led by Dr Una O’Neill (Mercers Medical Centre) who took part in the 2025 Novartis

Ireland Patient Choir Contest and the ‘Autistic Art Club’ led by PhD Student Zoe McCormack providing a safe, inclusive space for neurodivergent people to express themselves.

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

RCSI is a proud member of the HEA-funded Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Leinster Cluster, with RCSI represented by Celeste Golden, EU Admissions Officer and Maria Kelly, Head of RCSI Engage.

Collaborative initiatives include:

- ~ Dublin Learning City Festival 2025, which aims to ensure that education and learning are free and accessible, featured several RCSI health and well-being focused learning opportunities.
- ~ Creative Arts Summer School welcomed 60 participants for interactive workshops facilitated by the RCSI SIM team and a life drawing workshop.
- ~ RCSI access students volunteer in the Community Mentoring programme in partnership with DEIS schools and community groups across Dublin.
- ~ RCSI works collaboratively with UCD and TCD to increase participation of Traveller and Roma students in higher education.

#### Engaged research

The RCSI Engage Engaged Research Awards underline RCSI’s commitment to building stronger connections between researchers, community stakeholders and industry partners to create meaningful societal impact.

Dr Eunice Phillip won the 2025 Engaged Research Award for ‘Community Perspectives on Health Needs and Assets in Sláintecare Healthy Community Programme areas in Dublin.’ The project, led by Professor Debbi Stanistreet, formed part of RCSI’s partnership with Dublin City Council and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. In April 2025, ‘Uisce Cliste: Healthy Hydration for Dublin,’ a novel drinking water initiative, led by Dr Grace O’Malley in partnership with Dublin City Council, was launched to expand access to free, high-quality drinking water in public spaces and address health inequalities.



Minister of State at the Department of Health, Jennifer Murnane O’Connor (pictured fifth from right) with RCSI and community partners at the launch of the Healthy Hydration for Dublin Uisce Cliste report in April.

# RCSI Institute of Global Surgery

The work of the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery focuses on improving access to high-quality surgical care for underserved populations. Access to surgery is a prerequisite for achieving UN SDG 3. We collaborate globally with our partners on sustainable projects aimed at improving the lives of both patients and providers. Most of our current work is centred in sub-Saharan Africa, where the need for access to safe surgery is greatest.

## Education and training

The Institute leverages RCSI's expertise and experience to support African surgical and perioperative training bodies in achieving their own goals, with funding from Irish Aid. This support includes training anaesthesiology trainers, supporting early-career surgical researchers and developing mobile apps for surgical training logbooks. A particular highlight in 2024/2025 was when our partner, the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) surpassed 1,000 surgical graduates. COSECSA has now graduated 1,048 surgeons, who will collectively perform over 10 million procedures during their careers.

Alongside RCSI SIM and other RCSI departments, the Institute provides a structured mentorship programme and community of practice for teams in low-resource settings developing open-access, low-cost surgical simulation modules.

Members of the surgical team in these settings often lack access to context-appropriate training materials. The Institute hosts and supports the online training platforms of three training colleges and two NGOs, co-creates e-learning courses and translates courses into local languages to increase accessibility.

Having celebrated its second anniversary in June 2025, the open access United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub (SURGhub) continues to bring together high-quality, peer-reviewed surgical, anesthetic, obstetric and nursing e-learning courses in a single open access hub. SURGhub now has over 20,000 enrolled learners from more than 190 countries. This global project is underpinned by the Global Surgery Foundation, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and RCSI, in association with the J&J Foundation. It received the 2024 THE Award for 'Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year'.

## Research

In 2024, the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery continued to deliver impactful research and systems-strengthening work across



*The Akazi project is Malawi's leading breast cancer care programme.  
Photo: Antonio Jaén Osuna*

Africa. The Akazi project remained Malawi's leading breast cancer care programme, influencing national policy and improving patient outcomes. This year saw the development of the country's first guidance on early breast pathology detection, alongside the rollout of structured training for rural clinicians.

The KidSURG project advanced paediatric surgical care in rural Malawi through specialist outreach and mobile-based clinical support. The programme trained 39 non-doctor clinicians and enabled over 380 surgical procedures with a 96% survival rate for referred children, demonstrating a sustainable, cost-effective model for paediatric surgery in low-resource settings.

Building on from KidSURG, the team was invited to collaborate with Malawi's Ministry of Health in developing the country's first national plan for paediatric surgery. Evidence from our previous and ongoing studies provided a critical foundation for the plan, which marks a significant step forward in formalising and expanding access to safe surgery for children. This milestone reflects RCSI's long-standing commitment to supporting the development of surgical systems in Malawi.

Our new collaborative research methods course, developed with African partners, trained over 40 postgraduate students and registrars in its first year. The programme builds regional research capacity in qualitative and implementation science, and newly obtained funding will support its expansion through hybrid learning models.

“The KidSURG project advanced paediatric surgical care in rural Malawi through specialist outreach and mobile-based clinical support. The programme trained 39 non-doctor clinicians and enabled over 380 surgical procedures with a 96% survival rate for referred children.”

In Zambia, the team contributed to the evaluation of the National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan and remains involved in the working group developing the next national plan. This engagement highlights the Institute's growing role in regional surgical policy development.

The Institute's achievements were recognised through the Impact Award at the Researcher of the Year (IRC legacy) Awards, presented

to Dr Jakub Gajewski. We also deepened our commitment to student-academic partnership through our involvement in the Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme, which promotes co-designed research and mentorship.

These milestones reflect RCSI's continued leadership in global surgery, with an expanding impact on service delivery, research capacity and health policy across sub-Saharan Africa.



Eric O'Flynn, Programme Director for Education, Training and Advocacy, RCSI Institute of Global Surgery and Dr Ines Perić, Education Project Manager, RCSI Institute of Global Surgery

### Times Higher Education 2024 awardee for Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

We are proud that SURGhub was awarded the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) Award for Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year. Widely known as 'the Oscars of higher education', the THE Awards celebrate outstanding innovation and excellence in university led initiatives—making this a truly prestigious recognition of our work.

SURGhub, the United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub developed in partnership between RCSI's Institute of Global Surgery, UNITAR and the Global Surgery Foundation, was launched in June 2023 to tackle the global surgical training gap by providing frontline healthcare workers in low- and middle-income countries with access to free, high-quality, context-appropriate training courses in surgery, anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology, perioperative nursing and non-clinical skills. Within just months, the platform attracted over 21,000 learners from 190 countries, of which 71% were from low- or middle-income nations, highlighting SURGhub's global relevance and reach.

The THE award recognises the platform's innovative open access design, its user-friendly interface and its participatory, volunteer-led approach: content is provided by 28 academic and professional partners, curated and quality assured by more than 150 global experts, including clinicians, nurses, educators and technologists, while Johnson & Johnson Foundation funding enables free delivery.

This recognition is more than symbolic—it underscores SURGhub's impact in democratising surgical education and accelerating access to lifesaving knowledge where it is needed most. In a sector where nearly one-third of global mortality relates to surgical conditions and over 17 million preventable deaths occur annually without access to safe surgical care, SURGhub is helping to bridge that gap and save millions of lives.

Winning the THE Award validates our vision of equitable, quality learning at scale. It affirms the power of collaboration across UN agencies, global surgery NGOs, academic partners and volunteers. As we reflect on this achievement, we see it as both recognition and a mandate: to keep expanding access to effective, freely available surgical training to healthcare providers worldwide.



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

## RCSI Alumni, Fellows and Members

RCSI is proud to be connected to a global community of healthcare professionals that includes 35,500 alumni and 11,000 surgical Fellows and Members in 108 countries. These relationships are key to our understanding of the progress and challenges facing healthcare professionals who strive to improve healthcare, advance health systems and enhance patient care.

Meaningful engagement with our global community remains a priority and drives a wide range of activities. This year saw the continued roll-out of new online portals for alumni and Fellows and Members, offering access to a range of benefits including publications and courses that support RCSI graduates and the surgical community in practical ways.

In addition to the online offering, RCSI organised 16 Alumni, Fellows and Members events that provided in-person social and professional networking opportunities. 600 alumni and guests attended the Alumni Gathering in August 2024, while more than 70 Fellows and Members and their families joined the first Family Fun Day during Charter Week 2025. International receptions also took place in London, Qatar and Kuala Lumpur.

Through our communications, we aim to deepen connections by sharing community voices and stories in dedicated magazines, newsletters and bulletins. Highlights included profiles of the seven Alumni Awardees for 2024, monthly interviews with surgical colleagues and multi-contributor articles on topics such as balancing parenting with career and ageing well.

Since July 2024, 72 alumni, Fellows and Members registered as volunteers, contributing by organising events, giving talks and mentoring students. We value these global connections and aim to further enhance our engagement activities.

### Development

Since the launch of the RCSI TOMORROW campaign in 2016, the University has seen exponential growth in philanthropic income. Phase 1 exceeded €35 million, support four priority pillars including campus development, student programmes, world class faculty recruitment and research. Phase 2 of the campaign is now underway, aligned to the RCSI strategy *Innovating for a Healthier Future 2023-2027*, with an evolved focus across four priority pillars:



*Majella O'Reilly, Dr Dearhaile Collins, Professor Kieran Murphy, Dr Caroline Bee Leng Low, Dr Michelle Flood and Dr Ibtesam Al-Bastaki were among the 2024 RCSI Alumni Awardees who were captured in an artwork by artist Joe Caslin to celebrate them as inspirational alumni role models.*



*Fellows Ms Ailbhe White Gibson (Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery) and Ms Stefanie Croghan (Urology) celebrated their Fellowship conferring ceremony in December.*

### Forging the RCSI Med District

Alumni continued to play a catalytic role in the establishment of the medical quarter on the Green supporting capital development and 118 St Stephen's Green through a Room Naming Campaign. Building on the successful 26 York Street campaign, where every room was named, we learned the importance of recognising alumni contributions and celebrating their achievements to inspire future generations.

### Creating leaders in healthcare

Developing the global healthcare workforce and supporting talented individuals at all career stages through initiatives like student programmes and training fellowships is an ongoing priority. Strategic fundraising has yielded a high return this year with scholarships available for all undergraduate academic programmes, valued at €500,000 annually.

### Building healthier societies

The campaign's focus on enhancing health in Ireland and globally through projects such as the new RCSI gallery, a free exhibition space dedicated to health and well-being, and expanding access to surgical care for underserved populations, has delivered impactful results.

Four founding corporate sponsors raised €3m to complete the fundraising campaign and establish the RCSI gallery: Blackrock Health Group, AIB, Lanas and HSE Healthy Ireland. The funding enabled the appointment of a team led by Dr Alison Boyle, Gallery Directory bringing extensive exhibition expertise for the launch in the next academic year.

BD continued to support access to essential surgical care in Malawi through the kidSURG and Akazi Programmes, in partnership with the Institute of Global Surgery. This sustained support is vital for thousands of patients in countries with limited resources.

### Advancing research

The campaign continues to cultivate support for impactful, patient-focused, cutting-edge research in areas such as cancer, cerebral palsy and neurological disorders. This year saw the establishment of the new RCSI CP-Life Centre, led by Dr Jennifer Ryan and a team of researchers, focused on improving outcomes for adults living with cerebral palsy.

The introduction of legacy giving as a way to support RCSI has proven popular. The inaugural 1784 Society legator event brought focus to this important area of philanthropy. As a result, 28 individuals have already engaged with us regarding bequest intentions, demonstrating a meaningful connection between RCSI's past, present and future.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the individuals, companies and foundations whose philanthropic support has helped advance RCSI's mission to 'educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health'. The commitment of donors is making a lasting impact on our students, researchers and the global communities we serve.

# Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- ~ **5,176** collaborating international research institutions worldwide (Source: SciVal 2015- 2024)
- ~ Became a member of **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)**
- ~ Launched third annual clinical fellowship for surgical trainees and medical professionals with **Operation Childlife**
- ~ Hosted **Irish Global Health Network** conference
- ~ **Worked closely with the HSE** to train healthcare professionals, support national health strategies and develop public health programmes



- ~ Partnered on pioneering project to develop life-saving early **warning system for extreme weather** events
- ~ Received EPA funding for new study examining the public **health impact of air pollution**
- ~ Worked towards sustainability targets in our **Climate Action Roadmap**
- ~ Achieved **My Green Lab Certification** across all laboratories



- ~ **Zero to landfill** policy for waste
- ~ **No paper cups** available on campus
- ~ **No single-use plastic** in our cafés
- ~ RCSI Enviro Soc held **Annual Clothing Drive**



- ~ Unveiled a new artwork by Joe Caslin to **celebrate inspiring RCSI Alumni**
- ~ Announced Ireland's first **health gallery** for new building at 118 St Stephen's Green
- ~ Hosted the **Connecting Artists 2025** Exhibition
- ~ **19,993** views of RCSI MyHealth series videos



- ~ RCSI-led report called for strengthening of the community voice and national policy change to **reduce health inequalities** in Dublin city
- ~ RCSI research revealed stark **inequalities in smoking** prevalence in Ireland
- ~ Collaboration with Sláintecare to improve access to **free drinking water** in Dublin communities
- ~ Updated **Race Equality Action Plan** underpins RCSI's commitment to equality and inclusivity
- ~ Hosted a **Human Trafficking Summit** to examine the role of healthcare professionals in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking
- ~ 12% of school leaver places reserved for the **HEAR** (Higher Education Access Route) and **DARE** (Disability Access Route to Education) schemes





- ~ **#1** in the world in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025
- ~ Strong health research: **12,622** publications with **431,665** views (Source:SciVal 2015-2024)
- ~ Top-performing medical school in Ireland in the international **Planetary Health Report Card** for third consecutive year
- ~ WHO designated RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery as **Collaborating Centre** to guide global nurse and midwife education
- ~ SURGhub reached a record **19,000 healthcare workers** across 190 countries
- ~ FutureNeuro short film addressed the impact of **climate change on brain health**



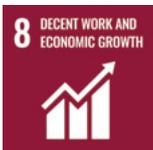
- ~ New **CPD course** to enable health professionals to reduce the environmental impact of healthcare
- ~ New **€32 million** Education and Research Centre at Connolly Hospital
- ~ Opened **next-generation laboratories** to power the future of pharmacy and biomolecular sciences
- ~ **Sexual health literacy** programme for teenagers 'Debunking the Myths' won RCSI Education Innovation Award 2025
- ~ **35,500** health professions alumni across 108 countries



- ~ **PROGRESS Fellowship for Women in Surgery** celebrates its seventh year
- ~ Department of Physiology and Medical Physics renewed their **Bronze Athena Swan Award**
- ~ School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences received a **Silver Athena Swan Award**
- ~ RCSI won **Inclusive Champion** category at the EU Awards for Gender Equality



- ~ **100% green** electricity procured
- ~ Completed our first Energy Performance Contract:
  - **40%** reduction in energy use (gas)
  - **27%** reduction in electrical energy use
  - **300** tonne reduction in carbon emissions
- ~ Achieved **ISO 50001 certification**
- ~ Second **Green Flag** awarded in recognition of continuous commitment to sustainability



- ~ Awarded **Autism Friendly HEI Candidate** Badge by AsIAM
- ~ Named in the 2025 **Sunday Times Best Places to Work**



“ The Student Leadership Development Programme gave me an invaluable opportunity to learn how to overcome challenges, develop key skills and approach situations more effectively, while preparing me to grow into a more capable future leader. ”

**Amelie Treacy**, undergraduate Advanced Therapeutic Technologies student and Student Leadership Development Programme participant.



# 03

## Transforming Education and Student Success

QS Subject Ranking 2025

- > 161 Medicine
- > Top 200 Pharmacy and Pharmacology
- > Top 225 Nursing



479

graduates of Diploma in Health Professions Education (2015 - 2024)



941

participants in Lifestyle Medicine Certificate programme to date



220

student projects at the RCSI Research Summer School



56,000

hours of RCSI SIM-supported student learning activities in 2024/25



222%

increase in student engagement through the new student CareerHub online platform



# Transforming Education and Student Success



**Professor Tracy Robson**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

It's been an exciting year at RCSI as we progressed our strategic objectives to transform education and student success by expanding our educational offerings, both in Dublin and overseas. To support that growth, we have made significant upgrades to our infrastructure to enhance the educational experience of our students.

Our School of Dentistry has recruited fresh talent to roll out RCSI's brand new Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Ireland's first community-based dental degree. We will be welcoming our first group of students this September, significantly boosting the number of dentistry places available nationwide. Once we are fully up and running, we'll be training 375 students and delivering an impressive 30,000 community dental treatments every year.

Our new Sandyford Dental Education Centre, complete with cutting-edge simulation facilities, has now been completed and we look forward to the official opening with the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill in July.

Furthermore, we have broken ground on our second centre at Connolly Hospital, another big stride toward supporting our dental students.

Looking beyond Ireland, we launched our International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation at Soochow University's Future Campus in China. This marks our first direct university-to-university collaboration. We welcomed 158 students between our BSc in Pharmacy and BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, and another 20 students have joined the new MSc by Research programme.

We also responded to the government's call for more health science professionals by increasing our pharmacy intake to 130, more than double what it was in 2019. The Minister for Further and Higher Education, James Lawless, will join us in July to officially celebrate the opening of our new School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences teaching laboratory. Undergraduate student numbers are also up significantly in physiotherapy.

Our BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies entered its third year, and students received hands-on experience with eight-month placements in the pharmaceutical industry. This programme was developed alongside industry partners to ensure that we are addressing real skill gaps.

On the medicine front, we are proud to have rolled out the third year of our innovative Transforming Health Care Education Programme (THEP) curriculum, complete with a new clinical tutor system that provides hands-on support for students in real clinical settings.

Driving innovative development of new postgraduate programmes, we also welcomed 18 students to our new MSc in Population Health Management, recognising the growing importance of this field. Meanwhile, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, together with the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, secured a grant from Skillsnet Ireland to develop Level 9 micro-credentials for nursing home managers. This initiative is all about driving systemic reform in the wake of COVID-19, bringing positive changes to how care is delivered. This will



*Professor Tracy Robson, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dr Zara Molphy, who made the winning presentation at the RCSI Education Innovation Awards 2025 on behalf of RCSI's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and Professor Jan Illing, Director of the Health Professions Education Centre.*

complement over 1,300 postgraduate students recruited this year in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. We've also seen a surge in PhD student numbers, with nearly 100 recruited this year, and we are about to launch a new five-year PhD programme with the University of Pittsburgh, aiming to recruit 50 students over the next five years, fostering international collaboration.

In terms of educational supports and thinking to the future and the challenges our graduates will face in healthcare, we have expanded our mental health and well-being programmes. Our mental health first aid initiative, developed in collaboration with St John of God University Hospital, initially rolled out to pharmacy students, is now open to all of our undergraduate students. Our goal is to help students spot and manage mental health issues in themselves and their future patients.

Supporting students' resilience is another priority. Our lifestyle medicine education programme encourages strategies to manage stress, and, after receiving training from the University of Pennsylvania, we have implemented the UPenn Resilience

“We also responded to the government’s call for more health science professionals by increasing our pharmacy intake to 130.”

Program to help students build resilience and thrive.

Career support is front and centre too. Our RCSI CareerHub is buzzing with activity, offering workshops, internships, networking events and personalised career guidance. This year, 90 students also completed an intensive leadership development programme in partnership with the Graduate School of Healthcare Management, preparing them for future leadership roles in healthcare.

Student engagement is thriving with our Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme, which pairs students and staff for innovative projects. One standout project, on stigmatising language in medical education, was published in the BMC Medical Education Journal.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, which is woven into every aspect of our curricula.

Notably, the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences earned the Athena Swan Silver award, a first for RCSI. We've also been recognized by AsIAM with the Autism Friendly Candidate Badge and we're pushing forward to make our university even more welcoming for autistic students and staff.

This year, our undergraduate students shone as hosts of our annual International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (ICHAMS), drawing over 300 participants from all corners of the globe. The conference spotlighted public and

patient involvement in research and education, sparking dynamic conversations and new connections.

The quality of our academic programmes remains strong, with our medicine and pharmacy programmes being fully accredited by the Irish Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, respectively. The School of Nursing and Midwifery also received a full five-year accreditation from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland for all postgraduate programmes. Furthermore, RCSI Bahrain achieved the highest possible rating in the Bahrain Quality Assurance review; a testament to our global standards. We are constantly innovating in education, with five new Erasmus partnerships to develop fresh teaching methods.

Our efforts are reflected in our global rankings. The university held strong in the Times Higher World University Ranking 2025 at 251-300, and secured top spots in Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Nursing in the QS Subject Rankings.

Across the globe, our Bahrain campus is making a difference through student-run clinics, including a diabetes mobile unit that recently earned an Honorable Mention from the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities and the MacJannet Foundation, celebrating its impact on community health and student leadership.

This year, Dr Muirne Spooner was appointed Deputy Dean for Interprofessional and Community Engaged Learning and she is rolling out programmes to immerse students in healthcare screening for underserved populations, emulating the Bahraini initiative here in Dublin. Meanwhile, Dr Sudipto Das, our new Deputy Dean in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health, is working to integrate AI and digital health into our curriculum and research.

We welcomed Professor Judith Strawbridge as Director of Education, an international trailblazer in educational innovation.

“Our lifestyle medicine education programme encourages strategies to manage stress, and, we have implemented the UPenn Resilience Program to help students build resilience and thrive.”

She will be driving a vibrant, supportive academic culture to support our students, fostering academic leadership and improving academic standards, student partnerships and graduate employability.

The annual 2025 International Education Forum was a truly collaborative event, bringing together colleagues from Bahrain and Malaysia to explore themes of interpersonal learning and artificial intelligence, with insights from leading voices around the world. The 2025 Education Innovation Award went to Dr Zara Molphy and the team in RCSI’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for their project ‘Debunking the Myths – The Science Behind Our Sexual Health.’ This initiative is helping Irish teenagers navigate sexual health literacy, break down stigmas and combat misinformation.

As my first year as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs wraps up, I feel incredibly grateful for the dedication of my colleagues and the University’s spirit of collaboration and innovation. Here’s to another year of growth, achievement and making a real difference together!

## 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:



**Professor Mary Dixon-Woods,**  
Director of the Healthcare Improvement Studies (THIS) Institute, University of Cambridge



**Dr Mohamed El-Erian,**  
President of Queens’ College at Cambridge University and the Chief Economic Advisor at Allianz



**Professor Tim Spector,**  
Professor of Epidemiology at King’s College London, best-selling author and co-founder of the ZOE app



**Mary Mitchell O’Connor,**  
former Minister of State for Higher Education



**Professor Arnold Hill**  
Dean of Medical Programmes

## Medical Programmes

The School of Medicine has successfully delivered three years of the new Transforming Healthcare Education Programme (THEP) curriculum, and we are already seeing the effect on students of more small group teaching, continuous appraisal throughout the year, fewer major examinations and a personalised tutor programme. The less stressful learning environment produces better educational outcomes.

The feedback from the students has been excellent. We think ultimately this will produce better, more rounded doctors who will be educated in a more enjoyable way, with a new assessment programme based on the GPA scoring system. The six-week module of preparation for clinical practice in Year 3, which we delivered at the end of Year 2, was particularly successful.

Over the past year we have been preparing for the implementation of Year 4 of the curriculum, which consists of the specialties of Obstetrics, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, General Practice, Medicine and Surgery which will commence in September 2025.

We undertook a review of the order and volume of the content for the first three years of the curriculum. As a result, we are taking a phased approach to rationalise the volume of information we are providing to the students.

At the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Conference 2025 in Bangkok, Professor Gozie Offiah, Director of Curriculum at the School of Medicine, presented RCSI's transformative approach to undergraduate medical education.

The presentation showcased RCSI's Personal Tutor Programme and the integrated programmatic assessment strategy which aligns knowledge, clinical skills and professional and personal identity to support lifelong learning and real-world readiness.

“International delegates commended the curriculum as progressive and innovative, highlighting the focus on competency-based learning and its use of diverse teaching methods.”



*Final Year Medicine Students celebrate finishing their exams outside RCSI's Education and Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital in May.*

International delegates commended the curriculum as progressive and innovative, highlighting the focus on competency-based learning and its use of diverse teaching methods, including case-based learning and assessment modalities, entrustable professional activities (EPAs), portfolios and progress testing, and its emphasis on continuous personalised feedback.

The curriculum was recognised for addressing global concerns about the future medical workforce and for exemplifying best practices in competency-based education. The personal tutor programme was praised for a structured, feedback-driven support system which enhances student engagement, academic performance and well-being. Professor Offiah highlighted to delegates the student dashboard, strategic study planning and regular mentoring to demonstrate RCSI's commitment to holistic student development. RCSI was recognised for delivering a truly transformative model that prepares graduates to serve not only themselves but also healthcare systems and societies.

We have now completed three years of a five-year implementation programme and are proud to be leading curriculum reform in Ireland.



Physician associates celebrate at the higher degree conferring ceremony in May.

### Physician Associate Studies

RCSI offers the only physician associate (PA) education programme in Ireland. Our 86 graduates continue to provide high-quality medical and surgical care to patients across the country in both public and private health care facilities.

The programme supports RCSI's strategic goals through our commitment to health and societal impact, particularly in health workforce innovation and capacity building. The role of the physician associate has demonstrated positive impact on patients and clinical teams alike. We are also committed to student success, supporting every student's learning needs and providing transformative didactic and clinical education.

Faculty-led research into the role of the Irish PA supports the government's health workforce policy and promotes a greater understanding of the profession within the health system.

In November 2024, a delegation of American PA leaders representing accreditation and certification bodies visited RCSI to learn more about our programme. The delegation recognised RCSI as a leader in PA education across Europe and the UK, citing our strong institutional commitment, graduate success and innovative approach to expanding the number of Irish PAs through hybrid education.

RCSI has been invited to serve as the pilot site for international accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the PA. This recognition would further enhance the programme's reputation and provide opportunities for RCSI graduates to pursue postgraduate training in the United States.

### CoMPPAS

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

Undertaking education in the health sciences can come with a range of challenges. In response, CoMPPAS focused on the following:

#### Welfare and learning support highlights

- ~ Rollout of a robust student welfare programme, a highlight of which was the work on clinical placements – providing students with a platform to maintain well-being and overcome challenges while on rotation
- ~ Partnership between Student Welfare and the Centre for Positive Health Sciences to provide resources promoting resilience and techniques to overcome setbacks
- ~ Student Welfare launch of the 'Lunchtime Social' and 'Hello, My name is' campaigns to encourage vital connection through simple introductions
- ~ Revamp of the 'Responding to Students in Distress' staff workshops and adaption for students as 'Responding to Peers in Distress'
- ~ Additional learning support tutors for students registered with the Learning Access and Facilitation Service (LAFS)
- ~ Extension of the LAFS through the roll out of staff training on working with neurodiverse students and providing an inclusive clinical placement experience

#### Career highlights

##### Innovation

- ~ CareerHub centre opened, providing students and staff with a physical space to support career planning
- ~ Development of the CareerHub online platform to improve student engagement in career readiness, elective planning and career consultancy, resulting in a 222% increase in student connectivity
- ~ Maintained strong North America residency match rates: 88% for USA and 79% for Canada
- ~ Delivered a pilot PACE programme during the Research Summer School using the 'Designing Your Life' framework to reach a broader student cohort
- ~ Delivered preliminary research findings at The Irish Network of Healthcare Educators and Equality Access Network 2025
- ~ Supported six StEP projects (three StEP 1 and three StEP 2)

##### Engagement

- ~ Collaboration with Students' Union and student societies to host webinars emphasising personal growth and professional development
- ~ Attendance at the International Conference on Residency Education in Ottawa, Canada
- ~ CoMPPAS team members presented at the International Education Forum (IEF) and the RCSI Medical Professionalism Conference



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

## School of Medicine

In the School of Medicine, we have implemented the third year of our new Transforming Healthcare Education Programme (THEP) curriculum.

Thanks to the commitment of our colleagues, the inevitable challenges as the programme advanced into the clinical arena have been met. Our students appreciate that it is a new programme but also that it is a more modern programme and one with which their prospective employers in other countries will be familiar. We can take significant learnings from the students' feedback.

One of the hallmarks of THEP is the considerable amount of information given to students as they progress through the years, information which is also available to faculty for evaluation purposes. If a student appears to be having difficulties, we can recognise that early and offer appropriate support. Another advantage of the new programme is the emphasis on resilience, giving students the tools to deal with challenges that may arise.

The 2025 International Education Forum offered the opportunity for an exchange of ideas with our colleagues in Bahrain, where we now have a larger teaching faculty. We both have introduced new digital tools to support our curriculum. Practique, which underpins our exams is running very well both here and in Bahrain and Kaizen monitors students in both locations.

The Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) exam has been a major focus. This year we required students to sit mock exams before they could sit the final exam. This approach helped students concentrate their minds on the exam and led to excellent results, with two of our students earning some of the highest marks across many centres.

With increased student numbers, we have added extra clinical sites for exams. This year we used Kilkenny for our final exam; this was a tremendous success, thanks to the help of our clinical colleagues there. Using Practique, each examiner has a tablet where they input their marks and comments so those running the exams are getting information in real time and can address any issues or discrepancies as they arise. Credit for the smooth running of our exams and operations goes to Kenny Franks from the Student, Academic and Regulatory Affairs team and Conor Murney, Head of Operations.

With the deans of the other medical schools in Ireland, we are working to solve the issue of our non-EU students being unable to secure internships in Ireland. Because the UK has opened its doors to foreign graduates since Brexit, we are currently losing excellent students to the UK.

With larger student numbers, the Conference and Events Department took steps to streamline and shorten the 2025 conferring ceremony, which the students and their families appreciated.



*Stephen Petropoulos, Jennifer Engler and Danyal Ahmed pictured celebrating their graduation day ahead of the School of Medicine Conferring in June.*

## Professor Anne Hickey, Deputy Dean for Positive Education, integrating Personal and Professional Identity formation into the medical curriculum

Traditionally, medical education has focused on anatomy, physiology and clinical skills training, and has focused less on professionalism, resilience under pressure and leadership skills. Lifestyle and well-being, which are key to enabling students to support their own health and that of their future patients, have been neglected areas of medical education.

As technological innovation in healthcare accelerates, the human dimension of healthcare becomes ever more important. As such, medical education has become more than the transfer of knowledge and clinical skills; it needs to encompass also the development of well-rounded, people-focused graduates with a personal and professional identity (PPId) who can connect with their patients and their colleagues.

These concepts were central to the development of the new medical curriculum at RCSI. The three key curricular pillars are head (knowledge), hands (skills) and heart (PPId). PPId integrates three key areas - professionalism, leadership and resilience - which are sewn into the fabric of the curriculum from first to final medical years.

The curriculum also integrates lifestyle medicine, which focuses on the enhancement of health and well-being, and the prevention and treatment of illness. This is achieved through evidence-based approaches to physical activity, nutrition, sleep, social connectedness, smoking, and drug and alcohol use.



### Focus on PPId constituents: professionalism, leadership and resilience

Our students come from different backgrounds and carry different life experiences with them. Education in professionalism means providing opportunities within the curriculum for students to develop values, behaviours, attitudes and approaches to professional relationships and patient safety.

Education in effective leadership provides students with opportunities to recognise when to lead, when to listen, and how to lead oneself effectively, including how to embrace other people's ideas and recognise when to let someone else take the reins.

Exploration of resilience in the curriculum examines challenges in students' university and future professional lives, facilitating students to develop strong coping and reflective skills for current and future pressures and stresses in clinical practice, using key concepts of resilience and growth mindset.

These skills are developed and assessed using a variety of teaching and assessment approaches to ensure that students are not only taught to treat illness, but also how to promote health and well-being - both for patients and for themselves.



Medical students take part in a Preparation for Clinical Practice workshop.



**Professor Helena Kelly**

*Head of School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences*

## School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

The School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences has continued its impressive growth across both education and research, enabling us to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce in patient-facing and scientific roles, as well as better therapies and interventional strategies for patients.

We saw record class sizes across the MPharm, BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies and MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine programmes, alongside continued research success. The School also contributes extensively to RCSI's medical, nursing, physiotherapy and physician associate programmes.

This growth is driven by a commitment to quality and excellence. Highlights include the reaccreditation of the MPharm by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), the School's Athena Swan Silver Award - the first at RCSI - and a top 200 global ranking in the QS subject rankings for pharmacy and pharmacology. A significant milestone for both RCSI and the School was the enrolment of the first cohort of 158 students at the International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation (ICPI), a groundbreaking collaboration between RCSI and Soochow University in China.

### Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)

In January 2025, the MPharm was reaccredited for five years by the PSI, with commendation for its evidence-informed curriculum renewal. The revised programme continues to roll out, with Year 3 delivered in 2024/25. Innovations include the Prescribing Safety Assessment in Year 5, aligning with national recommendations to expand pharmacy practice, and a virtual pharmacy simulation platform supporting practice teaching. The School is also piloting student-led clinics, offering interprofessional learning and community health benefits.

### BSc in Advanced Therapeutic Technologies (ATT)

The BSc ATT is a future-focused programme that prepares students for careers in biopharma and medtech. In 2024/25, the first third-year cohort secured competitive eight-month placements in areas such as connected health, clinical trials, manufacturing and R&D with leading organisations including MSD, Bristol Myers Squibb, EY Consulting, Harvard Medical School, Takeda and APC. The Takeda Ireland ATT Undergraduate Scholarship continues to support student inclusion.

“The BSc ATT is a future-focused programme that prepares students for careers in biopharma and medtech.”

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

The TAPM programme saw continued growth, integrating data analytics, computational biology, precision medicine and connected healthcare. It aims to develop the next generation of biological data scientists to support a new era of personalised healthcare.

### International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation (ICPI)

Launched in April 2025, ICPI is a landmark collaboration between RCSI and Soochow University. It is a beacon of educational excellence, combining the strengths of two world-class institutions to cultivate the next generation of pharmacy, pharmaceutical and biomedical science professionals. Located at the Soochow University Future Campus, ICPI offers dual degrees and exemplifies Sino-Irish educational excellence, preparing graduates for global careers.

### Research environment

The School remains highly research-intensive, with 88 active grants totalling €25.4m - 49 of which were awarded in the past year - supported by 57 research staff and around 100 postgraduates. We are also proud to support undergraduate research, with 124 students from across our School and the School of Medicine participating in research projects. The School's research mission is powered by its dedicated staff, researchers and technical teams.



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

## School of Physiotherapy

The RCSI School of Physiotherapy delivers pre-registration physiotherapy education (BSc Physiotherapy), a Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/ MSc in Rehabilitation, an MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, as well as Master's by Research, Professional Doctorate and PhD programmes. Our vision is to create a positive educational environment that supports student learning whilst nurturing their physical and mental well-being.

### Approval of new physiotherapy curriculum

An innovative new physiotherapy curriculum was approved by the Medicine and Health Sciences Board in May 2025 and will commence delivery in autumn 2025. The school completed a four-stage redesign process, partnering with students through a StEP project, and engaging in wide consultation with clinical partners and external stakeholders. The revised programme aligns with RCSI's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2023-2027.

### Growth of undergraduate programme with DFHERIS support

Due to the growing demand for healthcare professionals in Ireland, the School secured two separate bids from the Department of Further and Higher Education to increase our CAO intake, growing from 28 students in September 2023 to 48 in September 2025. This significant expansion has seen a concurrent growth in our staff numbers to ensure the delivery of a high-quality student experience.

### First physiotherapy IEF event

In June 2025, the School hosted our first dedicated session at the International Education Forum (IEF), where we shared the new BSc Physiotherapy curriculum with RCSI academic and professional stakeholders as part of the programme's implementation plan. The session generated valuable insights and feedback. Dr Dara Cassidy, Head of Digital Education, also led a productive workshop exploring generative AI and plans for



*BSc Physiotherapy graduates James Linehan, Sonia Ciuciu, Paddy Peters and Megan Cronin celebrate their conferring in November.*

updating assessment design, in response to the marked growth in student use of GenAI tools internationally.

### Postgraduate developments

To meet the evolving needs of the healthcare workforce, there has been a significant expansion in our postgraduate programmes. Our MSc in Neurology and Gerontology underwent a review and redesign, resulting in a new name – PG Cert/Dip/MSc in Rehabilitation – with more flexible study options. This commences in autumn 2025.

A new MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy will also launch in Autumn 2025. In addition, our micro-credential offering has expanded, in collaboration with RCSI Online, offering innovative, tailored online/hybrid programmes. Notably, the micro-credential in paediatric disability welcomed 36 students in its first term, meeting the needs of advanced physiotherapy practitioners.

“An innovative new physiotherapy curriculum will commence delivery in autumn 2025.”



**Professor Albert Leung**  
Head of School of Dentistry

## School of Dentistry

The RCSI School of Dentistry was formally established in March 2024, becoming the University’s eighth school. This marks RCSI’s return to undergraduate dental education after nearly five decades, building on a legacy that began in 1878. The School’s flagship programme, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), will begin in September 2025.

The BDS programme is Ireland’s first community-based undergraduate dentistry degree. Delivered at RCSI Dental Education Centres (DECs), students will begin clinical skills training early and start treating patients by the end of their first year. The spiralled, vertically integrated and competency-based curriculum is aligned with Smile agus Sláinte, the National Oral Health Policy and draws on the top-ranked Peninsula Dental School curriculum, adapted for the Irish context.

The Sandyford DEC, featuring 12 clinical chairs and 55 simulation units, was completed in June 2025. Construction began in early 2025 on the Connolly Hospital DEC with a third centre in advanced planning. These facilities support modern, patient-centred education and expand access to dental care in the community, improving oral health in underserved areas.

Demand for the BDS programme has been strong. The School will take up the full government allocation of 20 CAO places, increasing national capacity of dentistry students by one-third and helping address the shortage of dentists in Ireland. As most dentists practise in community settings, the programme is designed to produce graduates who are confident, competent and compassionate practitioners, ready to serve where they are most needed.

“The School’s flagship programme, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), will begin in September 2025.”



*Sandyford Dental Education Centre*

Recruitment of academic and support staff is progressing well. The School is also developing its research strategy, with initial priorities in community oral health and simulation-based education. The School has welcomed its first two PhD candidates, marking the start of its research journey, with plans to expand research collaborations and impact.

The establishment of the School reflects a significant commitment and investment by RCSI in national oral health. Its development has been enabled by the valued support of the Department of Health; the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Higher Education Authority (HEA). We are also grateful to the National University of Ireland and the Dental Council for their support.

With key systems in place, the School of Dentistry team is poised to deliver an innovative, inclusive and impactful dental education experience that supports national health priorities and RCSI’s mission to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.



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

## School of Nursing and Midwifery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is a dynamic school, focusing on education and research both nationally and internationally. 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.

The core values for Nursing and Midwifery are care, compassion and commitment. In undertaking further education with us in RCSI, our students exemplify these values, showing a strong focus on leading the world to better health.

Led by our dynamic team of staff, the School continues to grow in strength and impact. We are the largest provider of postgraduate nursing and midwifery education in Ireland, welcoming over 1,300 students this year. Our students, who work across a wide range of clinical specialties, can choose from over 29 educational programmes, at varying levels, from bachelor's, postgraduate

certificate, postgraduate diploma and master's level. Continued professional education is fundamental in ensuring a highly skilled and competent nursing and midwifery workforce, with the ultimate goal of improving clinical outcomes for patients. As such, our students play a vital role in delivering RCSI's mission.

Our research, centred within the Skin Wounds and Trauma (SWaT) Research Centre, continues to grow. We were delighted to receive 'Best Research Project' at the 2025 national Education Awards for our ground-breaking AI-driven diagnostic platform. Research outputs continue to grow, and several of our researchers are ranked among the top five globally in our field of research, our discipline and our specialty of wound healing and tissue repair. Our industry collaborations and grant successes continue to positively impact on our research student numbers and outputs, and we are grateful to the team in the Office of Research and Innovation and the School of Postgraduate Studies for their continuous support.



Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing graduates, Michael Benson Campos (Orthopaedic Nursing) and Anne Lorraine Lorenzo (Infection Prevention and Control Nursing) celebrate at their conferring ceremony in November.



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

### School of Postgraduate Studies

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

The highlight of the School of Postgraduate Studies' calendar is always the conferring ceremonies. Since 1 July 2024, we have graduated 70 scholars with higher degrees by research (50 PhD, 14 MD and six MSc). We have also registered 136 new scholars for higher degrees by research (80 PhD, 37 MD, 13 DProf, one MCh and five MSc). This represents the third year in a row where more than 100 level ten scholars were recruited, demonstrating the continued growth of the School.

Thanks to our ongoing collaborations with Soochow University, Fulbright, Qatar University and Sorbonne Université, we currently have 51 RCSI StAR PhDs registered. Alongside these, in partnership with the Beacon Hospital, Blackrock Health, Bon Secours, Mater Private Network, Highfield Healthcare, UPMC Ireland and St Vincent's Private Hospital, we currently have 55 RCSI StAR MD scholars.

In international partnerships, a new Joint PhD Programme in Precision and Regenerative Medicine was developed in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and approved, with the first cohort of ten scholars recruited and due to commence in September 2025. A new agreement with the University of Jordan (UoJ) was also signed in December 2024 to facilitate joint PhD training with the UoJ School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy.

A Co-tutelle agreement with Sorbonne Université in Paris was signed and the first two PhD scholars under this joint agreement were recruited and commenced their research programmes in April 2025. Finally, 19 MSc by Research scholars started a dual programme in September 2024 between RCSI and Soochow University at the new International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation in Suzhou.

We were again delighted to support our secondment award winners in undertaking their placements. Scholars will travel to Harvard University/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, The Mayo Clinic, Boston College, King's College London, University of Melbourne, among others.

Finally, the School funded one StEP project this year focused on establishing a pilot 'buddy system' for incoming research scholars.



*PhD candidates celebrate their conferring at the higher degree ceremony in May.*

### Dr Jenny Moffett, Times Higher Education Most Innovative Teacher of the Year 2024

As an educator, I've long been interested in how we can better support students to manage the ambiguity and complexity that are so often part of clinical practice.

At RCSI, we saw an opportunity to address this gap in medical education by co-developing 'The Hidden Hospital', a digital escape room built in collaboration with our students. Using a design-thinking process, we created a safe and inclusive "maker space" where staff and students could work together.

The result was a spooky, immersive puzzle game that helps learners explore uncertainty in a meaningful and safe way. It's been designed to transcend demographic, socio-cultural and neurodiverse differences so all students feel welcome and represented in the experience.

The feedback has been incredibly positive. More than 80% of players said the game helped them better understand uncertainty in healthcare, and 94% said they would recommend it to others. The game is open access to allow students in other institutions to benefit from it too.



Being named 'Most Innovative Teacher of the Year' at the 2024 Times Higher Education Awards was a huge honour and demonstrates the power of collaboration. When we design with students, not just for them, we unlock new ways to help them grow into confident, compassionate professionals.

The project was supported by the Irish Medical Council, the Irish Network of Healthcare Educators (INHED) and RCSI's StEP initiative.

*Dr Jenny Moffett is a Senior Lecturer at RCSI's Health Professions Education Centre*

### Student partnership

Fostering a culture of student engagement and partnership equips students with key leadership and collaboration skills, empowering them to become enlightened healthcare professionals, with the capacity to transform human health in their future careers.

The RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme is central to this. Launched in 2020-2021, it embeds a culture of student engagement and partnership into the fabric of RCSI - from institutional management to teaching, research and community engagement. Fully integrated across all undergraduate schools and the School of Postgraduate Studies, StEP also aligns closely with a number of UN SDGs. Two representative outputs from 2024-2025 include:

#### Chagas Hub Ireland

Launched in May 2025, Chagas Hub Ireland provides free diagnostic screening for Chagas Disease, a life-threatening parasitic illness that poses a significant burden in Latin America and a hidden health issue across Europe. With increasing Latin American migration to Ireland, early detection and awareness are critical to improving migrant health outcomes. Originating from a StEP project, spear-headed by medical student Julia Victoria Segatello Martins the Hub reflects a student-led, scalable approach to global health challenges.

*"It has been the most special experience of my time at RCSI to connect with my own community and lay the foundation for a project that has the potential to transform access to healthcare for Brazilians in Ireland.*



RCSI staff and student volunteers at the inaugural Chagas Hub Ireland screening day in May.

*This first screening event has shown the power of collaboration, community and student-led action."*

- Julia Victoria Segatello Martins, Medicine Student

#### Global surgery research course

Students and staff from RCSI and Stellenbosch University, South Africa, co-created 'Essential Research Skills: A Global Surgery Perspective' - the world's first undergraduate research methods course focused on global surgery. The course exemplifies the values of StEP: student-faculty collaboration, practical learning and international partnership.



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

## School of Population Health

RCSI's School of Population Health works to tackle global population health challenges through research, education and collaboration.

The School continues to consolidate and progress its growth and impact. This has been underpinned by pioneering science and education led by our multidisciplinary team.

### Launch of MSc in Population Health Leadership

The first cohort commenced the MSc in Population Health Leadership in September 2024. Responding to the need for more applied, outcomes-focused population health education and training, the MSc and associated postgraduate awards equip learners with the ability to leverage critical understanding and decision-making to influence policy, systems and practices for positive population health outcomes. This new programme filled an important gap, with the School now delivering population health education at undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels.

### Strengthening of research activity

Researchers across the School secured €5.1m in new funding, published 302 peer-reviewed papers and secured a patent, representing a 21% increase in external research funding on the previous year. Between 2020 and 2025, more than half (52%) of our publications involved international collaborators, one-third were published in top 10% journals, and the field-weighted citation impact was 2.39.

We also welcomed 26 postdoctoral fellows and research staff, and six doctoral scholars.

Internal initiatives to strengthen research culture and infrastructure include a monthly seminar series, journal club, proposals club and research committee.

### Launch of Women's Health Research Network

In March 2025, we launched the Women's Health Research Network to promote and advance women's health research in Ireland. A launch conference brought together researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers and patient advocates to discuss priorities and collaboration opportunities.



Members of the Women's Health Research Network pictured at an event to mark the network's launch, 'Advancing Women's Health Research in Ireland: Bridging Gaps and Building Collaborative Pathways,' which took place in March to coincide with International Women's Day.

### Delivery of knowledge broker programme

The School delivered an extensive programme of conferences, webinars, seminars and other knowledge exchange events. Conferences included the National Healthcare Outcomes Conference, Pathways to Achieving Medication without Harm, Ageing Medicine and Advancing Women's Health Research in Ireland. These were complemented by a programme of webinars and a public engagement campaign through our newsletter and social media.

### Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

A new online CPD course in sustainable healthcare was developed to help health professionals reduce the environmental impact of healthcare in practice. Available globally and free of charge, this programme was one of the initiatives by the School to advance the SDGs, which also included a workshop on research communication.

>> Read about the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery at the School of Population Health on page 36



**Eunan Friel**  
Managing Director, Healthcare Management

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

**Dr Colm Foster**  
Director of Academic Programmes, Graduate School of Healthcare Management

## Graduate School of Healthcare Management

The Graduate School of Healthcare Management at RCSI delivers postgraduate education that empowers healthcare professionals with the leadership, management and strategic capabilities necessary to navigate today's complex healthcare systems. Our programmes bring together professionals from across the health sector, creating a vibrant, interdisciplinary learning environment focused on collaboration and real-world problem-solving.

Designed and delivered by faculty and practicing healthcare leaders, our curriculum blends academic excellence with applied learning. By embedding our programmes within the healthcare system, we ensure that learning translates directly into action – enhancing patient care, organisational effectiveness and system-wide performance.

In 2024-2025, we supported over 1,034 students across 39 countries through a growing portfolio of Master's programmes, Professional Diplomas, Micro-credentials and tailored executive education for healthcare organisations in Ireland and internationally.

This year, we secured significant funding that strengthened our impact:

- ~ Springboard+ funding for the Professional Diploma in Leading Digital Healthcare Transformation
- ~ HSE Spark funding for Micro-credentials in Innovation, Design Thinking and Business Planning
- ~ Additional support for work-based innovation projects developed through our Leadership and Innovation programmes

We were proud to become a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), embedding sustainability, social responsibility and ethical leadership into everything we do. Our faculty also shared their insights at the PRME Global Forum in June.

Our international partnerships expanded further through our leadership role in RCSI's first Erasmus Mundus project, which involved co-developing a European Master's in Advanced Social Work with institutions in Portugal, Spain and the UK.



*Pictured at the announcement of the High Potential Innovation Awards initiative in partnership with the HSE Spark Innovation Programme in February were (l-r) Caitriona Heffernan, National Clinical Innovation Lead, HSE Spark Innovation Programme; Dr Gloria Kirwan, Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Healthcare Management (GSM); Dr Colm Foster, Director of Academic Programmes, GSM; Sara McDonnell, Executive Director, GSM and RCSI Online.*

We showcased our global reach through the Quality and Patient Safety Symposium, which welcomed over 170 participants to explore topics such as artificial intelligence, health equity, quality improvement and sustainable leadership.

In early 2025, we launched a micro-credential on recognising and responding to victims of human trafficking, offering applied, inter-agency training aligned with national policy. We also supported the delivery of a C-level Executive Leadership Programme for Emirati leaders, in partnership with RCSI Online and PureHealth.

Our faculty continue to lead impactful research in areas including quality and safety, integrated care for older persons, doctor retention, just culture and digital social work. This work, published in peer-reviewed journals, enriches the content of our programmes and drives innovation in practice.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to delivering globally relevant, impact-driven education, empowering healthcare professionals to lead with purpose and transform health systems worldwide.



**Professor Christian van Nieuwerburgh**  
Interim Director of Centre for Positive Health Sciences

### Centre for Positive Health Sciences

The Centre for Positive Health Sciences is dedicated to advancing health and well-being through innovative education and research. Its mission is to enhance health and well-being through the integration of coaching psychology, positive psychology and lifestyle medicine. Aligned with the RCSI Strategy 2023–2027, *Innovating for a Healthier Future*, our efforts focus on fostering student success and well-being, creating positive learning experiences and contributing to global health improvements.

Now in its sixth year, the Centre offers a comprehensive suite of postgraduate programmes that support success and well-being, shares positive health information with a wide audience and engages in cutting-edge research, disseminating findings globally through academic publications and events.

#### Postgraduate programmes

- ~ Introduction to Lifestyle Medicine is an entry-level micro-credential on the six pillars of lifestyle medicine.
- ~ The Professional Diploma in Positive Health is designed for health and allied professionals. This online diploma introduces students to the theory and research that underpins Positive Health.
- ~ The Professional Diploma in Leading Workplace Health and Well-being is designed for leaders and professionals responsible for well-being in their organisational contexts. This diploma empowers students with the essential skills to enhance personal health and well-being while also driving systemic improvements.
- ~ The MSc in Positive Health Coaching is an accredited training programme designed for health and allied professionals who would like to incorporate coaching and coaching approaches in their work. This programme integrates learning and insights from coaching, positive psychology, health psychology and lifestyle medicine.
- ~ The MSc in Applied Positive Psychology (Well-being and Health) is the Centre's newest offering. Delivered entirely online, it is designed for professionals from a broad range of sectors who are interested in enhancing health and well-being through the application of positive psychology.



*Pictured (l-r) Senior Lecturers, Dr Padraic Dunne and Dr Elaine Byrne, with Associate Professor Jolanta Burke and Professor Christian van Nieuwerburgh, at the RCSI Positive Health Summit in January.*

#### Making health information available

The Centre seeks to make useful, evidence-based information about health and well-being accessible to a wide audience. Faculty and researchers share practical strategies and ideas to enhance health and well-being through events such as RCSI MyHealth, radio and television interviews, podcasts, articles in newspapers and magazines, free webinars and free online courses.

#### Engaging in research and disseminating findings

Faculty and researchers at the Centre are engaged in innovative research on Positive Health, securing more than €1m in annual funding. Research findings are disseminated through publication in leading academic journals and presented at global conferences. The Centre hosts an annual Positive Health Summit to share learnings and bring together a global community passionate about enhancing health and well-being. In July 2026, the Centre and RCSI will host the year's largest positive psychology conference under the theme of 'Body Meets Mind: Positive Psychology and Health for Everyone'.

“The Centre hosts an annual Positive Health Summit to share learnings and bring together a global community passionate about enhancing health and well-being.”



**Professor Jan Illing**

*Professor of Health Professions Education, Director of the Health Professions Education Centre and Interim Chair of RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research*

## Health Professions Education Centre

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

In 2025, HPEC implemented the fourth year of its five-year strategy, which aims to position RCSI as a leader in progressive, continuously evaluated approaches to teaching, learning and curricula - benefitting students, patients, staff and international communities.

This year saw the expansion of HPEC's taught courses, including the launch of a new Master's in Health Professions Education, the piloting of a new course designed to support health and social care staff to work collaboratively in the community and the growth of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Professions Education. Enrolment increased from 60 to 80 students, including 50 external fee-paying participants. A new pathway now allows nurses and midwife tutors to apply for a Registered Nurse Tutor qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.

HPEC also re-established the Interprofessional Learning Leadership Group at RCSI and continues to lead the Academic Direction of the International Citizenship programme, which is currently being enhanced to broaden its appeal across schools.

To support clinical learning, four new virtual patients were developed in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, General Practice and Medicine and Surgery and will be available to fourth year medical students.

With the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, HPEC is proactively responding through a range of initiatives, including collaborating on the update of EU ethical AI guidelines for education, chairing the RCSI AI in Education Working Group

“This year saw the expansion of HPEC's taught courses, including the launch of a new Master's in Health Professions Education.”



*Dr Jenny Moffett (pictured centre) was presented with the award for Most Innovative Teacher of the Year at the 2024 THE awards in December.*

and creating workshops and online training in AI and digital skills. A new GenAI and Assessment online course and digital badge was launched this year.

Other significant European contributions included HPEC's participation the European University Association's Thematic Peer Group on Student Empowerment.

HPEC's academic staff were recognised internationally, with Dr Jenny Moffett winning Most Innovative Teacher of the Year award in the 2024 THE Awards. Professor Jan Illing was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the UK's Academy of Medical Educators in November - their highest honour - for services to medical education. She also received a Highly Commended award in The Association for the Study of Medical Education Gold Medal.

The RCSI Education Innovation Awards, hosted by HPEC in June 2025, attracted submissions from across RCSI campuses, including Bahrain and China. HPEC publications continue to expand with a systematic review on transnational education published in *Medical Education* and two publications on case-based learning in *BMC Medical Education*.

## RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research

The RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research advances clinical training through world-class, simulation-based experiential learning and research, to prepare graduates for future clinical practice. Simulation-based learning is a fundamental approach at RCSI, enabling us to train health professionals for the demands of modern, team-based healthcare.

Our world-class facilities embody our commitment to healthcare simulation, readying learners to deliver exceptional and compassionate patient care. In 2024-2025, RCSI SIM implemented key components of our five-year strategic plan by creating transformative learning experiences and leading innovative research, scholarship and advancements in healthcare simulation.

Over the academic year, RCSI SIM supported over 56,400 hours of individual learner simulation training encompassing a broad range of learners, from undergraduate to continuing professional development courses and postgraduate programmes. We are proud to make meaningful contributions that enhance student engagement, with a strong focus on student-centred learning and the development of self-directed practice skills. Timely feedback and structured debriefing are central to our approach, ensuring continuous improvement and reflective learning. Peer learning opportunities further enrich the experience, promoting social-emotional engagement and a strong sense of community among our students.

Our simulated patient programme continues to evolve from strength to strength. We support an increasing pool of trained simulated patients who play a vital role in student learning by offering authentic, hands-on opportunities to engage with and interact with 'patients' in realistic clinical scenarios.

Our momentum in research excellence continues to accelerate, supported by active grants from Erasmus+ KA220, Enterprise Ireland (Commercialisation Fund and Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund), the Motorola Foundation, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the National Simulation Office and the Medical Protection Society Foundation. These investments have enabled pioneering educational research and innovation.

In January 2025, the establishment of a new RCSI spin-out company, HUGS@home, marked a significant milestone in translating research into real-world impact. Additionally, our simulation team at 26 York Street has developed innovative simulation models, enhancing both our educational offerings and scholarly contributions.



**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

Established in 2022, the RCSI Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences continues to lead in delivering evidence-based excellence in medical professionalism education across undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional education sectors. The Centre actively contributes to national and international advances in medical professionalism education, research and practice.

In 2025, we hosted the fifth RCSI Medical Professionalism Annual Conference, titled 'Teamwork in Healthcare: Working together with Passion, Purpose and Professionalism', which attracted over 850 attendees, both in-person at RCSI Dublin and online, from more than 40 countries worldwide. The programme featured a distinguished line-up of keynote speakers and panellists, including Ms Donna Ockenden (Maternity Inquiries), Dr Paul Crampton and Dr Millie Kehoe (General Medical Council Teamworking Report), Dr Paul Gaffney (Sports Ireland and Irish Olympic Team), Professor Eva Doherty (Human Factors in Patient Safety), Dr Michael Rosen (Teaming for Safety, Johns Hopkins University), Mr Simon Paterson-Brown (Non-Technical Skills, Edinburgh University) and Dr Suzanne Crowe (President, Medical Council, Ireland).

Our commitment to innovation includes the development of novel academic teaching and assessment strategies at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We are currently designing comprehensive assessment methods for the Personal and Professional Identity (PPI) curriculum, in collaboration with RCSI's Resilience and Leadership leads. Our MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences has now received full accreditation ahead of its planned launch in Autumn 2025.

Our research group continues to go from strength-to-strength, publishing 11 peer-reviewed manuscripts, including a systematic review, over the past academic year. Our four RCSI StAR MD research fellowships are ongoing, and our HEA North-South Research Programme Grant supporting the cross-border PROfessionalism in Partnership for Education Research (PROPER) study concluded successfully in February 2025. Building on this work, we have taken the next steps to expand the PROPER study and establish a Medical Professionalism All-Ireland Research Hub. This initiative aims to address critical healthcare challenges such as medical errors and unprofessional behaviours through the development of innovative educational interventions.



**Justin Ralph**  
Chief Technology Officer

**Eunan Friel**  
Managing Director, Healthcare  
Management

**Sara McDonnell**  
Executive Director, RCSI Online

## RCSI Online

Since 2021, RCSI has advanced its mission to reimagine postgraduate healthcare education through the creation of RCSI Online – a centralised hub dedicated to the design and delivery of high-quality digital programmes for learners in Ireland and internationally. This initiative represents a significant investment in educational innovation, pedagogical excellence and the development of sustainable foundations for student success.

RCSI Online integrates professional capabilities in programme design and development, academic operations, marketing, student recruitment and strategic programme planning. Together, these functions ensure that postgraduate programmes are academically rigorous, rooted in contemporary healthcare practice and delivered through learning experiences that are engaging, accessible and transformative.

Collaboration with RCSI's Postgraduate Schools is central to this approach. Over the past year, RCSI Online has supported the launch of new programmes such as the MSc in Population Health Leadership and contributed to the success of offerings across all postgraduate schools and departments. Alongside degree programmes, the University's portfolio of industry-led short courses has grown to include areas such as sustainable healthcare and digital health and AI – each developed in response to alumni feedback, sector priorities and RCSI expertise.

“RCSI Online integrates professional capabilities in programme design and development, academic operations, marketing, student recruitment and strategic programme planning.”

The marketing and student recruitment function plays a vital role in enabling these achievements. Through targeted outreach, personalised applicant engagement and collaborative initiatives with external system partners and funding agencies, prospective learners are supported from their first enquiry through to programme commencement. This approach fosters confidence, readiness and a sense of belonging within the RCSI community, laying the groundwork for academic and professional success.

Internationally, the RCSI Online Dubai team continues to enhance the University's standing as a trusted partner in the GCC region. This year's highlights include the successful conferring of the second cohort of the Executive Leadership Programme for Emirati C-Level Successors, delivered in collaboration with PureHealth and the Graduate School of Healthcare Management, as well as strengthened graduate mobility through partnership activity supporting degree recognition in the UAE and Bahrain.

RCSI Online is more than a mode of delivery; it is a driver of educational transformation. By uniting academic excellence, innovative pedagogy, and a deep commitment to the learner experience, it empowers healthcare professionals to thrive in their studies, advance in their careers, and make meaningful contributions to improving healthcare systems worldwide.



*Ahad Jassani and fellow members of the RCSI Dance team perform at the 2024 All-Ireland Dance Intervarsities.*

## Student Life

Student life at RCSI continues to thrive, with a vibrant and diverse community engaging in academic, cultural and extracurricular activities. From orientation through to graduation, the Student Services Office plays a central role in supporting and enriching the student experience.

This year, we welcomed 688 new undergraduate students through our engaging Orientation Programme, providing a holistic introduction to life at RCSI.

### Societies

RCSI has more than 50 societies which are at the heart of student life, offering opportunities to explore new interests, develop existing skills and connect with like-minded peers.

Highlights from the year include the 11th Presidential Inauguration of the Surgical Society, with Professor Jarlath Bolger welcomed as President. RCSI students also achieved success in the Intercollegiate Surgical Skills and Case Competitions.

The Biological Society hosted its 92nd Annual Inaugural Address on 'Caring Through the Ages' featuring talks on fetal medicine, child mental health and stroke care.

The Drama Society staged a November performance of *Arcadia* followed by a two-night run of *Grease* in March, raising funds for *Floating Doctors* and entertaining more than 500 attendees. The

Choral Society won first place in the Choir's Choice Open category at the All-Ireland Choral Intervarsities. Dance Soc's 53-member team also won big at the Annual Dance Intervarsities, taking home awards for Best Choreography and Best Individual Performance.

Major society-organised events such as the Chocolate Ball, Arabian Nights and Pharmacy Ball continued to be standout occasions. The Caribbean and African Society's Chocolate Ball, wowed with fashion, food and performance, the Middle Eastern Student Association's Arabian Nights joyously celebrated Middle Eastern culture and Pharmacy Ball was an underwater-themed spectacle for over 300 attendees.

The Gourmet Society's Food Night, where students showcased and shared home-cooked meals as part of a lavish food bazaar, was among the highlights of Cultural Diversity Month in March.

Volunteering remained central to student life through initiatives including fundraisers and outreach programmes. The 11th annual Teddy Bear Hospital welcomed 600 children and raised more than €5,000 for Make-A-Wish Ireland, engaging 300 student volunteers across 15 interactive learning stations.

At the national Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards, RCSI societies were recognised with Best New Society (ATT) and Best Departmental Society (Paediatric Society) in the Small College category.



RCSI Women's Basketball team

### Sports

With 36 clubs, physical activity and team spirit are integral to student life at RCSI. The year opened with a busy Clubs and Societies sign-up day, showcasing the breadth of opportunities on offer.

There were many sports highlights this year. The Squash Team won the Intervarsities A Division and the Swim Team reached ten finals at Intervarsities. The Polo Team competed in the SUPA Winter Nationals, while the Hurling Team made it to the All-Ireland semi-final, a milestone in their development.

The Rugby Club continued its long-standing exchange with the Sorbonne, hosting the French Ladies Team for the first time and delivering exciting matchups across men's, women's and alumni teams. The weekend included the presentation of the Professor Alan Johnson Trophy. The Men's Rugby Team also won the Metro League final at Energia Park this year.

Other highlights included Archery securing the barebow female national title, the Men's Soccer Team reaching the Duggan Cup final, the Golf Club's tour of Scotland and the annual Surf Club trip to Bundoran bringing together beginners and seasoned surfers.

Nine RCSI students completed the Boston Marathon, continuing a 26-year tradition. Calum Fenton was awarded the John V Coyle Perpetual Trophy as RCSI's fastest runner.

The Moira O'Brien Sports Scholarships and Sports Bursaries were awarded to students in Taekwondo, Handball, GAA and Rowing.

“At the national Board of Irish College Societies Awards, RCSI societies were recognised with Best New Society and Best Departmental Society in the Small College category.”

### RCSI Gym

The RCSI Gym saw over 62,000 visits in the academic year. The Gym Team introduced a number of new initiatives, services and group fitness classes to facilitate increased social connection and engagement.

### Student leadership and community

The Undergraduate Students' Union, under the leadership of Avinash Nazareth, hosted a wide range of activities, including the much-loved Winter Wonderland and a vibrant Cultural Diversity Month, which featured booths, social events, the Womxn's Wellness Symposium and a Futsal World Cup. International Night was among the highlights, transforming the O'Reilly Theatre with dance, music, storytelling and spoken word performances, celebrating RCSI's global community.

The annual College Ball adopted a Regency theme with candlelit dining, ballroom dancing and the Student Choice Awards.

Learning Communities hosted a range of informal social events such as movie nights, games nights and quizzes, helping to foster connection and community across the student body.

Finally, this year saw 90 students complete the RCSI Student Leadership Development Programme. Now in its 5th year, the programme continues to grow in popularity.



Adyant Chawan (aged 3) pictured with medical student Ellie Smith at RCSI's Teddy Bear Hospital which was hosted by the Paediatric Society in February.

“ The PRISM breast cancer research programme shows how scientists, industry and charities can partner to drive innovation and deliver better, faster outcomes for patients. ”

**Professor Leonie Young**, Professor in the Department of Surgery, Scientific Director of the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre and CEO of RCSI spin-out company, Probmnet.



# 04

**Leading  
Impactful  
Research**

28,790

Altmetric mentions in 2024



169

Principal Investigators



61%

publications with international collaboration 2020-2024



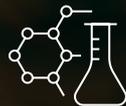
32%

publications in top quartile by CiteScore 2020-2024



€7.9m

industry funding for research in 2024



€1.4m

research commercialisation funding in 2024



# Leading Impactful Research



**Professor Fergal O'Brien**

*Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation*

Our commitment to patient-focused research and collaborations with industry, charities, funding bodies, healthcare providers and other universities continues to enhance RCSI's international reputation for research excellence, impact and sustainability.

Over the past year, we have seen continued success in innovation, journal publications, new grant funding, doctoral graduations and partnerships with external stakeholders. The Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) has provided dedicated support to researchers navigating an increasingly complex regulatory and funding landscape.

Our efforts have enabled our researchers to conduct world-class translational, clinical and patient-centred studies. 2024 was another exceptional year for external funding with €44.8m in new grants awarded, including European Research Council (ERC) Starting and Proof of Concept grants, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND, six MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, three Research Ireland Pathway awards, two Frontiers of the Future awards and two Health Research Board (HRB) Emerging Clinician Scientist awards. Through collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects, the university is advancing solutions to address pressing global health and environmental challenges.

With the support of the ORI and the Sponsorship Office, the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) implemented significant process improvements and strengthened its relationship with Beaumont Hospital to help drive clinical research activity. This has reduced study start-up timelines, led to the introduction of an electronic Quality Management System and almost tripled participant recruitment to studies in 2024 to 906 (from 325 in 2023). In the same year, 62 open studies were supported across 33 disease areas. The CRC team, led by Director Professor Ger Curley, has ambitious plans for the continued growth of clinical studies.

The Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) accredited Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre continues to grow with the launch of the €4.9m *Beaumont RCSI Irish Cancer Society Lung Outreach Programme*. Led by Professor Jarushka Naidoo (Department of Medicine), the programme aims to transform lung cancer research, bring state-of-the-art cancer care to the community and to enhance access to Irish Cancer Society support services. The €5m PRISM (Precision Oncology Research Initiative for Metastatic Breast Cancer) programme, led by Scientific Director of the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre Professor Leonie Young (Department of Surgery), was also launched this year to improve survival rates and quality of life for patients with metastatic breast cancer. I would also like to congratulate the Breast Cancer Biobank team, who became the first in Ireland to achieve ISO accreditation from the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB).

RCSI plays a central role in two major national research initiatives under the €63.84 million Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub programme, co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The €34.3 million ARC Hub for HealthTech is a partnership between the University of Galway, Atlantic



*Pictured at the launch of the Beaumont RCSI Irish Cancer Society Lung Health Check in March were (l-r) Professor Daniel Ryan, Respiratory Consultant at the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre; Averil Power, CEO of the Irish Cancer Society; Professor Patrick Redmond, Head of RCSI Department of General Practice and Professor Jarushka Naidoo, Professor of Medical Oncology and Consultant Medical Oncologist, Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre.*

Technological University and RCSI, and is co-led at RCSI by Professor Garry Duffy, the newly appointed Head of the Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine. It focuses on advancing translational research in chronic disease management through innovations including smart implants and wearables.

RCSI is also a key partner in the €31.6 million ARC Hub for Therapeutics, with Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin with Professor Leonie Young leading this work. It aims to accelerate translational research in novel therapeutics, biomaterials, biomarkers and advanced therapy medicinal products. Both ARC Hubs will support further growth in innovation activity, where we have exceeded all Knowledge Transfer Ireland innovation targets for 2024, with particular credit to the RCSI Innovation Team for this success.

As part of RCSI's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), I am proud that RCSI became the first university in Ireland to have all of our laboratories attain My Green Lab Certification, setting a benchmark for sustainable research practices. I would like to thank all the lab managers, researchers and professional support staff involved, including John O'Brien (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences), Dr Christopher Byrne (ORI) and Dr Niamh Connolly (Department of Physiology and Medical Physics).

### 118 St Stephen's Green

In autumn 2025, 118 St Stephen's Green will open, providing essential infrastructure for health sciences research, innovation and community engagement, including research laboratories for the Research Ireland FutureNeuro Centre and the Tissue Engineering Group (TERG). It will also be the new home for the RCSI School of Population Health.

The building will also house RCSI's new innovative public engagement health space led by Dr Alison Boyle, Gallery Director. Located at the new building's lobby on St Stephen's Green, it will serve as a dynamic hub to foster dialogue on health and well-being, making medical knowledge accessible and engaging.

### Research highlights

RCSI research output continues to be published in the top global scientific journals. Researchers at RCSI published a total of 1,652 PubMed-indexed articles in 2024, communicating research from a broad range of clinical, translational and population health science disciplines. Between 2020 to 2024, RCSI published 7,996 Scopus-indexed articles which generated 150,000 citations, 62% open access. Of this research, 61% was conducted through international collaboration with more than 4,500 institutions and 8% of articles were cited by over 1,700 policy documents and 300 policy bodies.

This high level of research output and citation impact has significantly contributed to RCSI ranking number one globally for

UN SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025. The dissemination and visibility of research output and impact is continually supported through strategic communications and we also invested in an update of the research information profile management system with features to help researchers build their online profile, find collaborators and enhance RCSI's international reputation.

Some key publication highlights include:

#### Key role of T cells in blood clot risk for inflammatory bowel disease patients

A study led by Professor Roger Preston (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences and the Irish Centre for Vascular Research), uncovered a novel mechanism linking inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) with an increased risk of venous thromboembolism. Published in *Nature Communications*, it identifies a specific subset of immune cells that may contribute to excessive blood clotting in IBD patients, revealing potential therapeutic targets.

#### Preventing epilepsy after traumatic brain injury

An international study led by Dr Tobias Engel (Department of Physiology and Medical Physics and FutureNeuro) found that targeting the P2X7 receptor could both reduce epilepsy risk and predict which patients are most at risk of developing post traumatic epilepsy. Published in the journal *Theranostics*, it offers a path towards prevention.

#### Discovering a new subgroup of common bleeding disorder

Research led by Professor James O'Donnell (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences and the Irish Centre for Vascular Research) identified a previously unrecognised subgroup of von Willebrand disease, the most common inherited bleeding disorder. This newly identified subset of patients had normal quantities of von Willebrand factor but still exhibited symptoms due to mild functional defects in the protein. Published in *Blood*, the findings will enable more appropriate treatment and care.

#### Implant to power healing after spinal cord injury

Work by PhD student, Liam Leahy and a team led by Professor Fergal O'Brien (AMBER Centre, Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine and the Tissue Engineering Research Group) developed an electroconductive 3D-printed scaffold that may encourage nerve cell repair after spinal cord injury. The researchers partnered with the Irish Rugby Football Union Charitable Trust on the project and brought together a Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) spinal cord injury advisory group to oversee and guide the research. The study was published in *Materials Today*.

#### Innovation activity

In 2024, RCSI again exceeded the ever-increasing targets independently set by Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI). This success is a testament to RCSI's research expertise and focus on commercial application supported by the Innovation team in the



Pictured at the announcement PRISM breast cancer research programme in October were (l-r) Dr Damir Vareslija, PRISM Co-Director; Professor Leonie Young, Scientific Director of the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre and PRISM Director; Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science Patrick O'Donovan TD; Claire Noonan, Cancer Operations and Accreditation Lead, Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre; and Seamus Browne, Head of Industry Partnerships.



Winners of the Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards presented at RCSI Research Day in March were (l-r) Professor Robert Byrne, winner of the Clinician Innovation Award; Dr Chiara de Santi, winner of the Industry Engagement Innovation Award and Dr Aamir Hameed, winner of the Commercialisation Innovation Award.

ORI led by Dr Aoife Gallagher. The ARC Hubs for Therapeutics and for HealthTech commenced this year to translate academic research to commercial success and develop the entrepreneurial skills of academics and postdoctoral researchers. Additionally, the first year of the DigiBio Healthtech Innovation programme, which supports the generation of digital health innovations and entrepreneurs, focused on General Practice with Fellows placed in Centric Health practices under Clinical Champion Professor Patrick Redmond.

Since 2021, RCSI has approved six new spin-out companies and is ranked third in Ireland for spin out formation by KTI (normalised against research expenditure). Three RCSI spin-out companies -

“RCSI plays a central role in two major national research initiatives under the €63.84 million Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub programme.”

Pumpinheart (Dr Aamir Hameed), LEP Biomedical (Dr Alan Hibbitts) and Inthelia Therapeutics (Professor Steve Kerrigan) took first, second and third place in the MedTech category of the Enterprise Ireland National Startup Awards. Phxiom, led by Professor Richard Costello (Department of Medicine) achieved Enterprise Ireland High Potential StartUp status.

**Industry engagement**

Collaborative agreements signed reached €7.9m in value, the highest in RCSI’s history, making us first in Ireland for the number of agreements signed (normalised against research expenditure). This demonstrates the quality of our applied research portfolio supported by the industry support team in the ORI led by Dr Seamus Browne.

This year, our initiative to support RCSI researcher engagement with both indigenous and multinational companies was further increased through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership programme. There have been an additional two successful applications with a total project value of €600k awarded to Professor Killian Hurley (Department of Medicine) with patientMpower and Professor Jolanta Burke (Centre for Positive Health Sciences) with Workvivo by Zoom.

**Funding awards**

RCSI continued to have great success in securing research funding from a wide range of national and international funding bodies. The total value of external funding awarded to RCSI for 2024 was €44.8 million.

Examples of significant awards in the last 12 months include:

- **Professor Leonie Young;** Acquired genomic adaptations as targeted therapeutic strategies for metastatic breast cancer: A breakthrough programme for brain metastasis (GeTTMet). Research Ireland Strategic Partnership Programme: €5m.
- **Professor Imran Sulaiman;** Early Multi-Omic Cancer Assessment (eMOCA). European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant: €1.9m.
- **Professor Imran Sulaiman;** Active lower airways dysbiosis with smoke exposure leads to physiological impairment consistent with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. HRB Emerging Clinician Scientist Award: €1.3m.
- **Professor Jonathan Hourihane;** FLORAL study: Examining the relationship of health outcomes and gut microbiome in children born during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future Award: €1.2m.
- **Professor Kevin McGuigan;** Supporting climate-resilient health facilities in Malawi through sustainable access to water using solar disinfection of harvested rainwater: the SURGWater Project Research Ireland Future Innovator Prize - SDG Challenge: €1.1m.

- ~ **Dr Tobias Engel**; NeuroAdapt. EU - HORIZON - MSCA-COFUND: €1m.
- ~ **Dr Roisin Dolan**; Use of sentinel skin flap vascularised composite allograft for real time immuno-monitoring and early identification of acute rejection in highly sensitised renal transplantation recipients. HRB Emerging Clinician Scientist Award: €982k.
- ~ **Dr Ciara Murphy**; NanoStent: Nano-Therapeutic Integrated Stenting for Osteoporosis-Impaired Vertebral Bone Repair. Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future (Project): €809k.
- ~ **Dr Jennifer Dowling**; Arginase-2: A critical regulator of neuroinflammation and metabolism in Epilepsy. Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future (Project): €790k.

## Notable Awards and Honours

### Royal Irish Academy (RIA)

Professor Annette Byrne, Professor of Molecular Physiology and Head of the RCSI Precision Cancer Medicine Group, has been elected as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy (MRIA), Ireland's foremost body of experts in the sciences and humanities.

### Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Research

Professor Tracy Robson, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and former Head of PBS, was awarded the Irish Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Medicine Research Award.

### Impact Award in the Researcher of the Year (IRC legacy) Awards

Dr Jakub Gajewski, Research Programme Director at the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery, won the Impact Award in the Researcher of the Year (IRC legacy) Awards for his leadership in advancing sustainable healthcare for underserved populations, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Research Day 2025 and Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards

The keynote John J. Ryan Lecture at this year's Research Day, 'Matrix Viscoelasticity: Control of Cell Fate to Medical Adhesives' was delivered by Professor David Mooney from the Wyss Institute, Harvard University. Thanks to the organising committee, co-ordinator Dr Christopher Byrne (ORI) and academic co-ordinator Dr Ingmar Schoen (PBS).

The RCSI Vice Chancellor Innovation Awards winners were presented on the day. The award winners for Commercialisation, Industry Engagement and Clinical Engagement were Dr Aamir Hameed (Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine and the Tissue Engineering Research Group), founder of RCSI spin-out company Pumpinheart; Dr Chiara de Santi (School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) for partnership with Vertex Pharmaceuticals; and Professor Robert Byrne (Cardiovascular Research Institute Dublin and School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences) for his outstanding leadership role in an investigator-initiated study which is funded by industry partner Boston Scientific (CYCLOPES).



*Monica Furlong and her daughter Eleanor pictured with Professor Jonathan Hourihane, Lead of the FLORAL study.*

## Monica Furlong, parent contributor to the CORAL and FLORAL studies

When my daughter Eleanor was born in May 2020, things were very different to what I had experienced after the births of my other children. With limited opportunities to meet other new parents, joining the CORAL study felt like a way to stay connected and be part of something that would be of some benefit during an unusual time.

We had no hesitation in signing up. It was clear from the start that the study was being conducted with care, and that our participation could help inform the long-term understanding of how the pandemic affected early childhood development.

At the in-person appointments tests like allergy and blood samples were done in such a fun and engaging way that Eleanor was completely at ease - it turned into a very positive first experience of hospital, which we really appreciated. As parents, we also valued the early health insights, particularly the allergy testing.

Now, taking part in the FLORAL follow-up study feels like a natural continuation. The RCSI team works in partnership with the families involved and communicates the impact of the research clearly. We've always felt that our involvement was genuinely valued.

Being involved in research like this is something I'd encourage other parents to consider. It's a chance to support work that can benefit children's health and development - both now and in the future.



“ Together, we are building digital foundations that enhance education, research and healthcare. ”

**Shahla Sabetnia**, Head of Digital Innovation and winner of the IT Professional Award at the 2025 Tech Excellence Awards.

05

**Creating  
Foundations  
for Sustainable  
Impact**

90%



of staff endorsed RCSI  
as a good place to work

Silver



Athena Swan Award for the School of  
Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

€45m



investment in Dental Education  
Centres at Connolly and Sandyford

350



surveys by Quality Enhancement Office

16,000



engagements with the Alumni,  
Fundraising, Fellows and Members Portal

55



new mentorship programme pairings



# Creating Foundations for Sustainable Impact



**Barry Holmes**  
Director of Human Resources

## Human Resources

The key strategic goal of Human Resources is to foster a positive culture at RCSI, grounded in our values of respect, collaboration, scholarship and innovation. At a time of institutional growth and reflecting some of the wider challenges facing the higher education landscape, our focus has been on empowering staff to develop and build skills and confidence with a particular emphasis on leadership.

### Mentorship

We continue to build a culture that encourages and fosters mentoring, supporting more than 300 mentorship pairings in the past five years, 55 of which were established in the last 12 months. The 'Positive Connections' mentoring programme promotes academic and professional development for early-career academics by connecting them with senior colleagues in other schools and departments and bespoke mentorship training is provided to both mentors and mentees.

### Leadership

Recognising frontline managers as culture champions, we continue to roll out our bespoke 'Managing Through People' programme aimed at all people managers. The programme includes classroom-based days on core leadership topics, a tailored 360 assessment and feedback session, psychometric reports, peer coaching and reflective practice. Separately, more than 100 RCSI staff have now completed the Aurora Women's Leadership Development programme.

“Our focus has been on empowering staff to develop and build skills and confidence with a particular emphasis on leadership.”

## Employee sentiment

We regularly track key engagement metrics and the latest measures are encouraging:

- ~ 94% of staff feel supported by RCSI
- ~ 80% of staff surveyed feel connected to their team
- ~ 91.3% of staff feel proud of what RCSI achieved in the last academic year
- ~ 95% of attendees rated courses provided as 'very good' or 'excellent'

The metric we are most proud of: more than 90% of staff would recommend RCSI as a good place to work.

### Sunday Times recognition

To externally validate our engagement levels, we once again participated in the Sunday Times Best Places to Work survey in 2025. This is an evidence-based, externally-run, anonymous survey which provides results on employee experience benchmarked against a database of 100,000 companies globally, as well as within the higher education and research sector.

In both 2024 and 2025, RCSI was rated 'excellent' with average engagement scores exceeding industry benchmarks by more than 10%.

### Attracting and retaining talent

Our sustained focus on employee engagement continues to positively impact RCSI's ability to attract key talent. In 2024, our number of applicants passed 9,000, and, reflecting our investment in leadership development, 43 internal staff achieved promotional progression in 2024.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

RCSI is committed to embedding a culture of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across everything we do. Together, we can drive meaningful change and make our community more inclusive.

### Awards and external engagement

RCSI has continued to demonstrate its commitment to EDI through a number of significant initiatives and recognitions. In August 2024, the university co-hosted the 'Race Equality in Medical Education Conference' to share knowledge and experience in race equality in medical education.

This was followed in February 2025 by the 'Advancing Allyship and Bystander Engagement Award' at the 2024 National Diversity and Inclusion Awards (NDIA), reflecting the collective efforts of the EDI Unit, HR and advocates across the university.

In March, RCSI received the Inclusive Champion for Gender Equality award at the EU Awards for Gender Equality Champions, presented by the European Commission. This award recognises organisations with innovative and inclusive gender equality plans.

April brought further recognition, with two significant Athena Swan Awards. The School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences received RCSI's first Silver Athena Swan Award, while the Department of Physiology and Medical Physics successfully renewed its Bronze Award.

In June, RCSI proudly hosted the fourth LGBT Ireland Healthcare Conference, where colleagues shared invaluable insights and initiatives to support the LGBTI+ community. That same month, the EDI Unit and colleagues also presented at EQUITAS: the EDI in Practice in Higher Education Conference at Maynooth University.

### Awareness raising

The EDI Unit hosted and collaborated on a wide range of events, including the launch of the Women's Health Research Network, Sexual Health Week, World Mental Health Day, an Intercultural Festive Food event and training sessions focused on race equality, disability awareness, transgender inclusion and neurodiversity.



*Liz Hughes, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, RCSI was presented with the Award for Inclusive Champion for Gender Equality at the EU Awards for Gender Equality Champions by Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation in March.*

“In March, RCSI received the Inclusive Champion for Gender Equality award at the EU Awards for Gender Equality Champions”

### Race Equality Action Plan 2

RCSI launched its second Race Equality Action Plan 2025–2029, reinforcing its commitment to combat racism and promote inclusivity. This plan builds on the university's pioneering 2021 initiative and introduces new measures to embed race equality across its culture, policies and practices.

### Student engagement

In September 2024, incoming students received an 'Introduction to EDI' and 'Consent Training'. Highlights included the World Sexual Health Day event, hosted by the ESP Forum in collaboration with Debunking the Myths Forum. Students also presented at all EDI Committee meetings in 2024/25, and in June, staff and students proudly marched together in the Dublin Pride Parade.

### Connolly Education and Research Centre

The €32m RCSI Connolly Education and Research Centre (ERC) opened its doors to students and staff in September 2024. This transformational project was completed on time and on budget.

Since the building's opening, feedback from students, staff and hospital colleagues has been outstanding, and the facility has quickly become a vibrant hub on the Connolly Campus. The building accommodates new state-of-the-art hospital pathology laboratories, which are now fully operational. In addition, RCSI has commenced research activities and clinical simulation in the new ERC.

A hugely significant development for RCSI, the ERC at Connolly Hospital represents the largest capital investment by RCSI in a hospital campus in recent years, signalling our commitment to investing in clinical sites.

RCSI is grateful for the ongoing support from Connolly Hospital, the HSE and HSE Estates Department, without whom the delivery of these transformational projects would not be possible.

“Since the building's opening, feedback from students, staff and hospital colleagues has been outstanding.”



Connolly Education and Research Centre.

### Sandyford Dental Education Centre

The development of RCSI's new Dental Education Centre at Sandyford, Dublin, began in July 2024 and was completed on time. Contractor JSD led the construction works, with Henry Schein Ireland appointed for the supply and installation of the specialist dental equipment.

The new facility will provide clinical, educational and simulation spaces for the first cohort of students on RCSI's new Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme.

Representing a €12m investment by RCSI, the Sandyford DEC includes internal reconfiguration to the layout of the existing building together with external alterations and extensions. The immersive learning environment will accommodate first- and second-year dentistry students and staff and includes 55 dental manikin simulators for early clinical skills training, a dental laboratory and a 12-chair community clinic where students will treat patients under supervision.

The Sandyford DEC will open its doors to its first dentistry students in September 2025, with preparations all on track to meet this deadline.



Sandyford Dental Education Centre.

### Connolly Dental Education Centre

The €33m RCSI Connolly Dental Education Centre (DEC) broke ground in January 2025, with construction progressing well.

Scheduled to open for the 2027/28 academic year, it will be the largest of the planned DEC's, occupying two floors and providing cutting-edge dental education and training facilities, including 42 dental chairs, intra-oral X-ray suites and supporting services.

Building on a strong partnership with the HSE, the building, spanning four floors and 4,000 sqm, will also house two floors of clinical space for Connolly Hospital, providing outpatient day services in a modern facility, further enhancing clinical infrastructure for West Dublin and beyond.

The RCSI Dental Education Centre at Connolly Hospital is being developed by building contractors Felix O'Hare and Co Ltd, with MDO as architects.



**Michael McGrail**  
Director of Corporate Strategy



118 St Stephen's Green pictured during the advanced stages of completion.  
Photo: Billy Cahill

### Campus Development – 118 St Stephen's Green

RCSI's city centre campus development reached a significant milestone as 118 St Stephen's Green was handed over from Bennett Construction Ltd following completion of the build. The focus now shifts to preparing for the move of staff into the building in autumn 2025.

This €99 million expansion will enrich the student experience and provide vital infrastructure for pioneering health sciences education, research and innovation. It reinforces RCSI's historic connection with St Stephen's Green, establishing a new 'front door' of the campus and incorporating RCSI's first purpose-built public exhibition space.

With the building complete, its distinctive architectural features are now visible from St Stephen's Green. While the buildings along three sides of the Green are aligned parallel to the park, the west side – where RCSI sits – presents varied, indented building lines. This gave architects, Henry J Lyons, the opportunity to introduce a vibrant geometry for the main façade and roofscape, complementing the Unitarian Church next door. The recessed ground floor entrance provides a wider pavement, enhancing the public realm and creating a welcoming space.

**“To achieve the magnificent building we see today required creativity, professionalism, long hours and, above all, strong collaboration.”**

A key design element is the building's physical link to RCSI's award-winning education building at 26 York Street, significantly expanding the space available for the 3,000 students and staff who visit the campus daily. A newly designed quadrangle garden at ground level will provide a recreational space for students.

118 St Stephen's Green will be home to the RCSI School of Population Health, the Graduate School of Healthcare Management and a 50 sqm virtual reality surgical training space for the National Surgical Training Centre. It will also include a new Student Centre; Student Union space; collaboration spaces; a Clinical Skills and Peer Learning Suite; and a Mindfulness and Quiet Zone. The development supports RCSI's expanding research and innovation activities with up to two floors of state-of-the-art laboratories, write-up areas and support facilities.

This was a complex construction project, incorporating multiple uses on a restricted city centre site, adjacent to listed and historic buildings. To achieve the magnificent building we see today required creativity, professionalism, long hours and, above all, strong collaboration.

RCSI extends our thanks to all involved in delivering this development, in particularly Henry J Lyons, Bennett Construction and the full internal and external design teams. Special thanks are due to the Project Coordinator Paula Wilson, and to Jean O'Neill, Colm Murray, Collette Power, Ruth Meredith and Kevin Brew, whose commitment and problem-solving skills were key to bringing the project to completion.

118 St Stephen's Green will open its doors to our students, staff and members of the public during the 2025/2026 academic year.

>>> [Read more about the new RCSI gallery, a free exhibition space and café in the heart of 118 St Stephen's Green, on page 33](#)



**Justin Ralph**  
Chief Technology Officer

## Information Technology

RCSI remains committed to delivering a transformative education and learning experience, underpinned by ongoing investment in digital solutions across assessment, feedback and clinical placements.

The introduction of real-time assessment and clinical placement tools is set to revolutionise healthcare education, enhancing the experiences of clinicians, students and staff through improved functionality, usability and accessibility.

Cybersecurity remains a critical priority, with regular reviews, business continuity planning in the event of a cyberattack, and updated IT security awareness training developed in collaboration with Human Resources. These initiatives complement ongoing workshops, training sessions and support guides for staff and students.

The Alumni, Fundraising, Fellows and Members Portal launched in May 2024, with new Professional Competence Scheme functionality introduced in May 2025. Since launch, over 16,000 users have logged in to access features such as submitting requests and applications, recording continuing professional development (CPD) activities, developing professional development plans, paying fees, accessing academic resources, updating personal data, donating securely online and participating in the volunteering programme.

The IT team has worked closely with the School of Dentistry and other departments to develop an IT roadmap supporting both teaching and clinical delivery. Key initiatives include the implementation of Akari for curriculum mapping, Moodle for Dentistry-specific content, Risr\Assess for custom exams, Risr\Advance for GPA assessments and a transcript portal for GPA records. The team also designed a tailored network, procured and installed hardware, and integrated building management systems, creating a fully connected, assessment-focused digital ecosystem.

“The introduction of real-time assessment and clinical placement tools is set to revolutionise healthcare education, enhancing the experiences of clinicians, students and staff.”

RCSI Online continues to expand its global portfolio. This strategic growth is enabled by a close partnership between academic leadership, IT and educational design teams—leveraging digital innovation and pedagogical excellence to deliver scalable, high-impact learning experiences worldwide.

Organisation-wide adoption of MS Teams, SharePoint collaboration spaces and OneDrive has enabled the move away from legacy V and U drives, delivering significant benefits for staff. The IT department continues to drive digital transformation, AI automation and service enhancements to improve organisational efficiency.

Through continuous maintenance and upgrading of applications and infrastructure, RCSI IT ensures a secure and innovative digital environment, committed to meeting the evolving needs of students, staff, researchers and stakeholders.



**Jennifer Cullinane**  
Director of Finance

## Finance and Governance

Established under Royal Charter in 1784, RCSI is an independent, not-for-profit, international health sciences university, postgraduate training body and research institution.

Over time, RCSI's activities have evolved to include medical and healthcare education through undergraduate and postgraduate courses, research programmes and various community outreach activities. Having received designation as a statutory degree-awarding body in 2010, RCSI was granted university status as RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences in December 2019.

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).

RCSI is currently ranked first in the world for UN SDG Goal 3 'Good Health and Well-Being' in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025.

### Key activities

As a registered charity, RCSI works to advance its education and research objectives which align with our four strategic themes of health and societal impact, education and student success, research and innovation, and foundations for sustainable impact.

RCSI fosters collaboration, including joint initiatives with other higher education institutions, community outreach programmes, student clinical placements and an academic hospital partnership in support of its mission 'to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health'.

The education, training and research activities of RCSI span three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa, with operations in Ireland, Bahrain, China and Malaysia.

RCSI oversees postgraduate training in surgery in Ireland and maintains close links and common training curricula with sister Royal Surgical Colleges in England and Scotland.

Since 2007, in collaboration with Irish Aid, RCSI has supported the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to improve the standards of surgical care in East, Central and Southern Africa by advancing surgical education, training and examinations.

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.

As one of Ireland's largest indigenous services exporters, RCSI contributes significantly to the Irish economy, employing more than 1,400 people in Ireland, with an estimated additional 2,400 indirect jobs across the Irish economy supported through the expenditure of staff and students.

### Financial governance

As the governing body of the institution, the RCSI Council is responsible for the organisation's financial affairs. Certain functions are delegated to both the Finance and Audit and Risk Committees.

RCSI's financial objective is to ensure robust financial stewardship, recognising the increasingly competitive market environment and current geopolitical risks. RCSI is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment and aligns its efforts with the UN SDGs.

RCSI operates a primarily self-funding model, receiving approximately 17% of revenue from public sources. In line with its charitable remit, all surpluses generated, after funding day-to-day operations, strategic investments and debt servicing, are reinvested to support RCSI's educational, research and societal goals. An appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable continued investment in strategic opportunities, including programme development, and to ensure responsiveness to external pressures, such as inflation.

“RCSI is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment and aligns its efforts with the UN SDGs.”

**Review of the year to 30 September 2024**

RCSI delivered a steady financial performance during the year to 30 September 2024, in line with approved plans and bank covenant requirements.

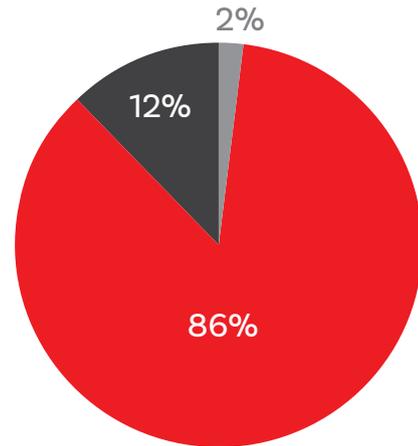
**Consolidated statement of revenue and expenditure**

	<b>2024</b> €m	<b>2023</b> €m
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>236</b>
Operating costs	(223)	(208)
Depreciation	(13)	(13)
Interest (net)	6	1
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>
Unrealised valuations	(5)	(16)
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>

Revenue increased by 6% year-on-year, primarily driven by steady growth in education and research programmes.

Undergraduate and postgraduate training activities accounted for 86% of revenue, with 12% from externally funded research and 2% from other revenue sources, mainly rental agreements. RCSI’s student body represents more than 100 nationalities, with more than half of all students and trainees attending under a sponsorship agreement or other support.

Revenue



- 86% Education and training
- 12% Externally funded research
- 2% Other



Connolly Education and Research Centre

“All surpluses generated, after funding day-to-day operations, strategic investments and debt servicing, are reinvested to support RCSI’s educational, research and societal goals.”

Operating costs increased by 7% on the prior year, reflecting inflationary effects, increased activity from growth initiatives and investments in staff under the RCSI Strategic Plan 2023-2027 *Innovating for a Healthier Future*. Robust procurement processes ensure the most economically advantageous terms are achieved.

Recent sustainability initiatives under the Green Campus initiative and a solar farm project have resulted in reduced energy consumption, aligned with RCSI’s Climate Action Roadmap goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% and improve energy efficiency by 50% by 2030.

Unrealised non-operating losses amounted to €5m, due to annual re-measurements, including property revaluations and currency impacts. The value of the defined benefit pension scheme, as measured under accounting standards, remained in a surplus position of €11m, though deficit funding continues under actuarial measures.

RCSI’s capital programme remains in line with approved plans. Significant campus infrastructure projects are funded through an appropriate balance of debt and cash reserves, while annual investments align with asset write-down levels. Net interest at €6m represents debt service costs and deposit interest earned.

#### Balance sheet

RCSI’s net asset value of €419 million remains strong as of 30 September 2024. A net increase of 3% arises from a steady financial performance and capital infrastructure investments, offset by working capital movements and investment property market valuations. This value comprises a high-quality asset base of campus infrastructure, long-term borrowings and a low revaluation level, providing a firm foundation to support the delivery of RCSI’s mission.

The RCSI Group includes a number of subsidiary investments that support its mission. In Ireland, these include West Green Management Company Ltd, which provides property management services, and RCSI Travel DAC, to facilitate the delivery of international programmes. Globally, RCSI operates a medical university in Bahrain, in Malaysia partners with University College Dublin under a joint venture arrangement for RCSI-UCD Malaysia Campus and collaborates with Soochow University for the International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation (ICPI) in China.

#### Consolidated balance sheet

	2024 €m	2023 €m
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>408</b>
Current assets	366	362
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>770</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>183</b>
Non-current liabilities	212	183
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>404</b>

#### Conclusion

Overall, RCSI continues to deliver a steady financial performance in line with approved plans and bank covenant requirements.

Risks are managed through a comprehensive Risk Control Framework, which includes mitigation strategies for existing and emerging risks. Key risks include cybersecurity threats, inflationary pressures and broader market and geopolitical volatility. Despite these challenges, RCSI operates in a sector with strong demand for healthcare education.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Council, external board members, SMT colleagues and all RCSI staff, including the finance team, for their commitment to the delivery of the RCSI mission in a financially sustainable manner, in line with the RCSI values of respect, collaboration, scholarship and innovation.

## Quality Enhancement Office

Quality is a foundational element of RCSI's strategic plan, underpinning our commitment to delivering an exceptional educational experience. The Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) oversees quality assurance and enhancement initiatives that support the university's strategic objectives.

This year, RCSI was among the first higher education institutions to apply for the new statutory International Education Mark (IEM). This mark, which will soon become a requirement for international student recruitment, recognises institutions that meet national standards in delivering a high-quality experience to international learners. RCSI's application showcased its strong commitment to international education - across Ireland, overseas campuses and online - and the comprehensive supports available to international students throughout their academic journey.

Evidence-based quality improvement is a core function of the QEO. In 2024-25, the office managed over 350 surveys, including RCSI's participation in the national Postgraduate Research Student Survey. Enhancements to the survey process included expanding in-class surveys, developing new metrics to amplify the postgraduate learner voice and continuing the 'You Said, We Listened' communications campaign.

The QEO led several internal quality reviews across key academic and professional units. In 2024-25, reviews were completed for the School of Medicine, the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, and the Finance Department. Each involved expert panels who examined documentation and engaged with stakeholders. These reviews resulted in numerous commendations and constructive recommendations, reinforcing RCSI's culture of continuous improvement.

Assessment quality assurance and psychometric services remain a vital part of the QEO's remit, supporting both RCSI and the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE). Within RCSI, the QEO supported the development and roll-out of assessments in the new undergraduate medical programme and the move to a new assessment platform. Within the ICBSE, the focus centred on a comprehensive review of the MRCS examination format, taken by tens of thousands of candidates each year.



*School of Medicine staff pictured with members of the review panel and QEO team members at the School of Medicine Internal Quality Review in November.*

To promote institutional learning and reputational enhancement, the QEO curated and presented quality enhancement case studies at the International Education Forum. These case studies are now accessible through a newly launched online Case Study Repository, providing a platform for sharing best practices across the university.

Finally, in response to increasing regulatory demands, the QEO led a comprehensive review of RCSI's quality processes. This resulted in the launch of a reimagined Quality Framework designed to streamline activities and support staff in engaging with quality in a proportionate, risk-based and data-informed manner. This reflects RCSI's commitment to sustainability and operational efficiency, while maintaining the highest standards of educational quality.

“ My roles as Trainee Subcommittee Chair and Education Committee representative gave invaluable insight into Faculty decision-making, while providing a platform to advocate for trainees and positively shape the training experience. ”

**Dr Jack Alderson**, Specialist Registrar in Radiology.



# 06

## Professional training



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

## Faculty of Dentistry

The Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 1963 to advance the science, art and practice of dentistry by promoting education, study and research. Today, the Faculty has approximately 6,000 Fellows, Members, Diplomates and Affiliates globally.

We offer postgraduate general dentistry and specialist fellowship examinations as well as lecture-based and hands-on courses for dentists undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) and/or structured postgraduate training.

The Faculty maintains 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.

Popular online CPD lectures continue to be delivered throughout the year, available to our Fellows, Members, Diplomates and Affiliates in Ireland and overseas.

In October 2024, the Faculty held its Annual Scientific Meeting themed 'A day in the life of a Dentist', welcoming more than 200 delegates each day. Professor Alastair Sloan, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, delivered a presentation and was awarded the prestigious Edward Leo Sheridan Memorial Medal. The Faculty's Annual Dinner concluded this very successful two-day event.

February 2025 saw a return visit to HMC in Doha, Qatar, where a five-day intensive course was delivered to residents preparing for the Specialist Fellowship Diploma of the Faculty of Dentistry (FFD RCSI) examination in Paediatric Dentistry. The programme concluded with a day-long paediatric dentistry conference, held by the Faculty on 'Innovation and Excellence', which was open to both paediatric and general dentists.



*Pictured at the July 2024 Conferring Ceremony (l-r) were Professor Albert Leung, Professor Robert Witton (FFD Ad Eundem), Mr Sean Sheridan, Dr Charlotte Eckhardt (FFD Ad Eundem), Dr Phil Atkin (FFD Ad Eundem), Professor Nicola Innes (FFD Ad Eundem), Professor Gerry McKenna (FFD Ad Eundem) and Professor Osama Omer.*

In May, the Faculty held its Fellowship examinations in RCSI Bahrain for the first time. This proved to be a successful visit, with further Fellowship exams expected to be delivered there in 2026.

The conferring ceremony in July 2025 will see us welcome 633 new Fellows, Members and Diplomates.

As Dean, I am very grateful for the brilliant teamwork of the Faculty Board, the administrative team and colleagues from around the world. We are also extremely grateful for the excellent support from our colleagues across RCSI.

“In October 2024, the Faculty held its Annual Scientific Meeting themed 'A day in the life of a Dentist', welcoming more than 200 delegates each day.”



**Dr Jerome Coffey**  
Dean, Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation  
Oncologists

## Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists

The Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists is the professional and academic body for radiologists and radiation oncologists in Ireland. Its key roles include postgraduate training and examinations in diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology and administration of the professional competence scheme for these specialties.

This year brought the sad news of the passing of Professor Barry Kelly, former Dean of the Faculty (2012-2014), Consultant Radiologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, former Chair of the European Society of Radiology Audit and Standards Subcommittee, and Professor in Radiology at the University of Ulster. Professor Kelly was widely respected for his warmth, expertise and wit, and will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

The Faculty has had a busy year, contributing to the development of the HSE National Radiology Strategy 2025-2029, currently under review by the Department of Health. Pending funding, the strategy will lead to a significant expansion of consultant posts. This will require immediate expansion of the training programme and the Faculty worked closely with the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) team on workforce planning for 2025-2028. These efforts were informed by the workload document from the Faculty, data from the National QI Programme in Radiology 2024 and the ESR publication 'Guidelines and Recommendations for Radiologist Staffing, Education and Training'.

With support and funding from NDTP, the Faculty has initiated a new rotation model for radiology trainees from July 2025. This enables post-exam, Year 2 or higher trainees to rotate to Model 3 hospitals, facilitating expansion of the training programme and, in the longer term, improving recruitment and retention of Consultant Radiologists outside the Model 4 hospitals. The rotation offers trainees exposure to varied clinical environments, work practices, consultants and departments.

The Faculty's Annual Scientific Meeting took place in September 2024, at which Honorary Fellowships were conferred upon Professor Jonathon Leipsic (University of British Columbia), Professor Philip Poortmans (Iridium Netwerk, Belgium), Associate Professor Paddy Gilligan (Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) and Professor David Palma, (London Health Sciences Centre, Ontario).



*Dr Patricia Cunningham, then Dean of the Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists, pictured with Professor Jonathon Leipsic, University of British Columbia, who was among the Honorary Fellows of the Faculty conferred at the Annual Scientific Meeting.*

## “The Faculty has initiated a new rotation model for radiology trainees from July 2025.”

As part of the ongoing accreditation cycle of our training sites, the Faculty conducted successful visits to the Radiation Oncology department in Cork University Hospital in November 2024, and to the Radiology departments in Tallaght University Hospital and University Hospital Waterford in May 2025. These remain valuable opportunities to engage with hospital management, assess training environments and receive direct feedback from trainees and trainers.

The Faculty's achievements are made possible by the dedication and support of the Faculty Board members, committee chairs and members, national and local training coordinators and the Faculty staff.



**Mary Godfrey**  
Dean, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery

### Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery

The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery has led and advocated for the strategic development of the nursing and midwifery professions since 1974.

Throughout 2024, the Faculty celebrated its 50th Anniversary with several events, culminating in a gala dinner where Professor Marie Carney received a DAISY lifetime achievement award for her contribution to the field.

In December, the Faculty unveiled its third art commission, honouring Dame Peta Taaffe. A founding Member of the Faculty and Ireland's first Chief Nursing Officer, Dame Taaffe championed many advances in the profession.

#### Supporting health and societal well-being

The Overseas Aptitude Test (OAT) continues to support national nursing workforce shortages, with 2,407 applicants for General Nurse registration and 17 for Psychiatric Nurse registration. The Faculty was also engaged to deliver OAT OSCE assessments referred by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland's Fitness to Practice Committee.

In March, the Faculty co-launched the Autism-Friendly Schools project. The report and framework were authored by Dr Sinéad McNally (DCU) and Professor Mary Rose Sweeney, the Faculty's Executive Vice-Dean for Education.

The Faculty continues to sponsor the DAISY Awards across the HSE Dublin North East Region. A competition to design a similar award for midwifery resulted in the Excellence in Midwifery Award, designed by Cavan-Monaghan Women and Children's Service.

#### Transforming education and student success

This year saw the launch of several innovative CPD programmes, including 'Flourishing' and 'Addiction Care in the Health System' and the Faculty hosted a Human Trafficking Awareness Summit.

In December, the Faculty conferred 88 Fellows and 15 Members.

#### Leading impactful research

The Annual International Conference welcomed 330 global attendees. At the conference dinner, Honorary Fellowships were awarded to Mr Brendan Gleeson (actor and hospice care advocate) and Ms Helen Behan (actor, nurse and suicide awareness advocate). The Faculty also awarded its first cohort of Fellows PhD scholarships at the conference.

Research outputs continue to increase, with the inaugural cohort of full-time PhD students progressing their impactful projects.



*Pictured at the Faculty's official launch as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) were (l-r) Professor Michael Shannon and Professor Thomas Kearns, Co-Directors GILA and WHO CC; Mary Godfrey, Vice Dean of the Faculty; Professor Mark White, Executive Dean of the Faculty; and Dr Amelia Latu Afuhaamango Tuipulotu, WHO Chief Nurse.*

#### Creating foundations for sustainable impact

The Global Innovation and Leadership Academy (GILA) continues to collaborate with the WHO on several initiatives. The Faculty's WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Regulation and Continuing Professional Development was launched in December.

Professor Thomas Kearns (Co-Director GILA) was decorated with the Romanian Presidential Order of Sanitary Merit for his exceptional contributions to healthcare and education.

The Faculty's latest strategy for 2024-27 was launched this year, and in January, the Faculty completed an Internal Quality Review.



**Dr Philip Carolan**  
Dean, Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine  
(RCPI and RCSI)

## 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, which provides postgraduate training and continuous professional development (CPD) in sports and exercise medicine.

Work continues with the Faculty's parent Colleges to finalise new governance structures, including updated Standing Orders and a Memorandum of Understanding.

### CPD opportunities

CPD activities were delivered mainly online through webinars and journal clubs. The 2024 Annual Scientific Conference, held in September at RCSI, was delivered in collaboration with The Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists, Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland, and the Irish Sport and Exercise Science Association (ISESA) – marking ISESA's first year as a co-collaborator. At the conference, 43 students from the 2024 Irish College of General Practitioners/FSEM Musculoskeletal Diploma intake graduated.

The Faculty's Annual Spring Symposium in April was a well-attended virtual event on 'Sports Injuries and Athletic Development in the Young Athlete', held in collaboration with the University of Limerick.

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

The Faculty completed a Medical Council re-accreditation review of its training programme in December 2021 and received final recommendations in May 2023. Work is ongoing to address these, with a report to be submitted to the Medical Council in autumn 2025.

“The Faculty's Annual Spring Symposium in April was a well-attended virtual event on 'Sports Injuries and Athletic Development in the Young Athlete'.”



*Pictured at the July 2024 Conferring Ceremony (l-r) were Dr Mandy Zhang, Fellowship of the Faculty by Election and Mr Richard Egan, Faculty Board Member.*

Plans are underway to develop a four to six-year SEM training route in Ireland, aligned with EU directives, running alongside the existing two-year HST programme. Curriculum reviews are in progress to ensure alignment with UK and EU standards. Since 2019, seven trainees have completed the programme, with Dr Valerie Hayes becoming the first female graduate of the HST programme in July 2025.

### Fellows and Members

In 2023, the Faculty introduced new subscription packages for Fellows and Members: a 'benefits' rate including free CPD event attendance and online access to the British Journal of Sports Medicine, and a 'standard' reduced rate with a pay as you go option for our CPD events. These packages aim to encourage continued engagement among our Fellows and Members.

### HSE Physical Activity Pathway in Healthcare Model advisory group

The Faculty appointed representatives to the new HSE Physical Activity Pathway in Healthcare Model advisory group and looks forward to collaborating further on this important work.



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

### Irish Institute of Pharmacy

RCSI is the managing body for the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOF), appointed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI: The Pharmacy Regulator). IIOF manages the statutory CPD system for pharmacists in Ireland and supports the development of pharmacy practice.

In 2024/25, IIOF continued to meet 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 to support evolving pharmacy practice.

#### ePortfolio review

ePortfolio Review ensures pharmacists demonstrate ongoing CPD engagement, in line with legislative requirements. The 2024/25 process involved 1,391 pharmacists, with 98% meeting the required standard.

#### Training programmes and information resources

The IIOF delivered 26 online training programmes and over 40 peer support workshops this year. In response to the Expert Taskforce on the Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy, the IIOF commissioned a suite of prescription extension resources. A project team from the RCSI School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences developed the resources, including three online workshops held in autumn 2024.

In September, the IIOF collaborated with the National Cancer Control Programme to launch the Cancer Care Hub information resource. The IIOF’s Mentoring Programme continued to flourish and launched its seventh cycle in May. Following a successful pilot, a second eight-week phase of the LIFT leadership roundtable programme was also launched in May.

In June, the IIOF celebrated its 100th webinar in the ‘In Conversation With...’ series, launched in 2020. The series continues to unite experts and enthusiasts to explore topics reflecting the profession’s evolving needs.

“The IIOF celebrated its 100th webinar in the ‘In Conversation With...’ series, launched in 2020. The series continues to unite experts and enthusiasts.”



Delegates listen on at the IIOF RCSI Charter Day Parallel Session in February.

#### Engagement activities

Throughout the year, the IIOF collaborated on numerous national projects, including the Department of Health’s Pharmacy Expert Taskforce, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI)’s Workforce Working Group and initiatives with the National Cancer Control Programme and HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control to deliver resources for pharmacists.

Webinar series contributors included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, HSE Medicines Management Programme, the Department of Health, the PSI and the Irish Medicines Verifications Organisation.

To support pharmacy students, the IIOF presented at the APPEL-Future of PharmaciE conference in November 2024 on understanding CPD requirements for early-career pharmacists. It also hosted the ‘Next Generation Pharmacy’ event during RCSI Charter Week 2025, bringing together experts from across pharmacy to consider emerging challenges and opportunities.

With government commitment to enhancing the scope of pharmacists’ roles, the IIOF looks forward to continuing its support for pharmacists as they deliver new services to patients.



“ RUMC has given me the best of both worlds: learning in Ireland and practicing at home, gaining exposure, experience and opportunities for my future career. ”

**Melinda Heng**, RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC) Class of 2025 and recipient of RUMC Award for First Place in Emergency Medicine.



# 07

## International campuses



Hosted by the Community Engagement Office and Paediatrics Society, over 60 students and their parents from schools in Bahrain attended Teddy Bear Hospital to learn about healthcare through interactive stations at the on-campus event at RCSI Bahrain in May.

## International campuses

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

### RCSI Medical University of Bahrain

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) aims to enhance health in Bahrain, the GCC region and beyond, through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.

### Advancing surgical training

The Royal Medical Services (RMS) signed an exclusive cooperation agreement with RCSI for residency and fellowship programmes in surgery dedicated to RMS resident physicians.

The agreement was signed in Dublin at the December meeting of the Board of Governors of RCSI Bahrain.

The agreement establishes a joint training programme for residency and fellowship programmes in various surgical specialties aligned with international standards including the British and Irish specialised fellowships and the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme.

The collaboration is a significant milestone in developing professional competencies, improving medical performance and upholding national and international standards to improve healthcare quality in Bahrain.

### Developing infectious diseases capacity

Professor Manaf Alqahtani, Clinical Professor and Head of Microbiology at RCSI Bahrain, is leading efforts to strengthen Bahrain’s infectious diseases preparedness and expertise.

Professor Alqahtani has been instrumental in shaping national strategies for antimicrobial stewardship, infection surveillance, outbreak readiness and vaccine deployment with a vision to cultivate a locally rooted, culturally attuned workforce to lead these activities.

A significant milestone came in December 2024 with the launch of Bahrain’s first National Fellowship in Infectious Diseases. This programme will sustain a pipeline of specialists capable of tackling antimicrobial resistance and pandemic preparedness. To date, five RCSI Bahrain graduates have joined the Fellowship.

Following Bahrain’s endorsement of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, Professor Alqahtani’s leadership positions the country to respond decisively and independently to global health challenges.

### New academic building

Construction of a 7,912 sqm academic building began in July 2024 following a foundation stone-laying ceremony. The project includes purpose-built, sustainable spaces, including active learning environments, simulation and clinical skills centres, research zones and a conferring hall. The new spaces aim to enrich the student experience, support teaching excellence and foster interdisciplinary research.

By summer 2025, substructure works were completed, and superstructure works are underway with completion on track for the 2025-26 academic year. The project surpassed 500,000 safe working hours without a Lost Time Injury, reflecting the commitment of RCSI Bahrain and site partners to maintaining the highest safety standards.

### Institutional review

RCSI Bahrain was awarded 'Compliant with the General Framework Standards' with seven commendations in its latest review by the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority in collaboration with the Higher Education Council, affirming academic and administrative alignment with the general framework standards.

### Diabetes Mobile Unit awards

Since its launch in 2012, the Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU) - a collaboration with the Bahrain Diabetes Society and the Rotary Club of Manama, with support from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health - has reached over 7,700 children, improving awareness of healthy lifestyles and diabetes prevention. It also prepares medical and nursing students as future health advocates.

This year, the DMU received two prestigious honours including first place as 'Best Bahraini Voluntary Project' at a national awards ceremony for voluntary work and an Honourable Mention from the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities and the MacJannet Foundation for community health engagement and student leadership.

### Collaborative research on diabetic skin ulcers

RCSI Bahrain is collaborating with the RMS, RCSI's Tissue Engineering Research Group and the Centre for Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research (AMBER) to explore biomaterials to improve the healing of diabetic skin ulcers. Led by Professor Michael Keogh and Dr Martin Maresch, the research has demonstrated improved healing through increased blood vessel formation and reduced scarring of tissue when compared to currently used dressings.

The team has secured funding via Enterprise Ireland to develop a further wound product for Irish industry.

“The Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU) has reached over 7,700 children, improving awareness of healthy lifestyles and diabetes prevention.”



142 medicine students and 130 undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students were conferred at RCSI Bahrain's 16<sup>th</sup> Conferring Ceremony in June.

### New AI tool to aid students' learning

In partnership with Bahrain's Labour Fund 'Tamkeen' and K-Labs Technology Solutions, RCSI Bahrain is developing an innovative 'AI-powered Virtual Sim Patient' solution. This cutting-edge tool utilises a large language model and advanced AI to simulate medical case studies and enhance students' clinical reasoning and history-taking skills.

Over 100 medical, surgical and nursing health assessment cases have been embedded in the application to date. Beta testing is scheduled for September 2025, with launch planned during the second semester of the 2025-26 academic year.



*Pictured at the alumni event which took place to coincide with RUMC's 25th Conferring Ceremony celebrations was RCSI Dean of Medical Programmes, Professor Arnold Hill, who contributed to the panel discussion, with alumni from RCSI, UCD, RUMC and RCSI-Perdana.*

### RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC)

RUMC is a joint initiative between RCSI and University College Dublin (UCD), established to meet the demand for medical education in northern Malaysia. Granted university status by the Malaysian Ministry of Education in 2018, RUMC is one of the country's top-tier foreign-owned institutions.

#### Bachelor of Science in Medical Informatics

In 2024, RUMC launched its Bachelor of Science in Medical Informatics, with the inaugural intake commencing in September 2025. The programme is designed to equip students with the skills to apply technology and data-driven solutions to enhance healthcare systems and services.

#### Cochrane Malaysia 10th anniversary

Cochrane Malaysia celebrated its 10th anniversary with events officiated by Deputy Health Minister YB Dato' Lukanisman and attended by HE Orla Tunney, Irish Ambassador to Malaysia, alongside international health leaders. The celebration included workshops, presentations and awards recognising Cochrane Malaysia's contributions to health and research. As the coordinating centre for the Malaysian Cochrane Network, RUMC brings particular expertise in paediatrics and child health.

#### Scientific Meeting, Alumni Awards and reception

To mark RUMC's 25th Conferring Ceremony and the 10th anniversary of the Asia Pacific UCD Global Office, a Scientific Meeting and the inaugural RUMC Alumni Awards were held in June 2025. Themed 'Transformative Advances in Medicine and Surgery', the event featured keynote addresses, an expert panel and lively discussion moderated by Professor Tracy Robson. The Alumni Awards were presented by HE Orla Tunney to Dr Durgavasini Devanath and Dr Teoh Chia Wei.

“The 1st RUMC International Medical Research Conference welcomed 200 participants.”

#### 25th Conferring Ceremony

RUMC's 25th Conferring Ceremony celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2025, with 100 graduates entering the medical profession. A highlight was the conferral of an Honorary Doctor of Medicine degree by the National University of Ireland to Dato' Dr Godfrey Sim Wah Geh.

#### Malaysia-Ireland Training Programme for Family Medicine (MInTFM)

The Malaysia-Ireland Training Programme for Family Medicine (MInTFM) Graduation Ceremony 2024 took place in November 2024. MInTFM is designed for medical doctors aiming to become Family Medicine Specialists. Delivered through RUMC in collaboration with the Irish College of General Practitioners and iHeed, an Irish-based digital education platform, the four-year programme now has more than 300 enrolled trainees. MInTFM plays a vital role in supporting Malaysia's healthcare system and enhancing RUMC's national reputation.

#### 1st RUMC International Medical Research Conference 2024

Held in December 2024, the 1st RUMC International Medical Research Conference welcomed 200 participants from national and international institutions. The conference featured 48 oral and 35 e-poster presentations on topics including antidiabetic treatments, mental health, surgery and public health. Keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Tracy Robson (RCSI), Professor Colin P Bradley (RUMC) and Professor Dr Vaikunthan Rajaratnam (Singapore), highlighting advancements in medical education and clinical practice.

### International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation, China

The past academic year marked a significant milestone for RCSI as the first cohort of students began their studies at the International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation (ICPI), a groundbreaking collaboration between RCSI and Soochow University in China.

This new joint college combines the strengths of both universities, merging student-centred education and innovative research to ensure we develop graduates equipped to succeed in the workplace or in postgraduate research. Located on Soochow University's cutting-edge Future Campus, ICPI offers students the opportunity to earn dual degrees awarded by both RCSI and Soochow University.

The campus is home to a growing academic community, with newly appointed faculty and professional staff from both universities supporting teaching and student engagement on-site. We are delivering three programmes, also offered by the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences in RCSI Dublin: BSc Pharmacy, BSc Advanced Therapeutic Technologies and MSc by Research, all of which commenced in September 2024 at ICPI. Our programmes, which have been designed in collaboration with clinical, research and industry experts, will prepare students to better meet the demands of the changing healthcare landscape.

“The first cohort of students began their studies at the International College of Pharmaceutical Innovation (ICPI), a groundbreaking collaboration between RCSI and Soochow University.”

ICPI was officially launched in April 2025, at an event attended by senior representatives from both RCSI and Soochow University, along with dignitaries from the local and provincial governments of surrounding areas, Suzhou and Jiangsu. The ceremony included speeches from key figures, including the Mayor of Suzhou, RCSI President Professor Deborah McNamara, the Consul General David Murphy and Dr Nicholas O'Brien, Ambassador of Ireland to China.

The event was a fitting celebration of the foundation of ICPI, underscoring the strong collaboration between the two universities, while also highlighting the promising future ahead for ICPI graduates. The ceremony concluded with a symbolic Sino-Irish Friendship tree planting.



Delegates from RCSI, Soochow University and senior dignitaries including the Consul General David Murphy and Dr Nicholas O'Brien, Ambassador of Ireland to China, pictured at the official launch of ICPI in April.



# Thank you

We extend our sincere appreciation to our alumni, corporate supporters and philanthropic partners. Your continued generosity and commitment are instrumental in driving progress, fostering innovation, and enabling us to deliver meaningful impact across all areas of our work.



# Appendix 1

## RCSI postgraduate surgical awards

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 Traveling Fellowship in Surgery

- ~ Mr Michael Anthony Kelly - Fellowship in Paediatric and Adult Spine Surgery, Université de Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

### RCSI Colles Surgical Travel Grants

- ~ Dr Alexandra Zaborowski - Fellowship in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery, Paris Breast Centre, L'Institut du Sein, Paris, France.
- ~ Dr Éanna Ryan - Advanced Colorectal Oncology Fellowship, Department of Colorectal Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, USA; and Super Fellowship/ Associate Surgeon in Advanced Colorectal Surgery at the Columbia Global Center for Integrated Colorectal Surgery & IBD Interventional Endoscopy, Department of Colorectal Surgery, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York City, USA.
- ~ Ms Lena Mary Houlihan - Fellowship in Skull Base, Pituitary and Minimally Invasive Cranial Surgery, Swedish Neuroscience Institute, Seattle, Washington, USA.
- ~ Mr Justin M. Hintze - Advanced Clinical Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA.
- ~ Ms Lorraine Scanlon - Clinical Fellowship with the Division of Urology (UroOncology), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, London Ontario, Canada.
- ~ Ms Ailbhe White Gibson - Fellowship in Hand and Upper Limb Surgery, Roth | McFarlane Hand and Upper limb Centre, St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada.

### RCSI Travel Grants

- ~ Mr Justin M Hintze - Advanced Clinical Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA.
- ~ Dr Ben Creavin - Colorectal Fellowship, Department of General Surgery, Royal Brisbane and Woman's Hospital, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- ~ Dr Stephen Garry - Head & Neck Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, USA.
- ~ Ms Clíodhna Ni Fhoghlu - Paediatric Orthopaedics Fellowship, Westmead Children's Hospital, Sydney, Australia.
- ~ Dr Niall Hardy - International Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Fellowship, Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota, USA.

- ~ Dr Éanna Ryan - Advanced Colorectal Oncology Fellowship, Department of Colorectal Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, USA.
- ~ Mr Michael Anthony Kelly - Fellowship in Paediatric and Adult Spine Surgery, Université de Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- ~ Dr Sarah Louise Gillanders - Advanced Aesthetic Fellowship, Melbourne Institute of Plastic Surgery; and Rhinology Fellowship, The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Melbourne.
- ~ Ms Ailbhe White Gibson - Fellowship in Hand and Upper Limb Surgery, Roth | McFarlane Hand and Upper limb Centre, St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada.

### Millin Lecture 2024

- ~ Ms Christina Fleming - Future-Proofing Surgical Training

# Appendix 2

## Academic staff promotions

### Promotion to Senior Lecturer

- ~ Dr Ailish Malone, School of Physiotherapy
- ~ Dr Ciara Murphy, Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine
- ~ Dr Damir Vareslija, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- ~ Dr Ingmar Schoen, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- ~ Dr Olga Piskareva, Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine
- ~ Dr Sudipto Das, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

### Promotion to Associate Professor

- ~ Dr Claire Condron, Simulation Centre
- ~ Dr Deirdre Fitzgerald Hughes, Clinical Microbiology
- ~ Dr Frank Moriarty, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- ~ Dr Karen Flood, Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ~ Dr Michelle Flood, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- ~ Dr Roger Preston, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences
- ~ Dr Edwina Brennan, School of Medicine, Bahrain
- ~ Dr Husain Nasaif, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Bahrain

### Promotion to Professor

- ~ Professor Declan Patton, School of Nursing and Midwifery
- ~ Professor Judith Strawbridge, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

# Appendix 3

## Honorary appointments and promotions

### Honorary Professor

- ~ Professor Zhiyuan Zhong, Dean, Soochow University

### Honorary Clinical Professor

- ~ Professor Sam Thomas, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar

### Honorary Associate Professor

- ~ Professor Xincheng Teng, Associate Professor, Soochow University

### Honorary Clinical Associate Professor

- ~ Professor Breda Cushen, Consultant Respiratory Physician, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Professor Daniel John Ryan, Consultant Respiratory Physician, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Professor David Waldron, Consultant Paediatrician, St Luke's Hospital
- ~ Professor Emma Gordon, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda
- ~ Professor Miriam O'Connor, Consultant Medical Oncologist, University Hospital Waterford
- ~ Professor Niamh Antonia Maria McCawley, Consultant in General Surgery, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Professor Patrick FitzPatrick, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street
- ~ Professor Patrick Nicholson, Consultant Neurointerventional Radiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Professor Robbie Seton Rowan Woods, ENT Consultant, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Professor Shiva Sreenivasan, Consultant Acute and General Physician, South West Acute Hospital
- ~ Professor Suzanne Kelleher, Consultant Paediatrician, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin
- ~ Professor Feras Abu Saadeh, Professor, Blackrock Health

### Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer

- ~ Dr Carol Traynor, Consultant Nephrologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Mr Adrien Gendre, Consultant Otolaryngologist and Cochlear Implant Surgeon, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Aileen O'Shea, Consultant Radiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Angharad Griffiths, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street
- ~ Dr Anna Whelehan, Consultant Neurophysiologist, Beaumont Hospital

- ~ Ms Bianca Barea, Consultant Urologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Caitriona Murphy, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Dr Careni Spencer, Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin
- ~ Dr Caroline Fox, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street
- ~ Dr Catriona Kelly, Consultant in Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Craig Delavari, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Dr Danielle McCollum, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street
- ~ Dr Dimitrios Ampazis, Consultant Respiratory Physician, Cavan General Hospital
- ~ Dr Donna Cummins, Consultant Dermatologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Douglas Mulholland, Consultant Interventional Radiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Fiona Reidy, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Dr Helen Cooney, Consultant Cardiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Jacqueline McBrien, Consultant Paediatrician, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street
- ~ Dr Jawaid Azam, Consultant Geriatrician, Cavan General Hospital
- ~ Dr Karl Hazel, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Connolly Hospital
- ~ Dr Khalid Ahmed, Consultant Endocrinologist, University Hospital Waterford
- ~ Dr Lisa McAnena, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Michael Barrett, Head of Department Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin
- ~ Dr Min Yuen Teo, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Mr Muhammad Aakif, Consultant Surgeon, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Mr Muiyiwa Aremu, Consultant General Surgeon, Cavan Monaghan Hospital
- ~ Dr Nadeem Iqbal, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Neil Kelly, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Waterford
- ~ Dr Nikita Deegan, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Dr Noel Fitzpatrick, Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Mater Private Hospital
- ~ Dr Nonnie McNicholas, Consultant Clinical Neurophysiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Patrick Moloney, Consultant Neurologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

- ~ Dr Petar Popivanov, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital
- ~ Dr Ryan Howle, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Dr Sean Naughton, Consultant Psychiatrist, St John of God Community Services
- ~ Dr Shailendra Mishra, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Stephen McWilliams, Consultant Psychiatrist, St John of God Hospital
- ~ Dr Syafiq Ismail, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Physician, Cavan General Hospital
- ~ Dr Tushar Utekar, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar
- ~ Dr Ultan Healy, Consultant Endocrinologist, Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar
- ~ Mr Usman Muhammad Haroon, Consultant Urologist and Transplant Surgeon, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Dr Zulfiya Mamaeva, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar

#### Honorary Lecturer

- ~ Mr Christopher Whelan, Head of Discovery and Molecular Data Science, Johnson & Johnson
- ~ Professor Congcong Xu, Associate Professor, Soochow University
- ~ Dr Roger Bretherton, Coach and Trainer, Private Consultancy
- ~ Professor Shi Du, Associate Professor, Soochow University

#### Honorary Clinical Lecturer

- ~ Dr Aedín Collins, Consultant SI Neurodisability, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin
- ~ Dr Ben Murphy, Specialist Registrar, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin
- ~ Mr Christopher Brien, Physiotherapist, Cappagh Hospital
- ~ Mr Conor Cregan, Physiotherapist, Blackrock Clinic
- ~ Mr Darragh O'Donoghue, Senior Pharmacist, St John of God Hospital
- ~ Mr David Casey, Senior Physiotherapist, Ballymun Primary Care Centre
- ~ Ms Elaine McConkey, Specialist Physiotherapist, Central Remedial Clinic
- ~ Ms Emer O'Driscoll, Senior Physiotherapist, Galway University Hospital
- ~ Ms Esther O'Flaherty, Senior Respiratory Physiotherapist, Galway University Hospital
- ~ Ms Georgina Gilsenan, Senior Pharmacist, St John of God Hospital
- ~ Dr Gerard Browne, Clinical Research Fellow, Rotunda Hospital
- ~ Mr Ivan Clancy, Physiotherapy Manager, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Ms Kalpana Sivakumar, Senior Physiotherapist, Avista
- ~ Ms Lisa McGirr, Physiotherapy Manager, St Francis Hospice

- ~ Ms Louise Fitzsimons, Senior Pharmacist, Health Service Executive (HSE)
- ~ Ms Niamh O'Reilly, Deputy Physiotherapy Manager, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Ms Olaitan Jeremiah, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
- ~ Ms Roisin Reynolds, Senior Pharmacist, Peamont Healthcare
- ~ Dr Saied Ali, Specialist Registrar, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Mr Simon Galligan, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Beaumont Hospital
- ~ Ms Sinead Kiernan, Senior Physiotherapist, Clontarf Hospital
- ~ Ms Sinéad Regan, Physician Associate, Bon Secours Hospital
- ~ Dr Victoria Lunt, Principal Clinical Psychologist, Beaumont Hospital

## Appendix 4

#### Honorary Doctorates

- ~ Professor Mary Dixon-Woods, Health Foundation Professor of Healthcare Improvement Studies, Director of THIS Institute, University of Cambridge, UK
- ~ Dr Mohamed A El-Erian, President of Queens' College at Cambridge University, UK
- ~ Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor, former Minister of State for Higher Education; Mitchell O'Connor Consulting, Ireland
- ~ Professor Tim Spector, Professor of Epidemiology, King's College London; Scientific co-founder of ZOE, UK

#### Honorary Fellowships

- ~ Dr Clifford Y. Ko, Medical Director, Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care American College of Surgeons, Chicago, USA
- ~ Dr Michael T. Longaker, Deane P. and Louise Mitchell Professor and Vice Chair; Co-Director, Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Emeritus; Director, Program in Regenerative Medicine Emeritus; Professor, by Courtesy, of Bioengineering; Professor, by Courtesy, Department of Materials Science and Engineering Stanford University School of Medicine, California, USA
- ~ Professor David Nott OBE, FRCS, Professor of Practice (Surgery) Imperial College, London, UK
- ~ Professor Rowan Parks, President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), Scotland
- ~ Sr Orla Treacy, Director of the Loreto Mission in Rumbek, South Sudan



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