

## **Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting**

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 12:30hrs on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Professor Freddie Wood (President)  
Dr Anthony Breslin  
Ms Katharine Bulbulia  
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)  
Dr Bairbre Golden  
Dr Michael Ryan  
Mr Declan Carey  
Ms Catherine Whelan  
Dr Rita Doyle

Dr Ruairi Hanley  
Mr Seán Hurley  
Professor Alan Johnson  
Ms Margaret Murphy  
Professor Colm O'Herlihy  
Ms Cornelia Stuart  
Dr Consilia Walsh  
Ms Anne Carrigy  
Dr Sean Curran

### **Apologies**

Ms Mary Duff  
Councillor Mulready  
Professor Mary Leader  
Dr John Barragry  
Professor Fidelma Dunne  
Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan  
Mr John Nesbit

### **In attendance**

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)  
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)  
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council)  
Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)  
Ms Wendy Kennedy (Finance Manager)  
Ms Aoife Mellet (Solicitor, Regulation)  
Ms Jan Fitzpatrick (Corporate Governance & Council)  
Mr John Sidebottom (Regulation)  
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Strategic Project Management)

### **Note:**

A Private Session was taken prior to the commencement of the Council meeting. Following completion of this session, the Council meeting was then formally commenced.

## Minutes

Minutes of the meetings held on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July, and Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were all agreed and signed by the President.

### CEO's Business

Council members approved the CEO report which provided an update to members on a number of strategic, policy and operational matters. The CEO report included the following:

- The IPAC/ CPE conference was held in Druids Glen between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September. Approximately 50 delegates from 10 countries attended the event, on "Remediating Performance – Linking Theory and Evidence with Practice." Two satellite events were also held to coincide with the conference. A Medical Leadership Summit - Maintenance of Professional Competence was held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, attended by leaders in medical education with inputs from Dr Julian Archer and Dr Steve Millar, participants at IPAC. A workshop on Responding to concerns about doctors' practice was also held for clinical directors at the HSE and facilitated by Prof Pauline McAvoy, formerly of NCAS.
- Publication of the Medical workforce Intelligence Report took place at the end of August, receiving significant media attention.
- Council was further advised that a programme of work is underway to ensure the organisational structure supports and underpins strategy (in line with our Statement of Strategy 2014-2018) and to further ensure we are equipped to successfully deliver on our Business Plan.
- Workshops are currently taking place with each section of the organisation to assess current policies, practices and procedures regarding information and data management, stressing the importance of adhering to legislative requirements.
- A number of business process improvement initiatives are ongoing throughout the organisation with a current focus on the Registration and Professional Standards areas in order to identify efficiencies and savings.
- Council's criteria for the evaluation of sites which support the delivery of specialist training have been published, and a significant communications schedule is underway to raise awareness of the criteria.
- The "Your Training Counts" survey closed in July with an approximate 55% response rate. The results of an expert benchmarking survey have been shared with ETPDC and results from the main study will be presented to SPSC at the end of Sept. A full report will be issued later this year, with a secondary report on health, wellbeing and career plans following that.

## **Committees and Working Groups**

### **Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)**

Professor O' Herlihy presented the report of the Education, Training & Professional Development Committee which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

- Council noted the Committee's view with regard to the recognition of vascular surgery and that the overall evaluation process, including the consultation stage, had established a strong case for the recognition of this speciality. Council approved the recognition of vascular surgery as a speciality under Section 89(1) of the MPA 2007.
- Council noted that the preparations for the forthcoming accreditation visit to RCSI Bahrain which is due to take place in October 2014 are under way.
- Council also noted that arrangements are being made to support the forthcoming monitoring visit to NUIG and UCC.
- Council noted the correspondence and press release which supported the initial communication of Council's criteria for specialist training sites. Council was also updated on the ongoing analysis of responses to the first Medical Council annual trainee survey 'Your Training Counts' and noted the response rate was higher than expected at 54.5%.

### **Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)**

#### **Report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Dr Breslin presented the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

- Council was updated on the status of the Professional Indemnity Bill, which has now been published, as well as correspondence to the Department of Health from the CEO.
- Council confirmed the decision of the Committee to refuse registration to the list of applicants where the Review window has expired.

Council noted the remainder of the report.

#### **Registration Review Hearings**

Council considered three reports from the RCPC concerning three individual doctors:

- Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that one doctor be granted registration on the Specialist Division in the specialty of General Surgery on the basis that the doctor meets the standards required.
- Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that one doctor be granted registration on the Specialist Division in the specialty of General Practice on the basis that the doctor meets the standards required.

- Council accepted the recommendation that one doctor should seek out a registrar post in a teaching hospital for two years outside the Higher Specialist Training Programme and these posts are recognised as being equivalent to years 4 and 5 SPR training and these posts are available for open competition.

### **Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)**

The President presented the report of the Nominations and Development Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014.

- Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Professor Anthony Cunningham and Dr Michael Ryan to the Education and Training Assessor Panel.
- Council noted that the Equality and Diversity Working Group had held its inaugural meeting and that the Committee had approved its Terms of Reference.
- The draft Equality and Diversity Policy was put before Council for approval. Following some discussion it was agreed to bring the policy back to the Working Group in light of some proposed changes from Council members.

### **Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)**

The Vice President presented the report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014.

#### **Workflow for drafting new guidance on Ethics & Professionalism**

Council noted the Schedule and Workflow for drafting new guidance.

### **Health Committee (HC)**

The report was presented by Mr Sidebottom on behalf of Dr Doyle of the Health Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

- Council noted that there are currently 35 doctors supported by the Health Committee. Council also noted that a total of ten review sessions have been completed since the last update. Council further noted that positive health reports were received and reviewed in respect to 4 practitioners and that review sessions are scheduled for 3 of the 4 practitioners in the coming month.

### **Audit Strategy & Risk Committee (ASRC)**

Mr Hurley presented the reports of the last two Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. Mr Hurley presented a number of recommendations from the Committee for approval by Council as follows:

### **Draft Governance Framework Document**

Council noted that the Governance framework document had been approved by the Audit Strategy and Risk Committee and that it will form part of the overall revised Corporate Governance Handbook for Council, which will be put before Council by the end of the year.

### **Confirmation of New Chief Risk Officer**

Council was advised that a vacancy for the position of Chief Risk Officer has and noted that Ms Muldoon, Solicitor is recommended by the committee for appointment. Council agreed that Ms Muldoon be appointed for the period up to June 2015.

### **Media Log**

Council noted the media log for the period July-September 2014.

### **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 13:30hrs and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 08:30hrs