

**Summary Minutes from the 270<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Medical Council  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Professor Kieran Murphy (President)  
Dr Anna Clarke (Vice-President)  
Dr Richard Brennan  
Mr Brendan Broderick  
Ms Katharine Bulbulia  
Professor Gerard Bury  
Mrs Anne Carrigy  
Professor Anthony Cunningham  
Professor Paul Finucane  
Dr Pauline Kane

Dr Deirdre Madden  
Professor Damien McLoughlin  
Mr Frank McManus  
Dr John Monaghan  
Ms Margaret Murphy  
Ms Marie Murray  
Dr Daniel O'Hare  
Professor William Powderly  
Professor James Slevin

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Jon Billings  
Dr Regina Connolly  
Ms Mary Culliton  
Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue  
Dr David O'Keeffe  
Dr John O'Mullane

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)  
Mr Marcus Balfe (Head of Finance)  
Mr William Kennedy (Head of Professional Standards & Legal Adviser)  
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)  
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Registration)  
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council & Head of Corporate Services)  
Mr Iain Mathews (Finance)  
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Head of Professional Competence)  
Ms Ciara McMorrow (Corporate Services)  
Mr John Sidebottom (Professional Standards)  
Mr Charles Meenan S.C.

**Minutes of the 268<sup>th</sup> and 269<sup>th</sup> meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November  
2010**

1. The minutes of the 268<sup>th</sup> and 269<sup>th</sup> meetings were agreed and signed.

2. The summary minutes of the 268<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved for publication on the Council website.

### **Matters arising from the 268<sup>th</sup> meetings**

1. Professor Paul Finucane was thanked for his valuable contributions both as a Council member and also in his capacity as Chair of the Professional Competence Schemes Working Group. The Minister for Health and Children will be requested to approve the appointment of Professor Finucane's replacement under Section 17(1)(a) of the MPA 2007.

### **Matters under Part V (1978 Act) and Part 7, 8 and 9 (2007 Act)**

1. In noting the Preliminary Proceedings Committee recommendation, the Council appointed Mr John Sidebottom, SEO Professional Standards Section, as investigator pursuant to the provisions of section 58 of the Act.

### **Committees and Working Groups**

#### **Professional Development**

1. Council approved a number of recommendations by the Committee in relation to practitioners, including:
  - (a) The requirement of Council members to commit to at least two accreditation dates in 2011;
  - (b) That all programmes and schools meet at least the basic WFME standard in all areas and the quality standard in certain areas as a pre-requisite for unconditional approval;
  - (c) The Terms of Reference for the Assessment Sub-Committee.

#### **Standards in Practice Committee**

1. Council approved a number of recommendations by the Committee in relation to practitioners including:
  - (a) An appeal of an application for entry in the Specialist Division of the Register
  - (b) The refusal of 4 applications for entry to the Register
  - (c) In light of a significant issue for patient safety, a registrant who is practising medicine with an infectious disease was referred to An Garda Síochána.
2. In discussing English Language requirements and the impact on patient safety Council directed that a number of recommendations be implemented pending completion of the current review of the MPA 2007 in conjunction with the Department of Health and Children, including:
  - (a) Revise the wording on the registration application form and annual declaration to inform medical practitioners of the requirement for English language competence

- to practise medicine and the possible legal implications of not meeting this requirement;
- (b) To write to the IHAI to advise them of the risk to patients if language competencies are not assessed prior to employment;
  - (c) To write to HIQA requesting that they incorporate a language competency standard for private institutions into their upcoming report "Safer Better Healthcare";
  - (d) To look at possible additional wording when reviewing the current Ethical Guide to reflect the legal implications for medical practitioners;
  - (e) To consider inviting other regulatory authorities also affected by the transposition of the EU Directive to meet with the Oireachtas Health Committee.
3. Council approved the new Registration Rules and directed that they be forwarded to the Minister for approval and published accordingly on the Medical Council website.

### **Audit Committee**

1. Council approved the report of the Audit Committee which provided information on a number of matters including:
- (a) The Budget for 2011;
  - (b) The Management Accounts for the 10 months up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010;
  - (c) The Risk Register;
  - (d) The list of erasures due to non-payment of registration fees.

### **Research and Public Affairs Working Group**

1. The Council approved the change in name to the Communications and Research Working Group.

### **Nominations Sub-Committee**

1. The report of the Nominations Sub-Committee was noted including six site assessor nominees. The nomination of Mr Michael Brophy to the Fitness to Practise Committee was approved.

### **President's Business**

1. Council members discussed the Medical Council Annual Dinner and agreed that the event be cancelled this year and that a charitable donation be made in its place.
2. Ms Katharine Bulbulia's nomination to the membership of the Dental Council was noted.
3. Council was informed of Dr Deirdre Madden's resignation as Chair of the Standards in Practice Committee and thanked her for her significant contribution

to the position and work of the Committee. Dr Anna Clarke has been appointed as the new Chair of this Committee.

4. Council approved the proposal to establish a Professional Competence Committee.

### **CEO's Business**

#### **CEO's Report**

1. Council considered the Report of the CEO which provided updates on a number of operational matters
2. Council noted Dr Paul Kavanagh's nomination to the Department of Health and Children's National Clinical Effectiveness Committee.

### **Any other business**

1. An application for the recognition of a new surgical internship post in the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children's Hospital was reviewed and approved by Council.