

# Postgraduate Training Committee

**AUTHOR | DR MATT LYNCH, CHAIR**

## ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Postgraduate Training Committee, on behalf of Council, considers applications for membership, accredits specialist training programmes for general practice, and promotes development in training and assessment in general practice. Sub-committees of PGTC deal with GP Training Programme Assessment, MICGP Examination, Examination Appeals, GP Training Certification, Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Training and Curriculum Development. The full Committee meets three times per year and a newsletter is produced for wide circulation after each meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE PGTC

<b>Dr Matt Lynch, Chair</b>	<b>Dr Genny McGuire, Chair Assessors Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Dr Kevin Quinn, Chair Exam Sub-Committee</b>
Dr Ursula Keegan, Chair Curriculum Development Sub-Committee	Dr Ciara McMeel, Chair, Certification Sub-Committee	Dr Kieran McGlade, Exam Development Committee
Dr Margaret O’Riordan, National Director Specialist Training	Mr Dermot Folan, Assistant CEO, ICGP	Mr Fionan O’Cinneagain, CEO, ICGP
Dr Velma Harkins, NATIGP	Dr Susan McLaughlin, NAGPT	Dr Chris Ryan, Trainee, NAGPT
Ms Maria Leahy, Assessors	Dr Michael Griffin, CSCT	Dr Molly Owens, MICGP
Dr Marie Carmody–Morris, ICGP Council	Dr Thomas Foley, ICGP Council	Dr David Hurley, ICGP Council
Dr Donal McCafferty, ICGP Council	Prof Fergus O’Kelly, ICGP Council	

## ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST YEAR

- The Western and Sligo GP Specialist Training Programmes were both visited. Both received full accreditation for 5 years.
- The Mid-Western and South Eastern GP Specialist Training Programmes will be visited in the current year. The Assessors continue to develop the process of programme assessment and a

tailored visit is being piloted. This process involved the Mid-Western and South Eastern Programmes presenting their Programme Directors report to the Assessors Group thus highlighting any issues prior to the visit and 'tailoring' the visit to focus on specific areas.

- The implementation of the revised Criteria for Postgraduate Training document for the reaccreditation of GP training programmes is being temporarily deferred while discussions with HSE-METR continue relating to the expansion and configuration of GP training.
- The Core Curriculum on [www.icgp.ie](http://www.icgp.ie) was enhanced by the addition of a day to day user format.
- There were 124 members elected to the College during the last year. 76 of these were elected by examination and 46 through membership by equivalent qualifications. The majority of these equivalent qualifications applications (33) are from those with UK qualifications, (6) by mutual recognition with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, (3) Hungary, (3) Poland, (1) Romania.
- The College has begun a process of liaison with the Canadian College of Family Physicians on matters of mutual interest and continues ongoing communication with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.
- The Certification Committee continue to highlight the need for a practice based assessment model (or alternative) for general practitioners who have considerable GP experience who are presently not eligible for specialist registration, certification under EU Directives or membership of the College.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES TO-DATE

- The number of places on GP Specialist Training Programmes for trainees commencing in July 2010 was increased by 30% to 157. This is a significant and welcome development.
- The General Specialist Training Agreement and Appeals procedure is in place for trainees commencing in July 2010.
- The MICGP examination continues to evolve under the guidance of the Exam Development Committee. This year the MCQ element is a mixture of true/false and single best answer questions. Over the next two years single best answer questions will replace the true/false option. The remaining exam modules will also be included in the development and a clinical skills element is due to replace the oral exam in due course.
- An online orientation programme will be made available to candidates from autumn 2010.
- The MICGP examination is mapped to the Core Curriculum.

## THE FUTURE

The Medical Practitioners Act 2007 has changed significantly the relationship between the HSE, the Medical Council and the ICGP, as the recognised Training Body for the Specialty of General Practice. This Committee and the College faces significant challenges in the future regarding developments in GP Training. However, it is very well placed to face those challenges.

The need for a system to include those who have been outside formal training, but yet are inside general practice is urgently required. The HSE have indicated a willingness to engage in discussions on this important matter.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES

Martina McDonnell continues to provide excellent support. Thanks are due to all Committee members, especially Sub-committee chairs for their work during the past year. Thanks also to John Delap, who stepped down as Chair after serving a full term.

# Specialist Training in General Practice

**AUTHOR | DR MARGARET O'RIORDAN,  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF SPECIALIST TRAINING  
IN GENERAL PRACTICE**



## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

The National Director of Specialist Training in General Practice occupies a senior strategic and operational role with overall responsibility for the delivery and standards of GP training in the ICGP. Leadership and co-ordination of all activities related to GP training at both an operational and strategic level is pivotal to this position.

The National Director of Specialist Training in General Practice supports and advises the main stakeholders involved in Irish GP training namely the National Association of Programme Directors (NAPD), the National Association of GP Trainers (NATGP), the National Association of GP Trainees (NAGPT), the staff and steering committees of GP training schemes, the ICGP Assessors group and the MICGP examiners. National conferences are organised for existing and new GP trainers and for GP trainees. Liaison with external regional, national and international groups involved with training for general practice is also undertaken.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

A joint strategic review of GP training group between the ICGP and HSE was established in 2009. The HSE representatives are drawn from the Medical Education and Training (MET) unit and the National Primary Care services. The aim of the group was to increase GP training places in line with government policy and recommendations of recent reports such as the ESRI and the FAS healthcare workforce plan. Reconfiguration of existing training programmes in line with the four HSE regions is also under discussion. It has been agreed that GP training places will increase by 30% from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, from the current 120 GP training places to 157 annually. This expansion will underpin and enable the continued development of general practice and primary care services. The increase in GP training places represents the culmination of hard work and commitment of GP Training Programme Directors and the ICGP over many years. The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has also been extremely supportive of the recent expansion in training places.

A GP Training Agreement reflecting the educational requirements that must be met during the GP Training Programme (and signed in addition to the service contract) has been developed. Several drafts of the document have been reviewed by the Postgraduate Training Committee and it will be issued shortly to GP Training Programmes for implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

The implementation of the Medical Practitioners Bill 2007 and the subsequent development of the trainee register by the Medical Council created an additional workload for ICGP and GP Training Programmes. An extensive database was developed reflecting all aspects of each training post. This database will be updated regularly and relevant information will be relayed to the HSE and Medical Council as required.

The Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training bodies represent all of the postgraduate medical training bodies including the ICGP. It is actively engaged on a number of issues related to training with the HSE, Department of Health and Children and the Medical Council. This includes the development of a framework for all training bodies to deliver training on behalf of the HSE. The framework will address the essential components of a service level agreement which will be modified to reflect specific needs of individual training bodies.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to participation in the ICGP National Advisory group on the response to H1N1 influenza outbreak.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- The expansion of GP training places from 120 to 157 commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- The development of a GP Training Agreement which will be issued in addition to the service contract to GP trainees commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- The development of a central database of all GP training posts.
- Active participation and representation of General Practice at the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.
- Forum representative to the national HSE MET advisory group.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### Courses/Conferences

- Participation in NAPD meetings in March 2010 and October 2010.
- Organisation of and participation in:
  - NAGPT Workshop October 2009.
  - NATGP Workshop February 2010.

### Committees

- Member ICGP Postgraduate Training Committee.
- Member ICGP Curriculum Development Committee.

- Member MICGP Examination Development Committee.
- Member ICGP Education Committee.
- Member ICGP Quality in Practice Committee.
- Member ICGP Finance Committee.
- Member of Advisory Committee ICGP Quality Indictors Project.
- Member NAPD Executive Committee.
- Member of the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies.
- Forum representatives to the national HSE MET advisory group.
- Forum representative to joint Medical Council and Forum group on standards and accreditation of training bodies.
- Member National Medical and Education Committee (and Postgraduate Training Subcommittee).
- Member joint ICGP-Irish College of Psychiatry Working Group (and chair of the Depression Subgroup).
- Member Clinical Adverse Incident Review Team, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda.
- Member National H1N1 Influenza Advisory Committee.

## **Presentations**

- Workshop “ICGP/Aviva Quality Award Finalists” ICGP AGM Galway May 2009.
- Presentation to GP Registrars ICGP Practice Management course “The GP and the Health Service” September 2009.
- Presentation on H1N1 to ICGP members in Carlow and Nenagh October 2009.
- Presentation to National GP Trainers Workshop (in conjunction with Dr Tony Lee and Ms Angela Byrne ICGP) on “Making the curriculum work for you” February 2010.

## **Liaison**

Advice and support to individual training programmes as required e.g. participation in interview panels. Liaison with the HSE, Department of Health and Children, HIQA, National Cancer Control Programme, Postgraduate Medical Training bodies, the Medical Council and the IMO.

## FUTURE PLANS

While the recent expansion in GP training places is welcome there are two groups of doctors whose needs have not been met by these developments.

- Irish GP Training Programmes currently entail four year training – with two years in designated hospital posts and two years in general practice. There are many recent graduates who have completed several hospital posts of relevance to GP training prior to applying for a training programme. Phase two training is a new model of fast track training which ICGP has supported for a number of years but we have not been able to get financial support from the HSE to date. An application for funding has been submitted to HSE and continued efforts will be made in order to establish a pilot project in this area.
- Another group of doctors have been working in general practice in Ireland for a number of years. They may have all the appropriate hospital training but may never have done a GP registrar year for example (all their circumstances are different). Therefore they are not eligible for the specialist register or the GMS. The ICGP would like to develop a model of practice assessment in order to help these doctors gain access to the register. This would be on a time limited basis and the number of doctors involved would be relatively small. Application for funding to develop this proposal has been submitted to the HSE.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Ms Pauline Tierney and Ms Niamh Killeen provide comprehensive high quality administrative support. Ms Aine O'Brien (who has recently left ICCP) was instrumental in the development of an extensive database covering all GP Training posts in 2009.