

forum 1991



This was the first editorial in the newly launched Forum in October 1991. Former college chairman, Garrett Hayes became medical editor and held the position for six years



John Cox and Paul Lacey featured in the first of the 'Faculty Focus' series which ran for three years. John Cox moved to Fethard-on-Sea soon after. Paul Lacey is still a CME tutor in Dun Laoghaire and now works from a purpose-built premises



Members of the 1991 college executive signing a publishing agreement with Geraldine Meagan and John Gibbons of MedMedia. This has been going strong for the past 18 years

forum 1992



Indicative drugs budgeting was a hot topic in 1992 and chairman, Michael Dunne explained the reservations that the college has about possible interference in clinical freedom



Andrew Rynne spoke frankly to John Gibbons about being terrorised and actually shot by a patient in his Kildare surgery brandishing a .22 rifle. The patient had had a vasectomy performed by Andrew



ICGP chief executive, Fionan O'Cuinneagain did an in-depth interview talking about his background and life before and after the ICGP, giving readers an idea of what makes him tick

forum 1993

Doctors in Dun Laoghaire carried out a fascinating consumer survey to see what patients thought of their GPs. The results were encouraging



A new general practice journal was in part driving a major interest in writing among GPs. A Medico-Media Weekend in Killarney featured both high profile medical and mainstream writers and attracted a large attendance



A comprehensive survey of general practice from 1982-1992 by Barry Oliver and Harry Comber was published. This showed how much general practice in Ireland had changed over the period.



forum 1994



Computerisation was taking hold in surgeries by 1994 and a family of early adopters were Eamonn Shanahan and his father Dick. Forum had a 'chairman's page' for several years, which offered the heads of various committees the chance to highlight their work. In this piece, Eamonn talked about what was coming down the line in general practice computerisation

A regular feature of Forum over the years has been extensive coverage of college AGMs and other meetings. This was a photographic compilation of the 1994 meeting



Things were drastically changing on the business side of running a practice. Practice audits were becoming commonplace and in this piece Dermot Folan explained how the Management in Practice service could help. He also offered some practical advice



forum 1995



Allegations of professional misconduct by a Cork doctor were the subject of major media coverage. Michael Coughlan, ICGP chairman at the time, tackled the issue in an editorial



In 1995, Forum introduced the 'Clinical review service' where GPs would read and comment on the latest peer-reviewed research. This has been a popular feature and is still part of the journal today



Rural general practice was very hard going. This was a time when the population was being depleted by emigration on the western seaboard and lists were badly affected. Also, working conditions were tough

forum 1996



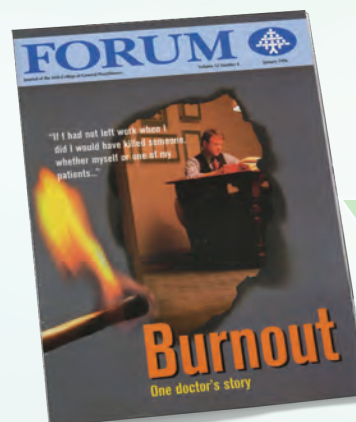
In this article Ursula O'Neill spoke candidly about her treatment for cancer and also the issues with insurance cover. Her article received a lot of feedback as colleagues empathised



In 1996, Martin Rouse and colleagues embarked on a major survey of general practice in order to profile an ever-changing profession. They urged GPs to participate



For the first time a GP became chairman of the Medical Council. Prof Gerry Bury, who took on this onerous task, talked about his role and the issues facing the profession as whole



In another brave article, one doctor wrote (anonymously) about the battle he fought to keep going when burnout sapped him of his energy and the will to continue in general practice. This was a common talking point at the time

forum 1997

The issue of breast cancer and HRT was high on the agenda in 1997 with major new studies which ultimately changed the way HRT was prescribed



Welcome aboard



Newly appointed medical editor, Leonard Condren pictured with John Gibbons and Geraldine Meagan, MedMedia. Leonard went on to set the national media agenda on many occasions with his thoughtful and original editorials



As budget day approached, Leonard Condren urged a more lenient approach to the elderly on the margins of GMS entitlement. It was some years later that all elderly people received medical cards



Women's health was becoming a major focus for the college. Ailis Ni Riain was appointed the first skills fellow and went on to spearhead many innovative projects



A time to look back, a time to move on

After six years (two three-year terms) as medical editor, Garrett Hayes bade farewell to Forum readers. It was a busy tenure and his editorials got to the heart of issues of the time



In what was to be the first of a series of articles, Austin O'Carroll wrote about the challenges of setting up in private practice in a new estate in the Dublin suburb of Donabate. However, within weeks he got a GMS list in Mountjoy Square and has worked there ever since developing a large inner city service

forum 1998



After several years of preparation, the Wonca Conference 1998 came to the RDS in Dublin. Forum covered the conference extensively and in addition, produced a newspaper, the Wonca Daily News each day of the conference. This was quite a feat, given the cumbersome technology of the day

In a general opinion article, Garrett Hayes highlighted what he saw as the shortcomings of the '50-50 cashback' drugs budgeting deal. This had been causing controversy for quite a while. He described it as "ethically unacceptable"



Some of the Wonca organising committee as the general practice world landed on the doorstep of the ICGP



There were events, functions and parties every night for nearly a week when Wonca came to town. Forum's own event was in the Harbourmaster Bar in the financial services centre, thankfully on the last night!



...and as if 1998 wasn't busy enough, the new ICGP headquarters were opened in Lincoln Place. This was a brand new building in the heart of Dublin that had been built from plans

More of Forum's coverage of the Wonca event...



forum 1998

Leonard Condren's cannabis editorial created waves nationally. This was a topic that was to run and run and Leonard is probably still being asked to comment on the issue many years later



The brand new ICGP headquarters was featured on this Forum cover. Having come from a few rooms in Corrigan House, this was a major upgrade to the office and a great morale booster as the college rapidly expanded

The cover of the Forum issue after Wonca. This captured the good spirit of the event, the hive of activity that was the RDS and the diversity of papers and presentations. It truly was a week to remember



forum 1999



Women's health skills fellow, Ailis Ni Riain, having had time to come to grips with her new role within the college, lays out her stall in 1999

More on computers. Forum regularly revisited the issue of computerisation as IT moved rapidly along



The thorny issue of 24-hour cover and tough on-call commitments was raising its head. A new concept was on the agenda and this was the idea of GP co-ops

forum 2000



This was the final piece from outgoing editor, Leonard Condren. He wondered why it was that sometimes GPs were not as outraged about various issues as one would expect



In 2000 as the economy improved, Ireland was moving towards full employment. Leonard Condren reported how many of his medical card patients now had jobs and as income increased, they no longer needed their GMS cards



You never think it could happen to you, but Mark Rowe shared his story about how his general practice premises burned down and how difficult it was to keep the practice going and make arrangements to rebuild

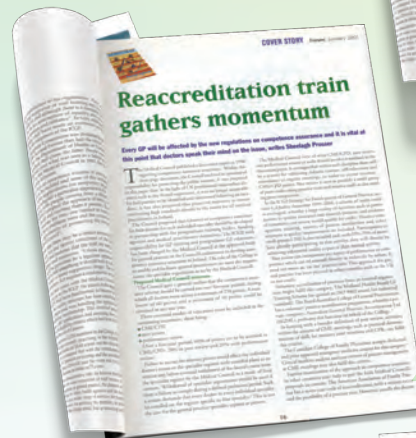
forum 2001



This cover was a compilation of our first 100 issues of Forum



A special celebration was held to mark 10 years of Forum and included the medical editors to that point; Garrett Hayes, Leonard Condren and Niall Maguire



Reaccreditation was firmly on the agenda in 2001. With general practice having become a specialty some years back, plans were being made for a formal reaccreditation process



General practice faced into a manpower crisis as difficulties were encountered filling certain posts around the country

forum 2002

As the profile of general practice changed and more group practices were being formed, there were many new ideas about how practices should be organised and housed



The development of the ICGP has always been underpinned by a strategic plan and in 2002, the latest five-year plan was unveiled



The late Deirdre Murphy who was ICGP president at the time, was interviewed about her view of what primary care should be. This was part of a series where Forum visited different types of general practices nationwide

forum 2003



In 2003, obesity started to raise its head as a major public health issue. It was at this point that it became a regular topic of clinical interest in Forum, as the gravity of the problem became clear



As the Health in Practice programme got underway, Andrée Rochfort wrote about the need to intervene when a colleague has a health problem, rather than looking the other way



Having fought for many years to have general practice recognised as a speciality, the college urged doctors to put themselves on the register of medical specialists

forum 2004



In 2004 non-smoking legislation was introduced, as Ireland led the way in Europe. The college had always taken an interest in smoking cessation - including with its STAG programme, and legislation was a boost in the efforts to stem smoking as a public health issue



As the debate on primary care centres continued, next to emerge was the idea of privately-funded primary care centres



The Network of Establishing GPs has become a major part of the ICGP in the last few years. In this article, Deirdre Burns was interviewed about the changing priorities for a newer generation of GPs.

forum 2005



This issue featured the primary care project in Virginia, Co Cavan. However, the development of the primary care strategy was not going well nationally and it was feared that the idea would be consigned to the dustbin of history

2005 saw the reorganisation of the health boards into the HSE. The question of the impact of this reform on general practice was explored



John Latham was appointed as medical editor. Philip Crowley, who had taken over after Niall Maguire, left the post prematurely to take up a new position in the Department of Health

forum 2006

A flu pandemic loomed large back in 2006 with bird flu concerns and this article explored the plans that Ireland had in place to deal with an outbreak



Analysis of the Heartwatch project results told a very encouraging story about the impact of good secondary care on patients. All areas of care were improved, apart from the difficult issue of obesity

forum 2007

The Network of Establishing GPs was gaining momentum and some of its leaders urged doctors in transition from training to work or those in the early stages of their career to join up



The roll-out of a national cervical screening programme was slow in coming despite the success of the a pilot project

forum 2008

In a new addition to continuing education delivery, the ICGP Summer School was establishing itself as an annual event. The week-long programme which offers a diverse range of topics has attracted excellent attendances



Manpower was on the agenda again. Despite general practice shortages looming for some years, general practice training schemes fell under the axe



forum 2009

In our 'Initiative' series, Dermot Folan highlighted the major strides that the Management in Practice programme has made over the years and the sophistication of its services



Rolande Anderson described the development of the college's long-standing alcohol programme and how it has helped GPs to tackle this age-old problem in their patients

