

# Reeling in the years

## ICGP milestones

1971

- Vocational Training Scheme Galway established

1972

- Vocational Training Scheme Cork established

1975

- Vocational Training Scheme Dublin established

1981

- Vocational Training Scheme Donegal established
- Dr Michael Boland presents paper to the Institute of General Practice outlining need for separate Irish College of General Practitioners
- Pilot study small group learning

1982

- Vocational Training Scheme Sligo established

1984

- ICGP Established

1985

- Establishment of 34 faculties nationwide. Fostering an “Esprit de Corps” amongst General Practitioners. Providing educational opportunities at local Faculty level.

1986

- Appointment of Fionán Ó’Cuinneagáin (Chief Executive) as ICGP secretary
- Appointment of a National Director of Continuing Medical Education (CME) (Dr Michael Boland)

1987

- Expansion of CME Schemes

1988

- The first full sitting of the MICGP examination
- Recognition of general practice as a specialty
- Establishment of first Department of General Practice in RCSI
- Publication of policy document ‘The future organisation of general practice in Ireland’ (ie. the Blue Book)

1989

- “Medsar” Programme for Practice Secretaries and Receptionists
- Establishment of the Research and Education Foundation. Which provided the seed funding for many of the service, educational and research developments since then. This included the Management in Practice Programme which has expanded to provide an extensive range of services including information, consultancy and training. The Health in Practice Programme, Women’s Health Programme, Courses in Immediate Care, Litigation, Minor Surgery etc and more recently the range of E-Learning courses, specific conferences and the Annual Summer School have all benefitted from the R&E Foundation.
- Appointment of Director of Management in Practice (Dermot Folan)

1990

- The ICGP becomes the first Postgraduate Educational Institution to be granted Covenant Status for both Research and Education, by the Revenue Commissioners.
- A major breakthrough was the adoption of the ‘Blue Print’ for the development of General Practice agreed between the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Organisation.

1991

- Expansion of Vocational Training Schemes
- Expansion of Departments of General Practice to UCD
- Publication of 5 and 10 year development programme for general practice and the College. The first Strategic Plan ‘The Next Decade’ – focused on Education and Research strategies and the establishment of the Management in Practice Programme.
- Launch of Practice Management and Organisation Programme ‘General practice – A business enterprise’
- First of a series of Clinical Guidelines published

1992

- Appointment of first ‘Research Fellow’
- Establishment of a Communications Strategy and resource
- Appointment of the first Regional Research Adviser
- Recognition of MICGP qualification by General Medical Council (London)
- Approval by Medical Council of National Promotional Programme for GP services and in-practice information
- Establishment of two new Faculties
- Successful bid to host WONCA World Conference in Dublin in 1998
- Expansion of CME Tutor Network to 23
- GMS review

1993

- Expansion of CME Tutor Network to 28
- Expansion of Directors of Vocational Training to 10
- Proposal for a statutory National Council for General Practice promulgated
- Expansion of Departments of General Practice to TCD
- Appointment of two Additional Research Advisers
- Establishment of Conference of Teachers in General Practice
- Initiation of the Quality in Practice Programme

**1994**

- The publication in 1994 of the Health Strategy “Shaping a healthier future” by the government placed a particular emphasis on primary care and general practice. Government decision to establish National Council for General Practice
- College celebrates its 10th anniversary
- Launch of skills courses, including palliative care course

**1995**

- Expansion of the Management in Practice advisory service and training courses

**1996**

- Establishment of the Postgraduate Resource Centre for General Practice
- First asthma courses for practice nurses
- Establishment of chairs of general practice in UCG and UCC

**1997**

- Appointment of professors in general practice in UCG and UCC
- Appointment of the Director of the Postgraduate Centre (Dr Michael Boland)
- Establishment of the Postgraduate Resource Centre in 1997 moved the Education/Research agenda to another level and provided for a greater degree of co-ordination between all of the interests involved in General Practice Education, Training and Research.
- Launch of Client Focused Evaluation Programme (CFEP), a joint venture between ICGP and CFEP Brisbane, Australia assisting GPs in receiving systematic patient feedback
- Commencement of Specialist Registration
- ‘National Survey of General Practice 1997 published

**1998**

- Purchase of and relocation to a new purpose-designed building at 4-5 Lincoln Place, which houses the College headquarters and the Postgraduate Resource Centre
- WONCA '98 – ICGP hosts 15th World Conference for General Practice in the RDS in June, attended by 4,000 GP delegates and 1,500 accompanying people, representing 82 countries
- Appointment of new QIP Director (Dr Margaret O’Riordan)
- Appointment of Director of Women’s Health (Dr Ailis Ni Riain)
- Appointment of two National Computerisation Project Leaders (Dr Brian Meade and Dr Donal Buckley)
- Appointment of five computerisation tutors on a pilot basis

**1999**

- Appointment of ICGP librarian (Gillian Doran)
- College publishes 2nd Strategic Plan covering the period 1999-2004 with particular emphasis given to GP manpower, competence assurance and universal patient registration and healthcare reform.

**2000**

- Appointment of Director Health in Practice Programme (Dr Andree Rochfort)
- Appointment of National Director GP Training (Dr Margaret O’Riordan)

**2001**

- Publication of ‘Vision of general practice’, joint ICGP/IMO document for 2001-2006. Primary care – a new direction. Quality and fairness – A health system for all.

**2003**

- ICGP strategy for research 2003-2008 published.
- Appointment of Director of Distance Learning (now known as e-Learning), (Nick Fenlon)
- Heartwatch was established in conjunction with the ICGP, the DoHC, the health boards/HSE and the Irish Heart Foundation

**2004**

- Strategy document 'The future is in your hands' published, dealing with the period 2004-2008, focusing on the primary care strategy and the definition of general practice, college structures and membership participation.
- Appointment of communications/web manager (Angela Byrne)
- Appointment of Director of Research (Dr Claire Collins)
- Network of Establishing GPs established

**2005**

- ICGP adopts the 'European Definition of General Practice' modified to meet the Irish context

**2007**

- A Core Curriculum for Irish GP training published

**2008**

- Appointment of Director of Professional Competence and Partnership with Patients (Dr Ailís Ni Riain)
- The Strategic Plan 2008-2013 published. The priorities for 2008/2009 included: Primary Care Strategy and the GP contract, partnership with patients, Interaction with members and other GPs, and Internal alignment of ICGP resources.

### GENERAL

The College has established 38 Faculties throughout the country and there are approximately 130 small groups (10-12 general practitioners) meeting on a monthly basis under the direction of a National Director and Assistant Director and CME Tutors of whom there are now 37. Over the years the level of local demand on GPs has grown enormously with particular emphasis on the roll-out of GP co-ops and healthcare reform.

At international level the college is actively involved with WONCA World and European Councils, European Quality in Practice Group (EQUIP), European GP Research Network (EGPRN), European Prevention Network, European Academy of Teachers (EURACT) and UEMO.

Over the years the college has published over 200 publications relating to clinical matters, education, training, management and services and publishes a monthly journal Forum, Journal of the ICGP.