

Education Committee

AUTHOR | DR MARY FAVIER, EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chairing the Education Committee for a fourth year has again been a busy and interesting undertaking. In these challenging financial times the educational activity of the College has managed to continue with enthusiasm and commitment and is a credit to the hard work of all those involved in the delivery of education in the College – all doing more with significantly less resources.

The Education Committee has a number of sub-committees reporting to it. One of the most significant and topical is the Professional Competence Committee chaired by Dr Mary Sheehan. Professional competence is becoming a reality and May 1st 2011 is the start date. After a lengthy and detailed application process the ICGP has recently been accepted as an accredited body authorised by the Medical Council to administrate professional competence requirements for its members and those on the specialist register for general practice. The sub-committee has been very busy with detailed preparations for the structures needed to support and resource this new statutory obligation for its members. The College will communicate in greater detail with members re requirements when these are made clear by the Medical Council nearer the start date.

In spite of the current real financial challenges to Irish general practice, course activity has been maintained and numbers participating continue to increase year on year. The Summer School has consolidated its success and attracts an audience that is encouragingly diverse. Last year's inaugural research and audit day was a success and will be continued this year. With professional competence there will need to be an increased focus on audit in general practice and all educational materials produced by the College will reflect this as well as general professional competence requirements. Nick Fenlon continues to head a strong e learning unit. He, with Aisling Lavelle, has been working on achieving HETAC accreditation for College courses and this application process is in the last of four stages.

One college programme that has had to wind up is the Alcohol Awareness programme headed by Rolande Anderson. This wide-ranging and important programme has had its external funding cut. Rolande has undertaken excellent work in raising awareness in this area and his further contribution to the College and the subject would be welcomed in the future.

The Quality in Practice Sub-committee chaired by Sheila Rochford also reports to the Education Committee. The impact documents they produce have been renamed 'quick reference guides' and their prominence on the College website has been raised recognising their importance in setting standards for Irish general practice. The annual Aviva sponsored Quality in Practice Award is highly contested and awarded at the AGM each year. The finalists display significant innovation and imagination in realising high standards in their general practice work. All GPs, practice nurses, administration staff and anyone who works in Irish general practice is encouraged to enter.



Continuing Medical Education groups continue to increase in number and activity year on year, and remain central to GP continuing education. Unfortunately the current HSE embargo on recruitment has left one CME tutor post unfilled in recent months. The critical importance to GP education of small group peer led learning is well recognised and must be protected.

The role of the Education Committee has changed over the more than twenty-five years it has been in existence however its structure has not. At the twice yearly meetings it has become apparent over time that the structure of the Committee did not fully serve its intended purpose - that is to provide a broad oversight of educational activity of the College both in terms of content, quality and assurance. Committee meetings were largely taken up with reporting from the many College projects and the structure did not facilitate reflection and planning. Following lengthy discussion about what would best serve the needs of the College and its members in the future, it was decided to recommend first to College Council and then the AGM that the structure of the Committee be changed and two education-focused committees be formed. The first to be termed the Education Governance Committee, the second titled the Quality and Standards Committee. The changes reflect other recent changes to reporting structures in the College with the creation of the two posts of Quality and Standards Officer and Chief Operating Officer.

The proposed new structures and their terms of reference are detailed below:

EDUCATION GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- Oversight, validation and review of existing education programmes.
- Analysing need, and planning for new educational programmes and activities.
- Overseeing of assessment where relevant, including appointment of External Examiner.
- Provision of end-point certification for courses (including those that do not lead to named awards).
- Decision making in learner grievance/disciplinary proceedings/appeals process.
- Collaboration and partnership with external organisations & bodies including academic departments of general practice.
- To recommend to the Foundation Projects Committee, for their decision and recommendation, worthwhile educational programmes.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- Oversight of the Professional Competence Schemes as accredited by the Medical Council.
 - Oversight of the work of the Quality in Practice Committee.
 - Comprehensive quality assurance of all educational programmes provided by the College including evaluation and periodic internal audits of all educational programmes and activity including the results of external audit of educational activities where relevant.
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Each committee will have a minimum of five members including an extern. The chair of each committee must be a Council member and will, ex-officio, sit on the ICGP Executive. It is expected that the two new committees will significantly enhance the educational role of the College which is central to its activities.

Feedback from members on any aspect of the education agenda is welcomed and is encouraged.

Quality in Practice Subcommittee

AUTHOR | DR SHEILA ROCHFORD, QIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Dr Ben Parmeter, Dr Jason McMahon, Dr Ray O'Connor, Dr Andree Rochford, Dr Sarah Carty, Dr Phillip Purcell Sheeran, Mr Dermot Folan

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Ms Pauline Tierney of the ICGP has provided administrative support to the Quality in Practice Committee for the past year.

SUMMARY

The ICGP Quality in Practice Committee which is a subcommittee of the Education Committee was established in 2004. It produces impact documents and guidelines on clinical and non-clinical areas on topics of relevance to general practice in Ireland. In many instances these documents are produced in conjunction with outside bodies. The Quality in Practice Committee also supervises the competition for the annual ICGP Quality Improvement Award. In addition the Committee also looks at requests for the use of the ICGP logo in publications by external agencies.

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

- Chair of Committee: Dr Sheila Rochford has fulfilled this role for the past year.
 - Project Officer: Dr Anna Cunney resigned as Project Officer in early January 2011. The post has been advertised with closing date for receipt of applications March 18th 2011. Interviews will be held shortly after this date. The post provides for 2 sessions per week to support the chair of the committee in view of the increasing workload.
 - National Cancer Control Programme Documents: Consultation was sought with the Quality in Practice Committee in relation to the development of referral guidelines for the management of patients with skin cancer, ovarian cancer, breast pain and long-term follow-up of patient with breast cancer.
 - Osteoporosis Management: An impact document on the management of osteoporosis is being developed by Dr Melissa Canny. This document is being produced in conjunction with the HSE and is nearing completion.
 - Perinatal Depression: Ms Rosemary O'Callaghan of the HSE Health Promotion Unit is in the process of developing a Quick Reference Guide on perinatal depression. The focus of the document is to
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raise awareness of perinatal depression and to give primary care staff practical guidance on management of same.

- Young People and Mental Health: Dr Blanaid Gavin of the Lucena Clinic along with Professor Fiona McNicholas and Professor Walter Cullen are in the process of developing a Quick Reference Guide on the diagnosis and management of mental health problems in young people.
- Infanrix Administration Protocol: This HSE document is intended to be used by practices so that practice nurses can safely administer the Infanrix Hexa vaccine without the specific prescription of the GP in individual cases. Feedback was sought from the committee on its content.
- MMR Administration Protocol: This HSE document is intended to be used by practices so that practice nurses can safely administer the MMR vaccine without the specific prescription of the GP in individual cases. Feedback was sought from the committee on its content.
- Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: A first draft of these guidelines has been produced and feedback from relevant stakeholders is now being sought.
- Evaluation Project: Ms Maria Leahy has undertaken an evaluation project on the use of impact documents by primary care staff. A questionnaire was conducted with a 28% response rates. Responders were generally aware of the existence of ICGP guidelines but recommendations were made to increase uptake of same.
- Disclaimer: Following discussions and feedback from users of the guidelines the committee have agreed a further addition to the Disclaimer on all documents indicating that the recommendations relate to best practice and recognise that resources available can impede delivery of care.

MILESTONES/DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

- Early Psychosis Diagnosis and Management from a GP Perspective: A Quick reference Guide on this topic was published on the website in January 2011.
 - GP Guideline on Managing Cardiac Risk Assessment for People less than 35 Years Involved in Sport and Exercise: An algorithm to assist GPs was published on the website in February 2011.
 - Drugs and Doping in Sport: A revised 2010 version of the Drugs and Doping in Sport was produced in conjunction with Dr Aidan O'Colmain and published on the ICGP website in July.
 - Weight Management Treatment Algorithm was produced in conjunction with HSE and published on the website in July 2010 along with links to supporting documentation.
 - Improving Access: The ICGP website has been updated by Ms Angela Byrne to make it easier to locate documents. The name of Impact documents has been changed to Quick Reference Guides and there is now open access to these documents on the web site.
 - Quality Improvement Award: The annual ICGP Quality Improvement Award will be sponsored by Aviva and will be presented at the ICGP AGM in May 2011.
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FUTURE PLANS.

- **Chronic Disease:** Documents produced for the management of chronic disease will be reviewed by the committee as they are produced.
 - **Dementia Care:** A project is underway to develop a quick reference guide to aid GPs on all aspects of care of patients with dementia. This is being supported by the Alzheimer's society.
 - **Algorithms:** It has been proposed that the Quality in Practice Committee develop algorithms for the impact documents produced with a view to having them incorporated into practice software packages. This is proposed with a view to making the impact documents more readily useable in the GP surgery.
 - **Raising Awareness of Material Produced by Committee:** Forum will publish a summary from one of the Quick Reference Guides each month, starting in the March 2011 issue.
 - **Improving Implementation of Material Produced:** Two slots have been secured in the next Summer School for recently produced guidelines on psychosis and cardiac risk assessment. Dr Finnegan is to be contacted in relation to bringing guidelines to attention of CME tutor network and Mr Nicholas Fenlon has been contacted in relation to the development of modules for e-learning based on material in Quick Reference Guides.
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European Association for Quality Improvement in General Practice (EQuIP)



**AUTHOR | DR ANDRÉE ROCHFORT, IRISH DELEGATE
EQUIP IS A WONCA EUROPE NETWORK ORGANISATION**

PROJECT DIRECTOR

All European Countries may send up to two delegates per country to be members of EQuIP. Members must represent their National Colleges of General Practice, and be clinicians, academic GPs, or researchers in GP. The current Irish delegate is Dr Andrée Rochfort, who attended her first EQuIP meeting in 2007. She was elected Honorary Secretary of EQuIP at the EQuIP meeting in May 2010.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The aim of EQuIP is to contribute to the achievement of high levels of quality of care for patients in general practice in all European countries, by providing a structure for collaboration and exchange of expertise and methodology and by initiating projects on development and evaluation with regard to Quality Improvement (QI). Members of EQuIP base their work on quality improvement as being a professional responsibility; a continuous process; covering all aspects of patient care; an integrated part of medical education; a routine part of daily practice; patient centred; enhancing the appropriate use of medical services and resources; and acknowledging the specific strategies of general practice.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES/TASKS

EQuIP has active working groups in the following areas: Teaching Quality Improvement (QI); Tools and Methods in QI; Research in QI; Professional Health in QI; Quality indicators. I am active in the Professional Health Working Group and the Teaching Quality Working Group.

PROJECT MILESTONES/DELIVERABLES

EQuIP working groups deliver twice yearly reports on their outputs, two summaries:

Current Activities of Professional Health Working Group

Aims:

To promote quality improvement in DOCTORS HEALTH & HEALTHCARE.

Activities:

Issue EQuIP policy statement on Doctors Health –translate into European languages for maximum impact, and circulate to European Colleges of General Practice/Family Medicine.

Publication – To include 2006 Survey and an online 2011 follow up survey, the proceedings of Wonca Europe 2009 workshop and the agreed 2011 EQuIP Policy Statement.

Medical Education: We plan to increase awareness of the importance of addressing doctors' health and healthcare through producing an educational package to be distributed to the Colleges of General Practice in Europe.

Future Plans:

Wonca Europe Warsaw 2011: Doctors' Healthcare: Improving the Quality of Healthcare Provision for Doctors by Doctors. (Dr Andrée Rochfort, Irish College of General Practitioners & Dr Beata Modlinska, Polish College of General Practitioners).

Current Activities of Teaching Quality Improvement Working Group

Aims:

- A Curriculum on Teaching Quality (EQuIP position paper).
- Inventory of Teaching Quality 'Tools and Methods'.
- Analysis of the Current Situation in Europe.
- A European Summer School on Quality Improvement.

Activities:

- Summer School 2011 Ghent.
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- Copenhagen Equip open conference: workshops on Teaching the quality cycle and Competence based education of QI with Leonardo da Vinci project (InGPinQI).

Literature analysis:

- Results of the European electronic survey of QI activities.
- Recommendations on teaching quality improvement in CME.

Future plans:

- Summer school on quality improvement research – Ghent August 2011.
- Publishing results of the European survey as EQuIP Statement.
- Discuss recommendations with Equip, Euract and Vasco da Gama.
- Find and show good QI practices and interesting QI projects.

EQuIP Invitational Conference April 2011

Theme: Value for Money in General Practice: Management and Public Trust.

Keynote Speakers

- Professor Frede Olesen Professor at the Research Unit of General Practice at Århus University since 1992.
- Professor Andreas Christian Sønnichsen professor of general practice and director of the Institute of General Practice, Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine at Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg.
- Dr Iona Heath President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, member of the WONCA world executive since 2007.
- Dr Jozé Braspenning is an associate professor at IQ healthcare, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre in The Netherlands.
- Professor Martin Roland is Professor of Health Services Research in the University of Cambridge. Director of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre.
- Professor Richard Roberts of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, President of the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca) and chaired its Working Party on Quality in Family Medicine. He is Past President of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Programme and presentations available at:

http://www.equip.ch/flx/equip_invitational_conference_2011/programme/

EQuIP Closed Meeting

In April 2011, at the EQuIP meeting in Copenhagen, Andree made a case for and proposed a name change and change of remit of the EQuIP Network Organisation from the European Association for Quality Improvement in General Practice to the European Association for Quality Improvement AND Patient Safety. This was approved by the EQuIP delegates and will be brought to the next Wonca Europe Executive meeting in June 2011.

EQUIP, A PARTNER IN AN EU PROJECT (2011-2012) IN TEACHING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN CME

The European Commission, through its Leonardo Da Vinci Programme, granted funding to a major research project to develop an elearning course for GPs CME purposes on the topic of Quality Improvement (QI). "Innovative lifelong learning of European General Physicians in Quality Improvement supported by information technology" (InGPInQI). This two year project began in January 2011. The lead partner is the College of General Practitioners in Poland; other partners include Maastricht University and EQuIP. Four members of EQuIP are participating actively on behalf of EQuIP, including Andree Rochfort, ICGP. We have responsibility for the Work Package which assesses the current status of QI education in GP training and in Continuing Medical Education (CME) across Europe. We also propose a framework for teaching QI for CME purposes. Other work packages have responsibility to derive competencies and create a curriculum and the E-learning programme. EQuIPs preliminary results show significant gaps in postgraduate training, for example the Plan-Do-Check-Act strategy, one of the most important strategies for quality improvement, is often omitted.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety are critically important in general practice in Ireland in 2011 given the announcement of the Medical Councils Eight Domains of Professional Practice which places Patient Safety and Quality of Care at the centre of their framework. Current developments in mandatory Professional Competence which include a requirement to conduct an annual audit of one's medical practice is a priority area and must also be viewed in the context of current pressures to promote best practice and adherence to guidelines while making best use of available (diminishing) resources.

Quality of care and patient safety has always been at the heart of general practice in Ireland. Through participation in this major EU project as part of EQuIP, we can learn from best practice in Europe and internationally to guide us in continuous quality improvement.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

EQuIP receives its funding from Wonca Europe. The cost of venue and accommodation for meetings is covered by the rotating host country or by EQuIP. The individual Colleges fund travel costs to delegates attending meetings. EQuIP is looking forward to holding a meeting in Ireland in the future.

European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)

BRENDAN O'SHEA, IRISH REPRESENTATIVES

SUMMARY

EURACT is established (1992) to promote and facilitate interaction, research, and skills training among all GPs engaged in general practice teaching, including GPs involved in teaching undergraduates, doctors engaged in specialty training (ST)(GP trainees), and in continuing medical Education to practicing colleagues. In general terms, EURACT seeks to foster and maintain high standards of care in European general practice by promoting general practice as a discipline by learning and teaching.

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

- Biannual Council Meeting, with associated Executive meetings.
- Maintenance and development of EURACT website as a teaching resource.
- Provision of biannual Teacher Training Workshops, rotating between EURACT member states, in the areas of basic teaching skills for GP trainers, and on assessment of GP registrars.
- Reporting to WONCA Executive on issues and matters affecting GP teaching on a European basis.
- Facilitating exchange of teaching material, transferable teaching skills, and student exchange among EURACT members.
- Descriptive study on the criteria used for the selection and reaccreditation of specialty trainers in general practice in Europe (Brendan O'Shea Lead).
- Upgrade of EURACT website to render it more effective as a repository of teaching material for undergraduate, specialty training and CME (Brendan O'Shea Lead, and appointed as Managing Editor, EURACT website (April 2010).

MILESTONES/DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

- The EURACT Advanced Teaching Skill Course for Teachers and trainers in Family Medicine - 23rd-27th March 2010 - Cappadocia, Nevsehir – Turkey.
 - 2010 First issue of EURACT Newsletter (attached).
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- Hippocrates Programme: The aim of Hippocrates is to encourage exchange and mobility among young doctors in the course of their professional formation as general practitioners; thus providing a broader perspective to the concepts of family medicine at both professional and personal levels. Particularly, Hippocrates facilitates 2 week exchanges of GP registrars among participating EURACT members.
- Seminar: LEARNING AND TEACHING ABOUT THE IMPACT OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN MEDICAL EDUCATION IN GENERAL PRACTICE/FAMILY MEDICINE Bled, Slovenia, September 7th – 11th, 2010.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continuing collaboration, information sharing and networking between Council members, facilitating exchange of experiences in general practice teaching.
- Submission of descriptive study on the selection and reaccreditation specialty trainers in EURACT member states.
- Maintenance of current workshops, including workshop at Bled, and trainee assessment course.
- Upgrade of EURACT website to include greater volume of teaching material for use by GP teachers at undergraduate, postgraduate (ST) and CPD levels.
- It was determined at Autumn Council Meeting (Louvain) to significantly extend the EURACT membership during the next 18-24 months.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Resource includes members' subscriptions (historically there has been a very low volume of EURACT members in Ireland). These have been collected, and forwarded to EURACT Treasurer. Attendance of the EURACT National Representative at Council Meetings had previously funded in part by the host country (providing accommodation), with travel costs paid by ICGP. This has changed from 2010, and it has been decided by EURACT Council, that the host country will no longer be in a position to fund accommodation. Thus an uncertainty exists in relation to our ability to maintain representation at EURACT Council.

A partial solution to this issue lies in the successful recruitment of additional EURACT Members among the GP Teaching Networks (ie GP trainers, members of Training Scheme Directing Groups, undergraduate tutors, and faculty CME Tutors. EURACT ordinary member subscription is €50 per annum.

ICGP Nominee to Medical Council

AUTHOR | DR RICHARD BRENNAN



SUMMARY OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME

The Medical Council is the statutory body for the registration and regulation of doctors engaged in medical practice. The object of the Council is to protect the public by promoting and better ensuring high standards of professional conduct and education, training and competence among registered medical practitioners.

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

Providing a general practitioner perspective to all Medical Council business and discussions where applicable through my involvement as a:

- Member of the Medical Council.
- Member of Standards in Practice Committee.
- Chairman of the Health Sub-Committee.
- Member of the Research and Public Affairs Group.
- Member of the Fitness to Practice Committee.
- Member of the Professional Competence Committee.

MILESTONES//OUTPUTS

The council has a large and diverse remit, with significant workload for all Council members. Full details are available from the Medical Council annual report. For the purposes of this report, I will mention three areas of significant Council and personal activity during the year.

Professional Competence

For practitioners the most significant event was the enactment of Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007- Maintenance of Professional Competence – into effect from 1st May 2010. Preparations are ongoing, in conjunction with ICGP and the other Colleges, for the implementation of Maintenance of

Professional Competence in May. This will affect all doctors in active practice. It will also have a knock on effect on the ICGP, who are the accredited body for General Practice schemes.

Complaints Against Doctors

During 2010, the Council received 361 complaints, with 54 cases resulting in enquiries. This is an increase on 2009, when there were 295 complaints resulting in 31 enquiries.

The Health of Doctors

As Chairman of the Health Sub Committee of Council, I would like to remind doctors of the importance of maintaining their own health, of their obligations to their colleagues who suffer with illness or addictions, and to familiarise themselves with the new Ethical Guide.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Via ICGP and Medical Council.



AUTHOR | DR LYNDA HAMILTON, IRISH REPRESENTATIVE

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Dr Liam Lynch is Head of Delegation, on behalf of the IMO, chairs the Ad Hoc Committee.

Dr Martin Daly is an IMO delegate from its International Affairs Committee.

Dr Lynda Hamilton is representing the ICGP, chairs the Equal Opportunities Standing Committee, working with the Specific Training Working Group on recognition of GP/FM as a speciality, mutual recognition of training, freedom of movement, and the development of a professional smart card/passport to facilitate this and possibly CME/CPD for the future. She contributes to the Preventative Activities WG, the Future of General Practice WG, and Quality Assurance WG, whose paper on QA has been sent to all the NMAs (Margaret O'Riordan).

Dr Annraoi Finnegan Chairs the CME/CPD Working Group, and submits his own report.

Education Unit

AUTHOR | NICK FENLON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

OTHER MEMBERS OF ELEARNING, COURSES, SUMMER SCHOOL

- Louise Nolan, E-Learning Unit administrator (Full time).
- Caitriona Finn, E-Learning Unit administrator (Registration and Assessment).
- Maureen Dempsey, E-Learning Unit administrator (Collaborative courses and Course Evaluation).
- Margaret Cunnane – Administrator for the Diploma in Management in Practice course.
- Gillian Doran & Patricia Patton – ICGP librarians – available to e-learning and course participants on request.
- Angela Byrne – Website & Communications Manager – available to elearning and course participants on request.
- Niamh Killeen – Administrator for Minor Surgery Course.
- Dr Aisling Lavelle – co-ordinate the ICGP application for HETAC accreditation.



For the academic year 2010 – 2011 the College facilitated 17 different educational courses of study. This involves many Course Tutors and Assessors. We delivered courses in collaboration with the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine and have been academically supported by UCC for our Therapeutics course.

SUMMARY OF UNIT

Aims of Education Programme

The aim of the College Education Programme is to provide general practitioners and health care professionals with a practical update on identified course topics that are relevant and applicable to their everyday practice. It aims to provide these in a format that recognises the reality of the busy and stressful work of GPs and through the use of educational methodologies that match the learning styles of members.

The eLearning and courses project is responsible for both developing and delivering relevant and up to date courses to ICGP members. In recent years we have also offered some courses to practice nurses and other health care professionals.

In addition to the eLearning courses the need for short direct face to face courses was identified. In response to this we have developed and delivered a very successful 'ICGP Summer School' where members have the option to meet for a three day series of educational sessions as well as social interaction. So far the College has hosted four very successful Summer Schools and will be hosting it's fifth one from June 23rd to June 25th 2011.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES/TASKS

In 2010/11 we delivered the following e-learning courses:

- Diploma in Therapeutics.
- Diploma in Women's Health.
- Certificate in Palliative Care.
- Certificate in Diabetes Care.
- Masters in Medical Education (In collaboration with Queen's University, Belfast).
- Theory Course for Cervical Smear Takers.
- Occupational Medicine – leading to LFOM (In collaboration with the faculty of Occupational Medicine).
- Certificate in Management in Practice.
- Certificate in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.
- Musculoskeletal Examination and Injury Management (In collaboration with the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine).

In addition, under the direction of other College Directors, the College delivered many other courses including:

- Family Planning Theory & Practical.
 - SCALES Course.
 - Managing Alcohol Problems.
 - Substance Misuse.
 - Minor Surgery.
 - 4th Annual ICGP Summer School.
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Summary of College Education Programme

Course/Educational Event	Number Attending
Diploma in Therapeutics	13
Certificate in Palliative Care	11
Diploma in Women's Health	11
Diploma Practice in Management	22
Certificate in Diabetes Care	32
Musculoskeletal Examination and Injury Management	23
Occupational Medicine Year 1 & 2	30
Masters in Medical Education	40
Course for cervical Smear Takers	55
Minor Surgery	34
CBT	15
SCALES	21

Management in Practice (Registrars)	17
Family Planning (Theory)	136
Family Planning (Practical)	55
LARC	11
Managing Alcohol Problems	32
ICGP Summer School	150

Education Timetable

The elearning unit has been operating since 1999. It is continuously developing and has been expanding annually. Our elearning courses all start in October and end in May. The ICGP Summer School is a three day event which takes place during the last week of June. Participants have the option to partake in as many or as few sessions as suit their needs. The summer months are used to evaluate courses which have finished, collate course results and prepare the next year of courses by bringing all programmes up to date, launce new courses etc.

MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES & OUTPUTS

Unit Milestones

- Fourth ICGP Summer School June 2010.
- New course in Minor Surgery 2010 – using RCSI Skills lab.
- New course in Musculoskeletal Examination and Injury Management in collaboration with Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine 2009/2010.

Statement of Achievements/Outcomes 2010

During the academic year 2010 – 2111 we had the second collaborative course in Musculoskeletal Examination and Injury Management. There are 23 participants on this second course. This course was

delivered by both workshop and elearning and we have received very positive feedback from participants.

We ran a number of very successful courses in Minor Surgery, these took place in Dublin and Cork. This year we have entered a collaborative arrangement to deliver our minor surgery courses in the RCSI surgery training laboratory and the facilities have greatly enhanced our course.

HETAC granted us Institutional Recognition Status for progression to full accreditation status and we are now in the final stages of approval recognition. This process has resulted in the formulation of a College Quality Procedures manual for College education delivery.

A small number of people have taken Modular studies from our Diploma Courses.

We are in our final year of collaborative delivery of the ICGP/QUB Masters in Medical Education and 30 course participants are completing their Thesis work at the moment.

FUTURE PLANS

We will be facilitating the fourth ICGP Summer School which will be held from June 23rd to June 25th 2010 in the Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny. This is the second time we will be running the Summer School to include a Saturday. Building on the success of the last four years this venture will consist of a broad range of short presentations with something to suit everyone. The Summer School will include topics from therapeutics, practice management, minor surgery, legal and ethical issues, mental health, chronic disease, women's health, cancer care etc.

The summer Schools 2011 will also facilitate 3 parallel conferences:

- Alcohol Awareness.
- Master Classes in Contraception.
- Research.

Other new ventures include:

- We have successfully achieved eligibility to proceed to the next stage of HETAC accreditation and are progressing towards course accreditation.
 - We will be delivering the Minor Surgery course to three/four locations outside of Dublin in 2011 and will be using the RCSI Minor Surgery Mobile unit for this purpose.
 - In recognition of the requirement for Professional Competence credits from May 2011 forwards we will be delivering alternative modes of study of some College courses – this will be in the form of delivering stand alone topics from identified courses so that members can chose topics that best suit their needs and study in a less pressured way. It will also give recognition to the financial constraints being currently experienced. These topics will be recognised for Professional Competence Credits.
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- We are preparing for the delivery of GP relevant material in:
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Men's Health
 - Personal Development
 - Smoking Cessation (eLearning consultation tool).

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

The eLearning Unit has one full time administrator, Louise Nolan and two part time administrators – Caitriona Finn (Registration and Assessment) and Maureen Dempsey (Evaluation and Collaborative courses). Louise Nolan is also administrator for the ICGP Summer School. Niamh Killeen is administrator for the Minor Surgery course. Margaret Cunnane is administrator for the Practice in Management courses. All administrators have given hugely to the development and continued success of ICGP education delivery.

FUNDING SOURCE

There is a charge for all courses, and so the unit strives to be self funding. We have also been able to avail of 'start up' sponsorship for new courses in the past. The ICGP foundation has also contributed funding in the past.

CME Small Group Network

AUTHOR | DR ANNRAOI FINNEGAN, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CME EDUCATION

OTHER MEMBERS OF NETWORK

Dr C McNicholas, Assistant National Director of CME.

Administrative Resource: Mrs Betty Kelly.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

From May 2010 to May 2011

The Continuing Medical Education [CME] network of tutors continues to provide locally based, accessible, educational modules to general practitioners in a small group learning [SGL] format. This form of education remains popular with GPs in established practice. The modules provided are relevant, allowing discussion and learning to take place in a trusted environment among peers.

There are thirty six tutors in post and responsible for organising monthly meetings of small groups throughout the academic year. Most of these meetings take place as an 'out of hours' activity. It remains a tribute to the commitment of GPs in their desire for ongoing education that they continue to attend this activity in large numbers after a busy day seeing patients. Over two thousand GPs are eligible as participants in the programme. The target audience for this educational activity is every GP in active general practice in the Republic of Ireland.

The funding of the CME national tutor network is from the HSE. The Irish College of General Practitioners has the oversight and governance role. In the current financial situation all projects and schemes are being scrutinised by the HSE. The continued funding of GP CME schemes is in the context of the Department of Health and Children Patient Safety Commission agenda and the Professional Competence Scheme requirements of the Irish Medical Council. The CME meetings are not sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry.

The Minister of Health and Children signed section 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act [MPA] 2007 on the first of May 2010. It will be compulsory for all physicians on the IMC Specialist Register to partake in regular CME from the first of May 2011 and ensure their personal Continuing Professional Development.

Doctors will have twelve months to register with the IMC and their relevant training body. It will be a legal requirement to participate in a PCS organised by the relevant training body. In March 2011 the ICGP has been accepted by the IMC as the relevant Post Graduate Training Body (PgTB) for general practice. The national GP tutor network and the GPCME Schemes will have a significant role in facilitating individual GPs to meet their requirements under PCS.

ACTIVITIES

- 905 CME small group learning (SGL) meetings (take place monthly & dates are on the ICGP web site).
- 907 GPs attended SGL meetings (from Sept to May 2010).
- 124 CME small groups.
- 36 CME tutors in the network.
- 48 group leaders.
- 2,218 potential number of participants in general practice.
- 1,141: Highest number of attendees in a particular month (October).
- 3 CME tutor workshops.
- 6 evaluation visits to CME tutors/schemes.

PROGRAMME DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

- The tutor topics are relevant to modern day general practice and often will be based on a learning needs assessment carried out by a tutor with local participants. The educational topics for each small group meeting are reported to the National CME Director.
- The GP CME Schemes continue to provide a locally based opportunity for GPs to keep up to date with medical developments relevant to general practice.
- The SGL model remains popular and one of its strengths is that peers can meet and review their actual performance in a confidential and trusted environment. Notwithstanding other forms of educational activity, the regular contact with colleagues is invaluable in promoting change at practice level.

FUTURE PLANS

It will be a challenge for the tutor network to continue to organise and supply a quality educational product with the increased demand and limited resources. The effect of the provisions of the MPA 2007 will mean more GPs will want to join small groups. In some areas this will mean an increase in group size while in others it will mean the creation of new small groups. The role and responsibility of tutors in relation to PCS will need discussion and agreement over the next year.

The IMC PCS process will be designed to identify poorly performing or under performing doctors. In this regard the responsibilities of the IMC, HSE and ICGP will be agreed over the next year. Some doctors will be deemed to need the provision of remedial courses to assist them meet IMC requirements. It is not clear at this stage if the tutor network will be asked to have a role in this regard.

The tutor network has always been committed to imparting the knowledge skills and attitudes necessary so that GPs in active practice can be aware of relevant medical developments and implement change at practice level to ensure quality standards are maintained. This commitment to the implementation of quality and standards of practice is of benefit to patients.

Over the years a national network of GP CME Schemes has been developed. This structure has achieved high participation rates. The topics covered have been and continue to be common, important and relevant to general practice. It is a challenge to prove successful outcomes from participation in SGL meetings. In future audit of practice based activity in a peer review context may prove the beneficial outcomes for patients.

Women's Health Programme

AUTHOR | DR MIRIAM DALY, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



PROGRAMME MEMBERS

- Programme Director: Dr Miriam Daly.
- Project Director, LARC Course: Dr Geraldine Holland, until January 2011.
- Tutor, Family Planning Certificate Courses: Dr Deirdre Lundy.
- Administrator: Yvette Dalton.

Other Members of Programme Group

- Contraception tutors.
- LARC tutors.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

The Women's Health Programme aims to provide educational support for primary care in women's healthcare and to contribute to the College's policy development in this area. Since its inception in 1998, the programme has evolved to cover a wide range of topics, using a variety of educational formats and has produced a series of publications using a multi-disciplinary approach.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES/TASKS

- Undertook a full review of the training and application procedure for the Certificate in Family Planning.
 - Following the disbanding of the Joint Committee for Family Planning, we undertook to establish a new ICGP sub-committee to oversee reproductive and sexual health.
 - Undertook to train new tutors in contraception and update existing tutors.
 - Run courses in women's health.
 - Facilitate workshops in contraception at ICGP events throughout the year.
-

- Reply to queries from members on women's health issues.

PROGRAMME MILESTONES/DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

The Reproductive and Sexual Health (RSH) Committee: The RSH Committee, a new sub-committee of the ICGP has been set up. The Committee will oversee training and awarding of certificates in reproductive and sexual health.

The Certificate in Contraception: The Certificate in Contraception (formerly Family Planning Certificate) is now awarded by the RSH committee of the ICGP. A new updated programme handbook, logbook and application form for the Certificate in Contraception is in use since September 2010 and is available to download online. We ran a number of theory and practical courses for the Certificate in Contraception, see below.

Contraception Tutors: A group of new Contraception Tutors were trained at the Masterclass in Contraception in May 2010. Existing Family Planning Instructing Doctors also attended the Masterclass in Contraception as an update in Contraception in May 2010. We have compiled a register of Family Planning Instructing Doctors/Contraception Tutors.

GP Training for Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC): The LARC pilot project, a joint initiative between the ICGP and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency (CPA) concluded in December 2010 and a final report on the project sent to the CPA. The final report was reviewed by a sub-committee of the Education Committee and work is ongoing to develop a training programme in this area.

HPV Testing: Represented the ICGP on the Human Papilloma Virus Testing Implementation Group in the National Cancer Screening Service.

Education: We are contributing to a Women's Health series of articles running in Forum journal. We were involved in updating the Contraception module of the therapeutics elearning course. We reviewed and helped edit the Contraception and Menopause Bulletins published by the National Medicines Information Centre.

Website: We have improved and updated the women's health section of the ICGP website (www.icgp.ie/wh) and improved our useful links section.

National Guidelines: We reviewed the proposed National Ovarian Cancer Referral Guidelines and the proposed National Breast Family Risk Assessment Guidelines for GPs and reported to the Quality in Practice Committee.

Law Reform Commission: Made a submission to and met with the Law Reform Commission regarding the consultation paper titled Children and the Law: Medical Treatment.

Women's Health Courses: April 2010-May 2011

Course	Date	Number Attending
Certificate in Family Planning Theory Course	10-11 September, 2010	61
	20-21 January, 2011	28
Certificate in Family Planning Practical Course	20 Sept-1 October, 2010	20
	21-22 October 2010	20
	17-18 February, 2011	8
	10-11 March, 2011	16
Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives Pilot Course	June 2008-Dec 2010	12
Masterclass in Contraception	May, 2010	63

Women's Health Workshops

- Conundrums in Contraception, workshops for the ICGP Summer School, Kilkenny, June 2010.
- Recent Developments in Contraception, Lecture to The Dun Laoghaire Faculty of the ICGP, October 2010.
- Contraception Workshop, National GP Trainee Conference, Galway, October 2010.
- Contraception Workshop, Diploma in Women's Health, ICGP, October 2010.
- Contraception Workshops, the NEGS Conference, Athlone, November 2010.
- Contraception Workshop, the National Trainers Workshop, Tullamore, February 2010.

- Women's Health Lectures at ICGP SCALES Course.

FUTURE PLANS

- Plan and deliver a training programme in LARC to include certification for experienced LARC fitters, training and certification for GP trainees and training for GPs in practice.
- We will run Reproductive and Sexual Health updates for those who wish to re certify for the Certificate in Contraception.
- We aim to encourage all Contraception Tutors and Family Planning Instructing Doctors to attend an update session every two years. We will plan and run these events.
- We plan to incorporate elearning into our courses.
- Further improvements to our website page and increase GP usage of the page.
- Women's Health News Bulletin in autumn 2011.
- Undertake a full review of the theory and practical courses for the Certificate in Contraception.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE

Yvette Dalton, Irish College of General Practitioners.

Helping Patients with Alcohol Problems

AUTHOR | ROLANDE ANDERSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR



Other Members of Project

Yvette Dalton, Administrator.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

This project regrettably is due to end on 4 April 2011 so this report is written in that context. The project started as an educational resource for general practitioners and commenced in March 2000. At that time the problems of alcohol abuse and dependence had been very much neglected in most areas of medical education training and practice.

The project has gone through a number of phases in which it received funding from various outside sources. For the past two years and more it received no external funding and was supported by the ICGP itself. During this time the work commitment to ICGP from the Project Director was reduced to one and a half sessions per week however given the recessionary times the situation could not continue without external funding and unfortunately an end date had to be set.

The main aim of this initiative was to provide primary care practitioners with up to date information on best practice in the field of alcohol interventions. Underpinning that aim was the philosophy that patients would benefit accordingly. The summary of the educational aims were as follows:

- To educate and train GPs in brief interventions for alcohol problems.
 - To encourage GPs to educate patients and their families about alcohol problems.
 - To provide the necessary skills training to primary care staff.
 - To develop guidelines and practical help for GPs to help patients.
 - To encourage and support training programmes to develop alcohol modules.
 - To generate public awareness and lobby for appropriate changes in legislation and attitudes towards alcohol use and abuse.
-

I am delighted to report that I will still be spokesperson for the ICGP on alcohol issues and related matters as required and will also participate as requested and needed in training sessions and courses.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

- Meetings with various bodies and pressure groups throughout the year regarding policy, treatment, prevention and supply of alcohol.
- Lectured at Irish Times series in Waterford on 29th June, 2010.
- Conducted two one-day training courses for GPs with a total of 34 participants at the AGM on 7th May, 2010 and also on 18th November, 2010. Two more courses are scheduled for the coming year.
- Participated in numerous local radio and national radio broadcasts as well as articles for medical and general press.
- Delivered a lecture on 'Motivation' for E-learning Course on 28th January, 2011.
- Ran half day workshop for the GP Refresher (SCALES) Course on 12th October, 2010.
- ICGP representative on the National Drug Misuse Strategy Committee set up by the previous Government to incorporate alcohol into the National Drug Strategy 2009 – 2016. Involved monthly meetings throughout 2010 and up till the end of Jan 2011. Report is due out shortly.
- Meetings re Liver Cancer documents on alcohol.
- Attended HSE meeting re alcohol and primary care on 27th May, 2010.
- Attended Tobacco control conference in Dublin on 27th May, 2010.
- Attended Alcohol Action Conference in Dublin – September, 2010.
- Delivered two lectures on alcohol for RCSI medical students in April, 2010.
- Delivered public lecture on Alcohol at the Hermitage Clinic 2nd March, 2010.

FUTURE PLANS INCLUDING PROJECT MILESTONES/DELIVERABLES

There are no future plans at the time of writing apart from running some courses and participating in training sessions as necessary and required.

It is hard to avoid any political comment on this situation at the end of this eleven year project. Despite numerous reports that state the importance of Primary Care in the detection, screening, and treatment of patients with alcohol problems and the publicly endorsed importance of brief intervention training, as well as international evidence to support same, it appears that the 'powers that be' only pay lip service to these ideals. It beggars belief that resources could not be allocated to this important topic even in such

difficult financial times. Indeed, I would argue strongly that alcohol and alcohol related harm continues to be the greatest social problems facing our country and an increasing reality for the work of every GP. We had made significant progress though a lot more needed to be done.

We still hold to the hope that the results of the Alcohol Aware Practice Service Initiative, undertaken by the ICGP under my direction, will at some stage be noted properly and the lessons implemented. The integration of alcohol counsellors into general practice on a national basis remains a strong recommendation based on the research we conducted.

At least we have clearly demonstrated that alcohol problems can be tackled effectively within primary care.

FINAL NOTE

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of this project. I am very grateful to the ICGP for the chance to make a difference in such an important area of concern. I have loved being part of the ICGP family too. I am happy that many of our goals have been achieved. It would not have been possible without the support of many GPs and all of the excellent staff employed by the College. In particular, I want to thank Dr Michael Boland and Mr Fionan O'Cuinneagain for their endless encouragement and for the vision to set up this innovative project in the first place.

The most unsung hero of this project is my colleague, Yvette Dalton, for her hard work, dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism, delivered always in a most pleasant and supportive manner over the whole 11 years of the project. The project would not have been the success that it is, were it not for her.

Sincere thanks to one and all.

Best wishes to Mr Kieran Ryan, in his new role as CEO.

Disease Surveillance Sentinel Practice Network Project Report

AUTHOR | DR MICHAEL JOYCE, PROJECT DIRECTOR

OTHER MEMBERS OF PROJECT

I run the project on behalf of the ICGP in collaboration with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and the National Virus Reference Laboratory. The Health One User Group (HIUG) provides valuable technical support. Valuable assistance is provided by my practice nurse, Ms Olga Levis.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The project involves running a computerised surveillance network for certain infectious diseases in the community and involves sixty sentinel practices spread throughout the country. There is a particular emphasis on the surveillance of influenza.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

There is a need to monitor certain infectious diseases in the community, especially influenza. In the past there was a paper based system in place where sentinel practices were asked to complete and return forms when they saw cases in the community. Unfortunately it was quickly realised that often as GPs got busier with outbreaks of influenza they had less time to fill and return forms leading to the paradoxical finding that as influenza increased in the community the reported incidence fell. Clearly this was ineffective as a system.

To try and address this problem this project was set up in 2001. The aim was to recruit practices that had a high level of recording of computerised information in their practices already. This meant that when a GP saw a case with one of the index conditions he was recording it anyway and there was no need for any extra work on behalf of the GP to have the case recorded. Then at the end of the week a computerised search, which can be delegated to a staff member is run and the result is sent to the ICGP. The data is cleaned and forwarded to the HPSC.

The process was successful from the outset with very good return rates being achieved immediately and all the stake holders were very pleased. Initially there were twenty practices involved, all using Health One software and the conditions covered were Influenza, chicken pox and shingles. Health one was chosen in particular because of its suitability for this type of project. Now there are sixty practices involved including some practices using soft ware other than Health One. Measles mumps rubella and gastro-enteritis have been added to the conditions that are covered.

Although I have been involved in the project since its inception by being one of the sentinel practices and also through HIUG, I took over the ICGP role formally from Dr Dermot Nolan in September 2004.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- Illustrates the use and application of computerised practice.
- Demonstrates the power of data available and collected in general practice.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT

There is a wealth of data out there in general practice which will be sought after in increasing amount as time goes by. It is absolutely critical that general practice and the members of the ICGP remain in control of this data so that it is used for the general good and not used inappropriately. This project provides a method for control and distribution of GP generated computerised data that can be built on in the future in different areas. The lessons learned have already contributed to the developments in Heartwatch and the Independent National Data Centre (INDC) and will continue to do so in the future.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Collection of incidence data for influenza measles mumps rubella chickenpox shingles and gastro-enteritis in the community.
- Cleaning and preparation of data.
- Forwarding of this data on behalf of the ICGP to the HPSC.
- Taking swabs from suspected cases of influenza to confirm cases and determine what type of influenza virus is circulation.

The results of the surveillance is available on the HPSC website at

<http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/Respiratory/Influenza/SeasonalInfluenza/Surveillance/InfluenzaSurveillanceReports/20102011Season/>

Although not technically a part of this ICGP project a significant number of the network participants have volunteered to take part in a pan European study of influenza vaccine effectiveness in conjunction with the HPSC which was first carried out in the 2009/2010 season and has been continued during this season.

PROJECT MILESTONES / DELIVERABLES / OUTPUTS

Whereas previously surveillance was carried out from week 40 to week 20 it now takes place throughout the entire year. With sixty participating practices we now have the desired 5% population coverage. No further recruitment is currently planned.

SWINE FLU

Early 2011 saw another big upsurge in the incidence of H1N1 (swine flu) influenza which was again effectively monitored by the network. The incidence of influenza B is also high this year.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The project has achieved its goals of community surveillance of the specified conditions. The project needs to continue as it has become a cornerstone of surveillance particularly seasonal and pandemic influenza. Return rates well in excess of 90% continue to be achieved consistently.

Currently on a trial basis a new innovation for 2011 is the publication on the internet of anonymous performance data. Each practice knows their site number but this is not known to anyone else. Therefore we can show graphs of performance and practices can inspect this to see how they are comparing with other practices. This and other relevant information can be viewed at

<http://www.hiug.ie/DISEASE%20SURVEILLANCE/Disease%20surveillance.htm>

If the trial is successful this will be moved to the ICGP website.

FUTURE PLANS

Continued surveillance is planned.

FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided on an agreed annual budget basis by the HPSC.

Substance Misuse

AUTHOR | DR IDE DELARGY, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

OTHER MEMBERS OF PROGRAMME TEAM

Administrator: Niamh Killeen.

Audit Facilitator: Lynda Haran

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- The HSE commissioned a review of the Methadone Treatment Protocol (MTP) which was conducted by Professor Michael Farrell, Consultant Psychiatrist from the Maudsley Hospital, London. He was assisted by Professor Joe Barry from TCD. The ICGP was invited to make a submission as one of the main stakeholders in the MTP. The report entitled, The Opioid Treatment Protocol was published in December 2010 and the ICGP was commended for its significant contributions to this area of work.
- A review of the Audit Process was conducted through a Think Tank in May 2010. A selection of Level 1 and Level 2 GPs most of whom had experience of the audit were invited to give feedback on the current process and how it might be improved.
- A system of Self–Audit is being developed to supplement the external audit process. Ms Lucy Kielty, Audit Facilitator in St James Hospital has been of great assistance in this regard. The final format of this online audit will be agreed following the development of new national Best Practice Guidelines as recommended by Prof Farrell in his report, The Opioid Treatment Protocol.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Online Level 1 Training

The Online Level 1 training continues to be popular and based on the feedback candidates are happy with the format and content of the course.

Online CME

The first two CME lectures have been recorded and are available on the Substance Misuse section of the ICGP website since October 2009. Prof Tom Fahey from the RCSI, presented the first lecture in the series which has been received very well. Professor Hugh Garavan from the Neuroscience Department at Trinity College has also delivered a lecture on current research on the neuroscience of addiction.

Substance Misuse Newsletter

The electronic newsletter is available online as well as in hard copy for all doctors on the Level 1 and Level 2 database. The purpose of the newsletter is to update GPs on upcoming events and educational opportunities as well as new activities on our own SMP. Relevant research and publications will be highlighted.

Audit

Lynda Haran, who resigned in December 2010 the recently conducted audits throughout the 2009 and 2010 period. She successfully updated our records and with the agreement of the ARG, recommended modifications to the existing audit process. The committee meets on a month to six weekly basis when audit results are presented to the ARG and a decision is made with regard to the performance.

Updated Website

The information is regularly reviewed and updated. There are links to other agencies and publications.

FUTURE PLANS

An Immersion Day in Addiction is being planned in conjunction with the National Director Specialist Training in General Practice.

- Dr Gerry Mansfield. This will be run on a pilot basis initially and will be rolled out fully if successful.
 - A full day workshop at the ICGP Summer School in Mental Health and Substance Misuse is planned.
-

Mental Health in Primary Care

AUTHOR | PEARSE FINEGAN, PROJECT DIRECTOR



Administrative Resource

Michelle Dodd.

Other Advisers to the Project

Dr Martina Kelly, Dr Andree Rochfort, Dr Mel Bates.

Since my last report the Mental Health Services in this country have gone into freefall. It must be noted that in 1966 the proportion of the health budget spent on Mental Health was 23%. This year the proportion will be 5.3%. With the retirement of professional staff from the psychiatric services and non replacement of same has led to approximately 12% decrease in personnel.

With no extra resources for the development of Mental Health Services (Psychiatry) or Mental Health at Primary Care level it is virtually impossible to change the manner or structure of the delivery of services for patients presenting to GPs with mental health difficulties.

Notwithstanding these difficulties the project continues to look at ways to enhance the services that general practice can deliver to patients with mental health difficulties.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Support the Joint Forum of ICGP and Irish College of Psychiatry of Ireland (2009)

The Joint Forum continues to meet five times per year. It has opened a channel of formal communication between the two Colleges. The three main being addressed are:

- Physical Health of People with Mental Ill-health

Membership: Dr John Delap (convenor), Dr M Kelly, Dr J Thakore, Dr Vincent Russell.

Objective: How best to address the physical needs of those with chronic severe mental illness?

The Mental Health Act 2001

Membership: Dr M Kelly (convenor), Dr W Flannery, Dr K Holmes, Dr Mel Bates.

Objective: To identify the difficulties arising for GPs and Psychiatrists in terms of admitting a patient involuntarily under the Mental Health Act, 2001. To work together to overcome these.

Shared Care and Quality Indicators Programme for Depression

Membership: Dr Vincent Russell, Dr A Jeffers, Dr S Tighe, Dr A Rochfort.

Objective: To develop a shared care protocol for patients with depression, informed by international best practice.

Dementia Online Resource Development

Development of a web based resource to support GPs in planning pathways of care for patients with dementia

With the changes within the HSE this project was suspended. Prof Greg Swanwick is now developing an Impact Document on Dementia Care. This draft document will be forwarded to the College Quality in Practice Committee for consideration in due course.

GP Exercise Referral Programme

Physically activity plays a major part in maintaining good mental health. Over the past few months we are developing strong links with this programme and are now piloting four areas of the country to promote general practice to use the GP Exercise Referral Programme as part of the plan of care for patients with mental health difficulties

The GP Exercise Referral Programme is a joint initiative involving ILAM, ICGP and HSE. It is a 12 week programme to help people develop a physically active lifestyle. Qualified Local Coordinators who have completed the HSE National Training Course are running the programme from facilities across Ireland. For more information www.gpexercisereferral.ie.

Proposal for Funding from the National Office of Suicide Prevention to Design and Deliver a Course in Suicide Prevention

This proposal is for the development and running of a Suicide Prevention Course for general practitioners, practice staff and primary care teams. The course will be developed using a blended learning approach to education, it will therefore consist of:

- A short workshop.
 - Home study modules by elearning.
-

- Online discussions including case discussion.
- Implementation into practice activities.
- Access to online resources and services information.

The aim of the course is to deliver an evidence based education programme with a focus on competence development in knowledge, skills and attitudesⁱ in the area of suicide prevention. The specific content of each module will be influenced by the findings of the needs assessment associated with this project.

Representatives from the NOSP met with the College and we await the outcome from this meeting.

Teams Based Approaches to Mental Health in Primary Care

(Programme delivered at Dublin City University 2009/2010)

The last intake of 27 participants for this present programme was February 2010. There are no GP participants in this present group. The programme will be evaluated in June. The feedback from participations' is very positive. The current Irish mental health agenda aims to re-orientate mental healthcare to local settings and the Government policy *A Vision for Change*' (DOH & Children 2006) provides a comprehensive blueprint for the development of responsive and dynamic mental health services for all. This policy document emphasises the role primary care can play in addressing the mental health care needs of the local population. With the closure of the Mental Hospitals and the delivery of Psychiatric services in the community the role of mental health in primary care needs to be defined and pathways of care for all patients presenting to general practice with mental health issues clarified and agreed.

The module content seeks to address educational needs associated with preparing primary care practitioners to address the health and welfare of people with mental health care needs in primary healthcare settings.

Other Opportunistic Initiatives

- Working with Mental Health in Primary Care within the HSE.
 - Advising voluntary sector "Pieta House", "SOS".
 - Electronic discharge letter HSE West Galway was invited to be part of the review group.
 - Education on mental health issues in primary care.
 - Part of the "See Change" programme on the stigma of mental health.
 - Shared care in primary care.
-

SCALES Course

AUTHOR | DR MARIA WILSON, COURSE TUTOR

ADMINISTRATOR

Yvette Dalton.

SUMMARY

The key principle of this course is to focus keenly on what general practitioners actually do and is primarily aimed at doctors who wish to update their knowledge after a career break from general practice as well as an orientation for those who have trained in other areas but who now wish to work part-time in general practice.

Over the years this course has attracted doctors who have never worked in a general practice setting and who are considering a future in general practice. In recent years there have been a large number of vocationally trained doctors taking up the course as a way of easing back into general practice. Public health doctors have also been participating as they have felt quite distant from some clinical scenarios and they wish to update their medical knowledge.

The culmination of doctors from these various backgrounds lends to a wide range of expertise and opinions expressed in the group and interesting discussion.

ACTIVITIES/TASKS DURING PAST 12 MONTHS

In the past we have learnt that we should endeavour to limit registration to 20 participants. However, this year we once again oversubscribed with interested participants. At the conclusion of our interview process we increased our numbers to accommodate 21 registrants suitable to participate in this year's course.

Due to the renovations scheduled to take place in ICGP Headquarters, we ran this year's course at the new Institute of Chartered Accountants on Pearse Street, Dublin. This venue, purpose built for lectures and education proved popular with both speakers and participants.

The course this year was timetabled to run over 7.5 days which and included a half-day practice visit and a half-day practical session covering areas such as suturing techniques, pelvic examination and breast examination. The other days were broken into four sessions. Two given sessions given by Dr Maria Wilson and the remaining two were given by visiting lecturers. The format was often clinical-based accompanied with a PowerPoint presentation and handouts.

Our guest speakers are largely chosen from expertise within general practice and covered topics such as: Asthma, Ophthalmology, Palliative Care, Managing Alcohol Problems in Primary Care, Diabetes,

Occupational Health, Travel Medicine, Dermatology, Depression, Women's Health/Common Gynaecological Issues, Paediatrics, Medical Informatics and Child Protection Issues.

We thank the following guest lecturers for their support of this course and their excellent contribution again this year: Dr Geraldine Holland, Dr Deirdre Lundy, Dr Susan Smith, Dr David Buckley, Dr Daragh O'Doherty, Nurse Thelma Smith, Dr Dom Colbert, Dr Keith Perdue, Mr Rolande Anderson, Dr Aisling O'Gorman, Dr Elizabeth Healy and Dr Shunil Roy and Dr Pat Felle.
