

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report

The Postgraduate Training Committee on behalf of Council considers applications for membership, it accredits specialist training schemes for general practice and promotes development in training and assessment in general practice. Sub-committees of PGTC deal with programme assessment and criteria, MICGP examination, GP training certification, Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Training and curriculum development.

Membership

Dr John Delap (Chairman)
Dr Marie B. Carmody- Morris
Mr Nick Fenlon
Mr Dermot Folan
Dr Michael Griffin
Dr Dermot Halpin
Dr Karena Hanley
Dr Velma Harkins
Dr Daniel Hinds
Dr Marie Hogan
Ms Maria Leahy

Dr Matt Lynch
Dr Donal McCafferty
Dr Marie McGrath
Dr Genevieve McGuire
Dr Shane McKeogh
Dr Darach O'Ciardha
Dr Pascal O'Dea
Dr Margaret O'Riordan
Dr Kevin Quinn
Dr Mary Sheehan

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

- ^ Training programmes at Donegal, RCSI, UCD/East Coast have been re-accredited. Visits due in 2007 include re-accreditation visits TCD, North East and a criterion visit to the Naas Satellite training programme.
- ^ Additional training places have been created to accommodate a total of 122 trainee GPs in 2007.
- ^ A National Steering Committee (interim) for GP Training has been established with participation of training Schemes, HSE, ICGP and the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board (whose role will be transferred to the HSE under the new Medical Practitioners Act).

Pictured at the 2006 MICGP Graduation in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham are: Dr Siobhan Anarah-Adoghe, Dr Ger O'Flaherty, Dr Maeve Teehan, Dr Dominic Rowley and Dr Dolores Liddy-McHugh



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES TO DATE

ICGP and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners have agreed to recognise each other's diplomas in application for membership. Our thanks are due to Mr Dermot Folan who has pursued this issue for some years. A core curriculum for GP training in Ireland has been developed by a sub-group under the chair of Dr Margaret O Riordan, National Director GP Training. This document which will also be available in an accessible electronic form outlines the learning outcomes that a GP in training should achieve to demonstrate competence. This document will be presented to members at the AGM in Galway.

FUTURE PLANS

Our target is for 150 training places each year. Members of the committee are currently investigating:

- ^ The validity of three or four month rotations in hospital training.
- ^ Linking training programmes with University MSc programmes.
- ^ Innovative routes to membership by doctors following irregular pathways to general practice.

Uncertainty remains over training programmes this year as trainers in all parts of the country have indicated that they will withdraw from training after July 2007, in the absence of progress on the trainer contract.

John Delap, Chair PGTC



SPECIALIST TRAINING IN GENERAL PRATICE

Report

The National Director of Specialist Training for General Practice has a role in supporting and assisting the main groups involved in Irish GP training namely the National Association of Programme Directors, the National Association of GP Trainers, the National Association of GP Trainees, staff and Steering Committees of GP Training Schemes, the ICGP Assessors Group and the MICGP Examiners Group.

National conferences are organised for GP trainers, GP trainees and GP training scheme administrators. Liaison with external regional, national and international organisations involved or concerned with training for general practice is also undertaken.

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

Major Developments

- ^ Establishment of new East Galway/ West Midlands GP training programme based in Ballinasloe. Currently acting as programme director and chair of interim local steering committee. Establishment of training structures including hospital posts, recruitment of trainees and programme director, sourcing of offices and teaching facilities.
- ^ Core curriculum for Irish GP training to be launched at ICGP AGM May 2007 in both electronic and paper format. (For further information see Curriculum Sub-committee report.)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A. Courses/Conferences

- ^ Participation in National Association of Programme Directors (NAPD) meeting March 2007 and NAPD executive meetings.
- ^ Organisation of and participation in:
 - New curriculum road-show delivered in twelve training programmes.
 - National GP Trainers Workshop, February 2007.
 - National Association of General Practice Trainees (NAGPT) Conference, October 2006.
 - New GP Trainers Workshop, November 2006.
 - National Association of Programme Administrators (NAPA) Workshops, October 2006 and April 2007.
 - Communications Skills Course for Specialist Registrars in Radiology, autumn 2006.

***GP Trainers at the GP Trainers
Workshop in February 2007***



B. Committees

- ^ Chair ICGP Curriculum Development Committee.
- ^ Chair ICGP Quality in Practice Committee.
- ^ Member of the ICGP Postgraduate Training Committee.
- ^ Member of the ICGP Education Committee.

- ^ Member of the NAPD Executive Committee.
- ^ Member of Interim National Steering Committee for GP Training.
- ^ Member National Committee for Medical Education and Training.
- ^ Member Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board (and Finance subcommittee).
- ^ Member of National Implementation Group for the European Working time Directive.
- ^ Member of the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education.
- ^ Member General Professional Training Committee Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.
- ^ Extern to the Malta College of Family Doctors Specialist Training Programme in Family Medicine.

C. Research/Publications

- ^ O’Riordan M, Mulrooney A. *Challenges Facing General Practice – are they being met by GP Training?* Education in Primary Care January 2007.
- ^ O’Riordan M, Dahinden A. “*Dealing with Uncertainty – a core competency for General Practice.*” Submitted for publication to peer review journal.
- ^ O’Riordan M, Skelton J, de la Croix A. *Heartlift Patients? An interview based study of GP Trainers and the impact of “patients they like.”* Submitted for publication to peer review journal.
- ^ Fenlon N, Regan A, O’Riordan M. *Update on Teaching Skills – a practical approach for Consultant Teachers.* Teaching pack launched at NAPD meeting October 2006.
- ^ O’Riordan M. “*Quality Development in Irish General Practice*” – module for ICGP Distance Learning Programme on Practice Management 2007.
- ^ Member of Delphi panel for ESRI study “*National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland*” ongoing study.
- ^ Contributor to various ICGP policy papers including the response to the new Medical Practitioners Bill.

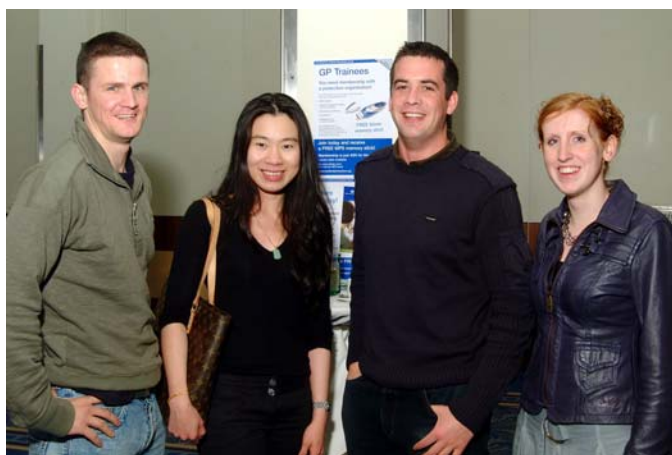
D. Presentations

- ^ Medical Humanities Conference, London September 2006, “Heartlift Patients - sources of joy in general practice”.
- ^ EQuIP Invitational Conference, Barcelona November 2006, Workshop on “Dealing with Uncertainty”.
- ^ Keynote Presentation ICGP Winter Meeting, November 2006, “The Future of General Practice Postgraduate Education and Training”.
- ^ Presentation at AUDGPI/ICGP Educational Capacity in Irish General Practice Conference, December 2006, “Postgraduate Teaching Capacity in General Practice”.
- ^ Workshops with East Coast/UCD training programme on “Teamwork in General Practice” (November 2006) and “Dealing with Uncertainty” (March 2007).

E. Liaison

Liaison activities with the Department of Health and Children, the HSE, Postgraduate Medical Training bodies, the Medical Council and international general practice training bodies.

Dr Johnny Ryan, Dr Ui May Tan, Dr John Geraghty, Dr Melissa Gibney at the National Association of GP Trainees held in October 2006.



FUTURE PLANS

Expansion of the GP training schemes continues apace. The annual trainee intake increased to 121 this year. This was due to an increase in training places in established training programmes and the development of a new programme in East Galway/West Midlands. There will be a need for further new training schemes as numbers continue to rise. The ICGP is negotiating with the HSE with a view to increasing the intake to one hundred and fifty on an annual basis. The advent of the core curriculum in both print and electronic format is a welcome development and bodes well for the future.

Dr Margaret O’Riordan, National Director of Specialist Training

www.icgp.ie/gptraining



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Report

The ICGP Curriculum Development Committee has been working on a core curriculum for Irish GP training over that past three years. Initially the committee focused on modifying the European definition of general practice (EURACT 2002) to meet the needs of Irish general practice and the final version was launched at the 2004 ICGP AGM. Initial drafts of the core curriculum were distributed and useful feedback obtained at both national and local level. The curriculum in both print and electronic format will be launched at the ICGP AGM May 2007.

Committee Members

Dr Peter Cantillon, Dr Gerry Cummins, Mr Nick Fenlon, Dr Fiona Graham, Dr David Hannon, Dr Ursula Keegan, Dr Gerard Kidney, Dr Darach O’Ciardha, Mr Fionan O’Cuinneagain and Dr Paddy Ryan.

Curriculum Development Fellow

Ms Maria Leahy.

Extern

Ms Mairead Boohan Queens University Belfast.

STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES TO DATE

- ^ Definition of Irish General Practice launched at ICGP AGM 2004.
- ^ Learning outcomes for definition and associated core competencies agreed 2005.
- ^ Learning outcomes for Consultation Skills, Emergency Medicine, Dermatology, Ear, Nose & Throat, General Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Palliative Care, Practice Management, Psychiatry, Rheumatology and Sexual Health finalised 2005- 2007.
- ^ National consultative forums held with representatives of all stakeholders in Irish GP training in both 2005 and 2006.
- ^ Twelve training programmes visited and feedback obtained 2006-2007.
- ^ Presentations at the national meeting of GP trainers and programme directors 2007.
- ^ Development of interactive electronic version of the curriculum 2007.

FUTURE PLANS

The curriculum in both print and electronic format will be launched at the ICGP AGM May 2007. Piloting of the curriculum will take place with incoming first year GP trainees in July 2007. Modification of the curriculum will be made on an ongoing basis as feedback is obtained from users.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Ms Martina McDonnell ICGP provides invaluable administrative support to the Committee.

Dr Margaret O’Riordan, Chairperson