

**Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting
held on 17th & 18th May, 2016**

MEDICAL COUNCIL

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 17th & 18th May 2016 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT – 17th May, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr John Barragry
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Dr Anthony Breslin
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Sean Curran
Dr Rita Doyle
Ms Mary Duff

Professor Fidelma Dunne
Dr Bairbre Golden
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Mary Leader
Ms Margaret Murphy
Professor Colm O’Herlihy
Mr Tom O’Higgins
Dr Michael Ryan
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Mr Declan Carey
Ms Anne Carrigy
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Marie Kehoe O’Sullivan
Mr John Nisbet
Ms Cornelia Stuart

MEMBERS PRESENT – 18th May, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr John Barragry
Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Rita Doyle
Ms Mary Duff
Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley
Ms Marie Kehoe-O’Sullivan
Professor Mary Leader
Professor Colm O’Herlihy
Mr Tom O’Higgins
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Mr Declan Carey
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Sean Curran
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson

Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr John Nisbet
Professor Colm O’Herlihy

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)

Ms Jane Horan (Acting Head of Corporate Governance & Secretary to Council)

Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)

Ms Aoife Fitzsimons (Acting Corporate Governance and Council Manager)

Ms Niamh Muldoon (Chief Risk Officer and Solicitor, Regulation)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Mr Philip Brady (Acting Director of Professional Development and Practice)

Ms Wendy Kennedy (Director of Corporate Services)

Mr John Sidebottom (Senior Executive Officer, Regulation)

Ms Lorna Farren (Communications Manager)

Note of Private Session:

The President reminded Council members of the purpose of Council to better inform and protect the public in their dealings with the medical profession and set standards of registration, regulation, training at all levels and standards of continuing competence and practice.

There being no other matters raised the President then opened the Council meeting.

CEO's Business

3.1 CEO's Report and Balanced Scorecard

The CEO provided a status update on the Business Plan for 2016.

The CEO updated Council in relation to the progress of the Workforce Plan (WFP).

The CEO informed Council that the new website design had been implemented advising that the look and feel of the website had been refreshed but that there are no structural changes.

The CEO reiterated the President's sentiments in relation to the launch of the new Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics and thanked the Communications Team and staff concerned for a successful launch. He also acknowledged that a huge amount of work had been done by the Education and Training Section in preparation for the new Guide. The launch attracted great interest and positive stakeholder feedback. The CEO advised that follow on work and additional launches are planned.

The CEO advised that the Employee Engagement Survey had been completed and the results are currently being processed by the Research Manager. The initial results are positive.

Council was updated in relation to the ICT audit. There were a number of positive items to work on and the ICT team are committed to working on implementing the recommendations.

The research Manager provided an update to Council in relation to the "Your Training Counts" Survey which was launched this week. Engagements with the RCPI and IMO have taken place to promote an increase in the response rate.

Council noted the level of applications for registration continues on a downward trend and that the overall application completion rates remain on an upward trend. Council further noted that planning has commenced for the 2016 annual retention.

The CEO advised Council that significant work had been undertaken in relation to 5 intern training site visits in April. An accreditation visit for the postgraduate training programme in Ophthalmic Surgery had been carried out at the beginning of May. The CEO also advised that a meeting with the Hospital Group Managers has been organised to explore matters of common interest, including CPD and Fitness to Practise.

The CEO updated Council in relation to the number of doctors who have failed to enrol in a professional competence scheme. Ongoing work by the executive is being undertaken to address this matter.

The CEO completed his report with an update on a number of stakeholder meetings.

President's Business

Inquiry Calendar

The outstanding inquiry list was noted by Council.

Audit Strategy and Risk Committee (ASRC)

The report of the Audit Strategy and Risk Committee meeting held on 4th May, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted a number of items relating to the internal Audit Review of IT operations, metrics update and the risk register.

Council approved the report of the Audit, Strategy & Risk Committee.

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

The report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee meeting held on 27th April, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council endorsed the Committee's recommendation to postpone the re-accreditation visits to University of Dublin, Trinity College and University of Limerick until 2017. Council also endorsed the Committee's recommendation that, based on satisfactory information provided in the annual returns from both University College Cork and National University of Ireland, Galway, it will not be necessary to re-visit either medical school in 2016.

Council considered and approved the reports of the five intern site inspections which took place in April 2016. These were inspections of the following sites which entered the national intern training framework in July 2015:-

- Mater Private Hospital
- Linn Dara, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cherry Orchard

- Maternity Hospital Limerick
- Bon Secours Hospital, Galway
- Galway Clinic

Council noted that the review of accreditation processes being undertaken by Prof Pauline McEvoy is almost complete and will be reviewed by the Quality Monitoring Sub-Committee.

Council endorsed the Committee's recommendation to support in principle the use of private sites for the delivery of specialist training.

Council approved the recommendation that the current period of validity of a passing grade in the four approved international clinical knowledge examinations which provide exemption from PRES Level 2 be aligned with the validity periods held by each individual awarding authority. Council noted that registration applicants seeking to avail of a PRES 2 exemption via one of the four approved comparable examinations would still be required to pass PRES Level 3.

Council noted the progress of the project to review the intern year and the extensive communications and engagement plan which has been developed.

Council approved the report of the Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC).

HSE Annual Proposal of Intern Training Posts

Council approved the Intern Training Posts.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 25th February, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the adoption of the MRCGP for the purpose of registration in the Specialist Division under section 47(1)(f) of the Act.

Council confirmed that it is satisfied to delegate the future recognition of qualifications under Section 47(1)(f) to the RCPC.

The Council was advised that a number of medical practitioners had chosen not to seek a review of the RCPC's decision to refuse specialist registration and that the review window had expired.

Council noted the progress of the Safe Start study.

Council was updated in relation to the Patient Feedback pilot.

Council noted that the PGTBs would be providing lists of doctors enrolled in CPD programmes. This information will be cross referenced against all registered doctors, to identify those who have failed to enroll with a PCS.

Council noted the PRES Level 3 results (Galway) and the Committee's decision to confirm the recommendation of the Examinations Sub-Committee.

Council approved the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee.

Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)

The report of the Nominations and Development Committee meeting held on 3rd February, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the Vice-President's attendance at the IAMRA Symposium or the Chair of the RCPC if the Vice-president is unable to attend.

Council noted the topics for the upcoming Council/Committee training session.

Council noted that Professor Alan Johnson would take the Chair of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee during Professor O'Herlihy's leave of absence.

Council approved the report of the Nominations & Development Committee.

Ethics and Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee meeting held on 29th April, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted the progress on the draft Booklet for Patients and that an initial workshop on the first two "chapters" had taken place with patient representatives and agreement had been made that these chapters should contain advice/information in relation to the role of the Medical Council; and the empowered patient and their role in their own healthcare, linking back to the Partnership pillar of professionalism in the Ethical Guide for Doctors. Council noted that a further workshop will be held to consider the contents of the remaining chapters.

Council noted that consideration has been given to a number of draft vignettes and case studies for the Council's new "Professionalism" area on the website.

Council approved the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Medical Council and Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland Joint Working Group on Prescribing and Dispensing.

Council approved the report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee (EPC).

Health Committee

The report of the Health Committee meeting held on 4th May, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted that there are currently 44 medical practitioners supported by the Health Committee.

Council noted that six review sessions were conducted by the various teams in respect of an equal number of practitioners.

Council was updated in relation to the number of positive health reports received.

Council further noted the number of practitioners who had been offered the support of the Committee.

Council approved the report of the Health Committee.

Monitoring Committee

The report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 5th May, 2016 was presented to Council.

The Committee noted the number of medical practitioners who have conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register.

Council was updated in relation to the documentary evidence of compliance received, where appropriate, from each of those practitioners currently practising within the jurisdiction with conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register.

Council was updated with regard to a practice visit undertaken in relation to a practitioner.

Council approved the report of the Monitoring Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: February – May 2016

This item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted the will be held on Wednesday 13th July 2016 at 12:30 hrs and Thursday 14th July 2016 at 08:30 hrs.